

# **MEETING OF BRIGHTON & HOVE'S WILDLIFE FORUM**

Tuesday 21 September 2021 6-7pm

## **MINUTES**

### **Key actions and summary points**

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| Item 1, New Chair and Vice Chair required as both have been in these positions for last ten years |
| Item 4, How should BHWF best be involved in campaigns? Must ensure focus remains only wildlife    |
| Item 6, THV LWS arranged walk attended by five + local groups – surprised by vast habit potential |
| Item 6, TWEACK successfully revived through Friends of Westdene Green – Grant for tree planting   |
| Item 8, Golf course plans revealed at the end of January for both Waterhall and Hollingbury       |
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**Present:-** KG - Kim Greaves - Chair, SD - Sylvia Davidson – Vice Chair, MR - Martin Robinson – Benfield Valley, Portslade Green Gym, JP - John Patmore - Secretary, JN - James Newmarch – B&H Greenspaces forum, Brighton Greenway, CMH - Clare Millet Hopkins – Chair Woodingdean wilderness group, CL/ML - Colin & Maureen Leeves – Keep the Ridge Green, DB - David Botibol – website development, Ellie – Woodingdean Wilderness, RB - Richard Bickers – local ecologist, Whitehawk Hill & Waterhall

Welcome introduction

Proposed new member: James Farrell was proposed as a new member by MR. He has done work around Madeira Drive and green roofs.

Unanimous for joining BHWF

### **Annual meet-up at Waterhall**

This was a successful event with good attendance. Refreshments and food were provided by the Brighton and Hove Food Factory.

### **Verges**

Surveys are in, but more surveys are likely to be needed particularly in Hollingdean and Stanmer wards.

Unclear what the next stage is for this project.

### **BHWF vision statement**

The BHWF vision statement needs updating. JN has a draft statement and KG and others will work on this statement to come up with a new one for inclusion on the website and elsewhere. JP stressed the need to focus on nature, biodiversity and geodiversity.

The deadline is 1 month (end of October)

**ACTION** – update vision statement

Dates for 2020 meetings: 14 April / 21 July / 27 October 2020

**BHCC's new biodiversity officer position**

Kim Dawson has been appointed. Kim has worked professionally as ecologist for some time, in Lewes and East Sussex, for Southern Water.

She will be in the post by end of September.

Generally agreed that this is a positive move from the council.

KG and JN will meet up with Kim to have a chat about the BHWF.

BHWF website/E newsletter – progress report

DB has taken what JP saved and has reconstructed a website based on the current website and previous material.

Authorisation is needed to get hosting, but at the moment DB is hosting it on his own area so development can take place and hosting does not have to be bought yet.

SD suggested that a sub-committee be set up to design the website.

SD, DB, JP, and KG volunteered for the sub-committee.

**E-newsletter**

KG had sent around an example. A newsletter will be vital to increase traffic to the website and link with other groups in the city.

The e-newsletter should be short and snappy, with signposting to other groups

**Local groups – short updates**

CMH - Woodingdean wilderness group

Community engagement events and walks on site have restarted. Tree planting, seed planting and lots of other things have restarted

CL – Keep the Ridge Green

Sheep have come back

RB – Whitehawk Hill – there is a push against scrub. Paul Gorrington is leaving Whitehawk Hill. We have met with the 2 new rangers and hoping to get more of the LNR into positive management. We have a discussion document we can take to David Larkin and get him onside and discuss ways of delivering it.

**ACTION – KG to send updates****KG - Waterhall**

Awaiting funding for work.

**BHCC**

Haven't received reports from BHCC for a long time. JP asked could Kim Dawson provide reports?

**Planning**

East Sussex County Council environment team has an agreement with Brighton Council to provide ecological support to review planning applications

## **City plan part 2**

This will go in front of the planning inspectorate in early November  
Jess Price in an email to RB outlined that at this stage only groups that had made representations in the original report can submit more documents and a statement.

KG - Sussex Wildlife Trust representations have covered most of what needed to be covered

RB noted that the allocations on Whitehawk Hill and Warren road are of priority concern, but there were also concerns about Benfield Valley

## **Kingsway to the sea consultation**

This is a new consultation. Local friends group should be emailed to highlight the consultation is live.

JN noted that it would be good to try to persuade council to have a holistic approach to the whole seafront

## **Black Rock**

KG and JN met with the development team at black rock. This has got potential, but everything is still in early days

Discussion of what would be best for the area. To remove the Tamerisk or not?

The original planting design in 1820 was grassland, which was then planted with ornamental shrubs etc. it would be good to make it more biodiverse, including the development of flower rich grassland.

**ACTION – send summary of ideas for area to council**

**ACTION – draft statement for council on biodiversity in consultation –**

KG

Get foot in door to be consulted on whatever is going on about beach

## **Toad's Hole Valley**

An email with questions has been sent but no answers as yet.

The ecologist that was asked to do the invertebrate survey has asked development team what has happened to it.

## **AOB**

Date of next meeting

November 23<sup>rd</sup>