

## FoUSCA Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022

<b>Attendees:</b>
Chris Terry, Rebecca Bulmer, Louise Potts, Richard Harris-Burton, Steve Ball, Mich Stephenson, Glyn Miles.
<b>Apologies:</b>
Tamasine Green, Lizzy Hunt
<b>Agenda Items:-</b>
1. Previous actions / minutes
2. Items to be included in strategic planning and community engagement activities. USRA land activities / Non USRA Land
3. External Advice / Support
4. Conservation
5. Engagement of the Community
6. AOB
7. Next meeting

No	Minutes	Action
1.0	Thank you Fay for the minutes from the last meeting.	Note
2.0	Discussions took place on strategic planning and community engagement activities. This has been split into USRA Land activities and Non USRA land requirements.	Note
	<b>USRA Land Activities</b>	
2.1	USRA Land – Wood Area (Nature walk) discussions took place whether some trees should be removed as too close together, but other thinking is to leave as they are. Only to trim / cut branches close to path.	Note
2.2	Wood Area (Nature walk) - Coppicing of Hazels to be considered	Note
2.3	Wood Area (Nature walk) - Brambles – work required to reduce density – time of the year that this would be best to do to be considered.	Note
2.4	Fruit Tree / Orchard area - Brambles – work required to reduce density – time of the year that this would be best to do to be considered.	Note
2.5	Poplar Trees – are these the responsibility of USRA ? Should we get an assessment completed on these trees – H&S. USRA to advise.	USRA
2.6	Hedges – behind at the back of the village hall / backing onto the bowling green. Bowling club have cut / trimmed their side – could we get this side done? Needs pricing up? Do we have budget for this?	USRA
	<b>Non USRA Land – (currently David Wilson Homes)</b>	
	<b>Trees</b>	
2.7	Following the review of the trees, where a number of trees have been removed. USRA to advise when the new replanting exercise is currently to take place? Can we see the plan?	USRA
2.8	Following the review of the trees – can USRA advise if there is any plan to remove dead wood / dead branches from existing healthy trees. Are there any plans to lift the trees before handover from DWH? Lots of very large healthy trees on the park land that could do with 'lifting' before handover.	USRA
2.9	Safety Review – Is a safety review to be undertaken before the trees are handed over from DWH – concerns raised on severely slanting trees. One opposite the village hall towards the park.	USRA
2.10	Poplars – Are these currently USRA or due to be handed over? Can an assessment be carried out before handover and actions completed before handover. Concerns over H&S. Public Liability raised.	USRA

	<b>Parkland</b>	
2.11	Discussions took place on whether we could put some type of barrier / barriers / bollards / posts / fencing sections around the open edges of the park. Concerns raised on vehicles / vans / lorries – cars accessing to the back of properties and causing damage to the park. Ruts / trip hazards when matting isn't used. Damage to soil and grass. USRA to advise.	USRA
	<b>Gazebos / Band stands</b>	
2.12	Discussions took place on the sad state of the gazebos. No maintenance from DWH since 1999. Can USRA advise / confirm that DWH will put these into a good state of repair prior to handover from DWH. Is there a plan of work for these to include, guttering, roof work, painting etc. when this work be completed? Could we get any further grants / funding for future to maintain these? Concerns raised that if these are not maintained prior to handover would cost USRA a lot more to carry out the work. H&S issue to handover in current state. USRA to advise.	USRA
	<b>Service Road</b>	
2.13	Concerns raised on the current state of the service road. Can repairs / resurfacing be carried out ahead of handover from DWH. Huge holes in the road surface. H&S issue of these being handed over in current state. Maintenance of the speed bumps required to reduce the speeds of vehicles. USRA to advise.	USRA
2.14	Bollards – Concerns raised about the evening / after dark anti social behaviour on the service road. Can we get timed bollards installed at each end. Bollards to be up at certain times. Signage to state the times these will be in place. USRA to advise what is being discussed on this.	USRA
	<b>Grass Land</b>	
2.15	Land – questions raised whether the land will be transferred to USRA / Council maintenance with existing contracts or will new be negotiated? Will we keep the current lawn mowing contracts? Or do we need to purchase equipment / have storage facilities / employ staff for equipment for mowing and maintenance. USRA to advise.	USRA
2.16	Ideas raised - Could we have wildlife meadow areas / Lines / rows of wildlife flowers to reduce mowing requirement?	Note
	<b>Millennium Way</b>	
2.17	The millennium way needs some attention – who currently maintains this? Is it DWH? Looks very untidy - Need to fill in shrubs. Illex to be used rather than box / buxus? Elaeagnus ? USRA advice	USRA
	<b>External Advice / Support</b>	
3.1	Chris has been speaking to the Wildlife Trust – gaining advice and support for our land and activities	CT
3.2	Mich has been speaking to the Woodland Trust – meeting at the end of the week to see what advice and support is available.	MS
3.3	Chris to speak to Nicki – re Brackenhurst College support / advice / help	CT
3.4	Ideas raised - Community Groups / Charities – local people to work / use land for therapy sessions / learning how to garden / learning about trees / mental health groups / Eco farm Screveton – reach out to local groups. Louise to investigate local groups / interest / support	LP
3.5	Other support / ideas – RSPB / Bat walks / foraging	Note
	<b>Conservation</b>	
4.1	Ideas were discussed on conservation. No Mow May. No use of chemicals / pesticides.	Note
4.2	Idea to have compost bins for leaves – community use and collection. Do we have budget?	USRA
4.3	Idea to have water collection – community use – do we have budget?	USRA
	<b>Engagement of the Community</b>	
5.1	It was discussed and noted that we need to try to engage all the people that live at Upper Saxondale – retired, working young adults, families – all to think of ideas for this. Anyone with expertise on this area? USRA is anyone looking at this?	USRA
5.2	D of E – Volunteering sessions discussed – would need to be weekly 1 hour activity	Note
	<b>AOB</b>	

6.1	It was noted that this group may need to split into 2 groups – 1) Maintenance of USRA land – hands on activities to do / jobs to complete / action plan. 2) Strategic group – assistance with USRA on land issues prior to handover from DWH / Council	Note
6.2	Reminder to all – Chris reminded everyone that there is a working party required to support the volunteers that are already working in the soft fruit garden and orchard - Sunday 20th November (weather permitting) between 10-12pm	All / USRA
6.3	Open Gardens – 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 – still need volunteers / helpers to sell tickets / need help in the orchard / help in village hall for refreshments. Nottingham Wildlife trust will be in attendance	ALL / USRA
7.0	Next Meeting –. TBA	ALL