

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Environmental Forum** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 8 November 2017.

Present: Councillors Chris Lloyd (Chair), Angela Killick, David Major, Reena Ranger, Phil Williams and one representative from the following organisations:-

Parish Councillor Liz Burns Parish Councillor Tony Edwards Peter Waters Graham Clark Doug King Yvonne Stirling Keith Pursall Jon Bishop David Montague	Abbots Langley Parish Council Chorleywood Parish Council Rickmansworth and District Residents' Association/Rickmansworth Society Friends of Croxley Common Moor Friends of Chorleywood House Estate Curtis Conservation Group Maple Lodge Conservation Society Chorleywood Residents' Association Rickmansworth Waterways Trust
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Officers: Kay FitzGerald, Biodiversity Projects Officer.

Also in attendance: Parish Councillor Jane Lay.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heather Kenison and Diana Barber as well as Graham Everett and Dudley Edmunds.

EF05/17 **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2017**

	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION
1.	A minute's silence was held for David Wynne Jones, a long standing member of the Environmental Forum who had died earlier in the year.	ALL
2.	To note that the action table summarising the meeting of the Environmental Forum held on 12 July 2017 was confirmed as a correct record.	ALL
3.	Matters arising: To note that there were no matters arising.	ALL
4.	To note the report from the Biodiversity Projects Officer.	ALL
5.	To note the information exchange that took place between the member organisations present at the meeting including:	ALL

6.	<p>Graham Clark, Friends of Croxley Common Moor: Graham mentioned that the Friends of Croxley Common Moor were looking to place a carved, bespoke, memorial bench on Croxley Common Moor in memory of David Wynne Jones who had been a founding member of the group. Graham also informed the Forum that whilst the Friends continued their scrub removal work the council was looking to Natural England for additional funding to clear some scrub on the wetter end of Croxley Common Moor.</p>	ALL
7.	<p>David Montague, Rickmansworth Waterways Trust: In light of the presentation David felt that the Waterways Trust may need to update the 'Wildlife Tick Sheet' that they give to visiting school groups as well as the information their volunteers pass on during talks. DM will discuss this matter with Graham Clark, as necessary.</p>	ALL
8.	<p>Yvonne Stirling, Curtis Conservation Group/Mill End Wildlife Area: Yvonne said that their group had needed some advice recently, particularly regarding the appropriate timing to carry out practical tasks. The Countryside Management Service had been very helpful with this matter. The group now has around 14 volunteers who work on the 0.7 acre site, which was originally saved from being developed. Yvonne said that the group was doing rather well and that she would also like to thank Three Rivers District Council for their help.</p>	ALL
9.	<p>Keith Pursall, Maple Lodge Conservation Society: Keith had raised concerns with Affinity Water and the Colne Catchment Action Network about a 28cm drop in the water level over two weeks at their site. The falling water level has now stabilised but they wished to know the cause and were awaiting a response from Affinity Water, who is investigating. Keith informed the Forum that they had recently opened a new, two storey, hide thanks to funding from Thames Water. Keith was also pleased to announce that a Great White Egret was currently at Maple Lodge.</p>	ALL
10.	<p>Doug King, Friends of Chorleywood House Estate: Doug mentioned that the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate were delighted to have retained their Green Flag Award. He also said that there were lots of birds and butterflies this year, such as goldfinch feeding on teasels and butterflies in the field towards the M25. Doug informed the Forum that the history exhibition in Lady Ela's red and white Summer House had been very successful this year with, for example, 92 people visiting as part of Apple Day. The exhibition features the history of Chorleywood House Estate as well as the local area. Doug opened the invitation for all members of the Environmental Forum to visit the Summer House on the next Bank Holiday to enjoy the exhibition. Doug also mentioned that any new volunteers would be more than welcome as they struggle to recruit new members.</p>	ALL

11.	<p>Parish Councillor Tony Edwards, Chorleywood Parish Council:</p> <p>Cllr. Edwards said that the Friends of Carpenters Wood have a draft Greenspace Action Plan and are working to widen rides within the woods. They too find it difficult to recruit volunteers and would welcome some younger members.</p> <p>There is also a new Management Plan for Chorleywood Common and they would be pleased if Three Rivers District Council would approve the five year document at the appropriate time.</p>	ALL
12.	<p>Jon Bishop, Chorleywood Residents' Association:</p> <p>Jon offered to help the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate and the Friends of Carpenters Wood, via the Residents' Association, to recruit more members. This offer was gratefully received.</p>	ALL
13.	<p>Councillor Phil Williams:</p> <p>Cllr. Williams was concerned that otters could die in certain types of crayfish traps. KF will investigate the matter.</p> <p>POST MEETING NOTE:</p> <p>All crayfish traps require a licence from the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency specifies that all traps need to display a numbered tag to allow identification and should be fitted with a guard to prevent otters entering and becoming trapped. If you spot a trap without a numbered tag or guard then it needs to be reported to the Environment Agency on the free incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60.</p>	ALL
14.	<p>Suggestions for the Environmental Forum:</p> <p>The last meeting discussed a number of options for future Forums and subsequent feedback related to many people not being able to commit to an evening meeting or simply not having time to attend. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members sharing an environmentally related hobby – one speaker per Forum for a maximum of five minutes. - Members to recommend a recent book or article that might be of interest. - Members to share anything of a historical or archaeological interest that has been found on their site – one speaker per Forum for a maximum of five minutes. <p>CL mentioned that the Bonn Climate Change Conference was currently taking place and that he has worked in Bonn. He also mentioned that he had recently attended a Tearfund (linked to Christian Aid) Conference which was celebrating its 50th anniversary.</p>	ALL
15.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>If any group had an upcoming event or activity they could email KF the information within the next week so that details could be sent out with the notes of the Environmental Forum.</p>	ALL

16.	<p>Speaker for the next Environmental Forum: Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The effects of HS2 on the Chilterns. - Recycling within the district. - Anaerobic digestion. <p>Any further suggestions to be emailed to KF.</p>	<p>TRDC</p> <p>ALL</p>
17.	<p>To note that the Environmental Forum thanked Graham Clark, from the Friends of Croxley Common Moor, for the fascinating presentation on the birds of Croxley Common Moor.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

EF06/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 7 March 2018.

CHAIRMAN