

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Environmental Forum** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 13 June 2018, 7:30pm.

Meeting finished: 9:40pm.

Present: Councillors Chris Lloyd (Chairman), Marilyn Butler, Joanna Clemens, Angela Killick, Stephen King, David Major, Alex Turner and one representative from each of the following organisations: -

Abbots Langley Parish Council	- Parish Councillor Liz Burns
Batchworth Community Council	- Parish Councillor Nina Hosking
Watford Rural Parish Council	- Parish Councillor Yessica Gould
The Rickmansworth Society	- Peter Waters
Farming Community	Sally Findlay
Watford Friends of the Earth and Friends of Croxley Common Moor	- Graham Everett
Friends of Chorleywood House Estate	- Doug King
Education for a Sustainable Future	- Bob Sherren

Officers: Kay FitzGerald, Biodiversity Projects Officer.

Also in attendance: Keith Hoffmeister (Chiltern Society), Julian Williams (Denham Against HS2), Frank Partridge (Denham Against HS2), Councillor Diana Barber and Parish Councillor Jane Lay.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Williams, Parish Councillor Tony Edwards as well Tony Bradford, Roger Bangs, Matt Dodds, Keith Pursall and Dudley Edmunds.

EF03/18 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM HELD ON 13 JUNE 2018

	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION
1.	To note that the action table summarising the meeting of the Environmental Forum held on 7 March 2018 was confirmed as a correct record.	ALL
2.	Matters arising: To note that there were no matters arising.	ALL
3.	To note that the Environmental Forum thanked Keith Hoffmeister, from the Chiltern Society, for the highly informative presentation on impact of HS2 on the Chilterns. keithhoff@hotmail.com	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>Peter Waters, The Rickmansworth Society: Peter informed the Forum that the Rickmansworth Waterways Trust held their 25th Rickmansworth Festival in May. The weekend was very successful and it was a wonderful event for the local community.</p>	ALL
7.	<p>David Major, Abbots Langley Parish Council: David mentioned that he had recently seen the remains of several wood pigeons and wondered what the cause could be. It was suggested that sparrowhawks may be responsible.</p>	ALL
8.	<p>Sally Findlay, Farming Community: Sally said that HS2 had asked if they could undertake an ecological study on one of the farm fields. Sally was unsure why they want to do this or what they are hoping to find. Cllr. Killick said that she and Cllr. Williams had regular meetings with HS2 representatives and that she would take the question to her forthcoming meeting with them.</p>	ALL Cllr. Killick
9.	<p>Graham Everett, Watford Friends of the Earth and Friends of Croxley Common Moor: Graham notified the Forum that the Friends of Croxley Common Moor would be holding their annual glow worm survey on Friday 6 July at 9:30pm. If anyone wished to attend they can contact the Friends via the Friends of Croxley Common Moor website: http://www.croxleycommonmoor.org.uk/</p>	ALL
10.	<p>Doug King, Friends of Chorleywood House Estate: Doug said that the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate were hosting four French horticultural students during their next two volunteer sessions. Doug also said that the very popular Summer House history exhibition would be open on 14 August and invited everyone to come along; there is no need to book.</p>	ALL
11.	<p>Parish Councillor Yessica Gould, Watford Rural Parish Council: Cllr. Gould said that she had fox cubs visiting her garden and had noticed that the female was becoming aggressive towards another fox, Cllr. Gould also said that Watford Rural Parish Council was holding a fun day on Saturday 16 June, 11-3pm.</p>	ALL
12.	<p>Parish Councillor Jane Lay, Abbots Langley Parish Council: Cllr. Lay said that Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) was still cutting the verges in Abbots Langley, which did not allow any wild flowers to grow. Cllr. Lay also said that HCC had cleaned some drains in Abbots Langley but had then cut the grass which had then fallen in to the drains. ACTION: TRDC to invite HCC to a future Environmental Forum to discuss their verge management regime.</p>	ALL TRDC

13.	<p>Parish Councillor Liz Burns, Abbots Langley Parish Council: Cllr. Burns said that a recent War Walk around Abbots Langley attracted 230 walkers; the health walks were also very popular as was a Mass Walk that took place in May.</p> <p>Cllr. Burns also brought the Ribbon of Poppies campaign to the attention of the Forum – they are asking people to sow poppy seeds as they would like to see a ribbon of poppies from Lands End to John O’Groats to commemorate the centenary of WWI.</p>	ALL
14.	<p>Councillor Diana Barber: Cllr. Barber said that the Curtis Conservation group has completed their hedging laying work, which looks very good. Contrary to the advice of the Countryside Management Service First Rickmansworth Scouts had helped sow wild flower seed at the site. The group had also hosted a stall at the Rickmansworth Festival where visitors could plant a seed to take home. All of the remaining seed, which had been donated by Van Hage, had been sown on the field next to the social club.</p>	ALL
15.	<p>Councillor Marilyn Butler: Cllr. Butler asked what the general feeling about ragwort was amongst the Forum.</p> <p>Kay said that it was not illegal to have ragwort growing on your own land but it was illegal to let it spread on to other land. Kay also said that it was important for a number of insects, such as the caterpillar of the cinnabar moth, but that it was equally important to control its spread, especially on land where grazing takes place as ragwort is poisonous to horses and cattle.</p> <p>Sally said they were currently digging up a lot of ragwort on her farm and that they were chemically treating areas which were particularly bad.</p> <p>Cllr. Butler mentioned that a fund raiser, in aid of Target Ovarian Cancer, was being held on Monday 25 June at 7:30pm. Tickets for the Very Special Flower Arranging Demonstration by Neil Gurney are £10 and are available on the door.</p>	ALL
16.	<p>General Data Protection Regulations: If anyone had missed the email from the Council’s Committee Section asking people to formally agree to TRDC retaining their data in relation to the Environmental Forum Kay had some forms available.</p>	ALL
17.	<p>Speaker for the next Environmental Forum:</p> <p>To note that, after a recommendation from Cllr. Williams, Paul Jennings from the River Chess Association will be making a presentation at the next Environmental Forum.</p> <p>ACTION: TRDC to contact HCC to see if someone will attend the Environmental Forum to discuss the management of road side verges.</p>	ALL TRDC

EF04/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was 7:30pm, Wednesday 14 November 2018.

CHAIRMAN