

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Environmental Forum** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 14 November 2018, 7:30pm.

Meeting finished: 9:35pm.

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

Batchworth Community Council	- Parish Councillor François Neckar
Watford Rural Parish Council	- Parish Councillor Yessica Gould
The Rickmansworth Society and Rickmansworth and District Residents' Association	- Peter Waters
Friends of Croxley Common Moor/Ornithologist	- Graham Clark
Spokes (South West Herts Cycling Group)	- Roger Bangs
Friends of Chorleywood House Estate	- Doug King
Maple Lodge Conservation Society	- Keith Pursall
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust and Croxley Green Parish Council	- David Montague
Education for a Sustainable Future	- Bob Sherren
Tony Booker	- Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative

Officers: Kay FitzGerald, Biodiversity Projects Officer.

Also in attendance: Paul Jennings (River Chess Association), Councillor Alex Michaels, Annan Marett (resident), Ken Macleod (resident), Carol Smith (resident), Graham Marett (resident), Jane Archer (resident), Barnaby Jackson (resident) and Evelyn Fox (resident).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Williams, Parish Councillor Liz Burns, Jane Lay and Nigel Cole as well Graham Everett and Sally Findlay.

EF05/18 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2018

	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION
1.	To note that the action table summarising the meeting of the Environmental Forum held on 13 June 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 Paul Jennings, from the River Chess Association, for the fascinating presentation on the work of the River Chess Association. Paul asked the Environmental Forum to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete the <i>Rivers on the Brink</i> postcard and send it to their local MP. b) If the planning department could notify the River Chess Association on any planning applications/ consultations which may impact on the River Chess. c) Support the plans to install fish bypasses along the river in areas such as Sarratt Mill, Scotsbridge Mill and Loudwater Mill. 	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>Councillor Alex Michaels: Cllr. Michaels informed the Environmental Forum that Three Rivers District Council has recently passed a motion to ban single use plastics in its outlets including Three Rivers House, Watersmeet and the Depot.</p> <p>Cllr. Michaels chairs the Youth Council and 16 schools are going to produce a piece of artwork using recycling materials that will be displayed in Artismet from June 2019.</p> <p>The Play Ranger is going into schools to talk about recycling, the environment, etc and to undertake a food waste audit. The food waste audit will be repeated 12 months later to see if improvements have been made.</p>	ALL
7.	<p>Graham Clark, Friends of Croxley Common Moor: Croxley Danes School was due to visit Croxley Common Moor but the session was postponed until next year due to bad weather.</p> <p>The Friends are looking in to the possibility of engaging the Community Payback team to undertake work on the moor and suggested that they may prove a good source of labour for other groups.</p>	ALL
8.	<p>David Major, Abbots Langley Parish Council: Cllr. Major noted that a number of horse chestnut trees he had seen, especially in the churchyard in Abbots Langley, had lost their leaves over the summer and produced very few conkers.</p>	ALL
9.	<p>Parish Councillor Yessica Gould, Watford Rural Parish Council: Cllr. Gould feels that the Local Plan focusses housing development in South Oxhey. She said they already have the South Oxhey redevelopment but there are plans to demolish garages for redevelopment and build in the floodplain and there isn't the infrastructure to support more development which also puts habitats and bats at risk.</p> <p>Cllr. Lloyd said the housing sites in the Local Plan are spread across the district and the targets are actually set by Central Government. He also said that many of the housing sites are put forward by private land owners. The consultation remains open until 21 December and he encouraged everyone to engage in the consultation process and make their thoughts known.</p> <p>Cllr. Gould said there will be a Fun Day on 1 December, 10am-3pm, in the South Oxhey shopping area.</p> <p>Cllr. Gould also mentioned that she had noticed an increase in the number of pretty, but noisy, parakeets in the area.</p>	ALL

10.	<p>Keith Pursall, Maple Lodge Conservation Society: Keith informed the forum that they were suffering from the lowest water levels on the reserve on record. He has requested a meeting with Affinity Water in the hope that he can understand why this is happening. Keith also thanked the Council for their help in stopping someone from taking off in a motorised glider from Denham Way and paramotoring over the reserve.</p>	ALL
11.	<p>David Montague, Rickmansworth Waterways Trust and Croxley Green Parish Council: The new building for the Waterways Trust is nearing completion. The redevelopment of the Travis Perkins site is due to start in a couple of weeks and they are keen to ensure that no valuable habitat is lost. They are asking all caterers attending the 2019 Rickmansworth Festival not to use any single use plastics. Croxley Green Parish Council has had its Neighbourhood Plan agreed. There will be a referendum on 6 December.</p>	ALL
12.	<p>Tony Booker, Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative: Tony had produced a briefing note which was circulated. A copy is attached to the Action Table. Tony also offered to make a presentation at a future meeting.</p>	ALL
13.	<p>Councillor Joanna Clemens: Cllr. Clemens mentioned the Local Plan consultation and encouraged everyone to respond. She highlighted the fact that many wildlife sites and archaeological sites were under threat and that any developments were likely to be intensive. More information about the Local Plan and the consultation process can be found at: https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/new-local-plan</p>	ALL
14.	<p>Councillor Angela Killick: Cllr. Killick is concerned that tankers are taking water from ponds in West Hyde and lowering the water levels. She is keen to meet with Affinity Water to understand why this is happening. Cllr. Killick is also concerned about water and sewage flooding the roads in West Hyde. She would like to speak with Affinity Water and Thames Water so she can find out why the flooding occurs – does anyone have a contact?</p>	ALL

15.	<p>Roger Bangs, Spokes: Spokes has 150 members and there are normally one or two bike rides each week. Members worked to cut back vegetation on the stretch of Ebury Way near Travis Perkins in the spring. Tree roots coming through the tarmac can be a problem. Roger asked if TRDC has any walking or cycling policies. Cllr. Lloyd said that TRDC works with HCC on the Health Walks initiative and the Leavesden Cycle Hub opened earlier in the year. Post-meeting note: TRDC's Cycling Strategy can be read at: https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/cycling A new strategy is currently being produced. Roger said that Spokes has just issued their quarterly newsletter – everyone is welcome to a copy. Roger promoted the Hertfordshire Way, a circular walk around the county. There is a guidebook for the walk which included lots of information on places to visit along the route.</p>	ALL/ TRDC
16.	<p>Councillor Marilyn Butler: Cllr. Butler has concerns about the Local Plan in relation to water extraction/conservation and the use of Green Belt land. She is also concerned about the number of properties in her area which are not connected to the main drains and the problems that residents have in getting cesspits emptied due to restrictions placed on companies by Thames Water.</p>	ALL
17.	<p>Doug King, Friends of Chorleywood House Estate: Doug said that the recent Apple Day was a great success. The Lady Ela Russell exhibition was open and descendants of John Barnes, the original owner of Chorleywood House, attended – they are going to send information through which will be included in future exhibitions.</p>	ALL
18.	<p>Barnaby Jackson, resident: Barnaby informed the forum that the Gov.uk website includes information about adapting to a changing climate. He suggested that members of the forum lobby David Gauke to ensure the principles are adhered to.</p>	ALL
19.	<p>Speaker for the next Environmental Forum: The case for having readymade nest sites for swifts in/on buildings within Three Rivers. The Friends of The Withey Beds. Tony Booker offered to make a presentation at a future meeting.</p>	ALL TRDC

EF06/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was 7:30pm, Wednesday 27 February 2019.

CHAIRMAN