

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Environmental Forum** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 27 February 2019, 7:30pm.

Meeting finished: 9:40pm.

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

Batchworth Community Council	- Parish Councillor François Neckar
Chorleywood Parish Council	- Parish Councillor Tony Edwards
Croxley Green Parish Council	- Parish Councillor Nigel Cole
The Rickmansworth Society	- Peter Waters
Spokes (South West Herts Cycling Group)	- Roger Bangs
Affinity Water	- Daniel Cooper
Maple Lodge Conservation Society	- Keith Pursall
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust	- David Montague
Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative	- Tony Booker
Friends of Chorleywood Common	- Michael Hyde
Friends of Stockers Lake	- Russell Ball

Officers: Kay FitzGerald, Biodiversity Projects Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillor Jon Tankard, Carol Smith (Swift Conservation), Anna Marett (Swift Conservation), Evelyn Fox (Swift Conservation), David Neal (Swift Conservation), Jane Archer (Friends of The Withey Beds), John Champion (Friends of The Withey Beds), Peter Hadwin (Friends of The Withey Beds) and Graham Marett (resident).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Williams, Parish Councillor Jane Lay, Graham Everett, Graham Clark and Doug King.

EF01/19 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2019

	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION
1.	To note that the action table summarising the meeting of the Environmental Forum held on 14 November 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 Anna Marett, Evelyn Fox, Carol Smith, David Neal and Jane Archer for their inspiring presentations on the need for swift nest sites around the district and The Withey Beds Local Nature Reserve. For more information: www.swiftconservation.org www.thewitheybeds.org.uk To report swift sightings, including nests, in the Three Rivers area email: 3riversswifts@gmail.com	ALL

	TRDC to follow up with the Development Management team – the group would like a meeting with a planning officer to see if anything can be done to help swifts via the planning process.	TRDC
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.	Michael Hyde, Friends of Chorleywood Common: Michael said how much he had enjoyed the presentation on swifts.	ALL
7.	Parish Councillor Tony Edwards, Chorleywood Parish Council: The Rangers lead a work party on Chorleywood Common at 10am on the last Thursday of each month. New signage is due to be installed on Chorleywood Common soon, including waymarker posts and interpretation boards in the three main car parks. On 11 April there will be Easter event, for children, on Chorleywood Common.	ALL
8.	Russell Ball, Friends of Stockers Lake: Volunteers meet at 10am on the first Sunday of each month. The Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the installation of fencing to enable cattle to return to Stockers Lake to graze three meadows to help increase the abundance and diversity of wildflowers.	ALL
9.	Keith Pursall, Maple Lodge Conservation Society: Affinity Water had recently given the group a presentation on water levels which he had found very interesting and would recommend to everyone.	ALL
10.	Roger Bangs, Spokes: Walks were held by the Ramblers every weekend. Roger had brought along leaflets on the Hertfordshire Way for anyone that was interested. Spokes organised eight cycle rides each month. Spokes are pleased with the works at the Ebury roundabout. They have been supporting the Watford Cycle Hub as well as the recently opened Leavesden Cycle Hub. They will be attending the Rickmansworth Festival in May. There will be a working day on 24 March to help keep the part of the Ebury Way open near Travis Perkins. There are issues with tree roots affecting the tarmac in this area but they have been liaising with the relevant TRDC officer.	ALL

11.	<p>Tony Booker, Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative: Heathrow expansion airspace consultation ends 4 March – Tony encouraged everyone to read the consultation and comment.</p> <p>Non-native caspian mud shrimps and demon shrimps have been found in the River Colne. This is a potential problem as they predate upon <i>gammarus</i> shrimp. There have also been two cases of canal boats with floating pennywort on them traveling along the Grand Union Canal so it is probably a matter of time before it establishes in the area.</p> <p>Tony advised everyone to follow the <i>Check, Clean, Dry</i> protocol to help minimise transfer of species from site to site and to pay particular attention to dogs that might enter rivers, lakes, etc.</p> <p>The CVFC is excited to be working with the ColneCan and Watford Borough Council to produce a Watford in the Water plan to enhance the area.</p> <p>They are also working with the Colne Valley Landscape Partnership on a £2.5m project. Most officers have been appointed and the scheme will deliver 19 projects, one of which is to develop a green infrastructure strategy for the Colne Valley Regional Park – there will be workshops for businesses and organisations as well as wildlife groups.</p>	ALL
12.	<p>Councillor Joanna Clemens: Found the presentations to be very interesting.</p>	ALL
13.	<p>Parish Councillor Nigel Cole, Croxley Green Parish Council: Croxley Green Parish Council has taken on two allotments which will be used to introduce pre-school children to growing food.</p> <p>Following the success of the David Wynne Jones Bird Box Trail bat boxes will be installed in Weston Wood.</p> <p>The pond on Little Green Lane, which has not held water for a number of years, has recently been relined. The work was funded by Croxley Green Parish Council and carried out by the Little Green Residents' Association.</p>	ALL
14.	<p>David Montague, Rickmansworth Waterways Trust: The Rickmansworth Festival is on 18 and 19 May.</p>	ALL
15.	<p>Speaker for the next Environmental Forum: Tony Booker offered to make a presentation at a future meeting.</p>	ALL

EF02/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was 7:30pm, Wednesday 12 June 2019.

CHAIRMAN