

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Environmental Forum** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 4 March 2020, 7:30pm.

Meeting finished: 9:50pm.

Councillors Chris Lloyd (Chairman), Joanna Clemens, Jon Tankard, Alex Turner, Phil Williams, Marilyn Butler and one representative from each of the following organisations: -

Spokes (South West Herts Cycling Group)	- Roger Bangs
Friends of Chorleywood House Estate	- Doug King
Friends of Stockers Lake	- Russell Ball
Hertfordshire Moth Group	- Andy King
Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust	- Tim Hill
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust	- David Montague
Watford & Three Rivers Friends of the Earth and	- Graham Everett
Friends of Croxley Common Moor	-
Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative	Tony Booker
Maple Lodge Conservation Society	- Keith Pursall

Officers: Petrina Llewellyn, Biodiversity Projects Officer.

Also, in attendance:

Elen Roberts (TRDC), Jennie Probert (TRDC), Jane Archer (resident), John Shaw (St Mary's Church), Timothy Tims (St Mary's Church), Elizabeth Tims (resident), Carolyn Weston (Maple Cross and West Hyde Residents Association), Barnaby Jackson (constituent), Janet Laundes (constituent), Graham Marett (constituent), Anna Marett (constituent), Carol Smith (resident) and Rebecca Young (TRDC).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Major, Councillor Alison Wall, Councillor Alex Hayward, Councillor Steven King, Parish Councillor Tony Edwards (Chorleywood), Parish Councillor Jane Lay (Abbots Langley), Tony Bradford, Dudley Edmunds, Becky Pointer and Matt Dodds

EF05/19 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM HELD ON 04 MARCH 2020

	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION
1.	To note that the action table summarising the meeting of the Environmental Forum held on 12 June 2019 was confirmed as a correct record.	
2.	Matters arising: There were no matters arising.	

3.	<p>An introduction to the New Biodiversity Projects Officer A brief introduction was provided by Petrina Llewellyn, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><i>Presentations by: John Shaw and Timothy Tims “Plant more Trees”</i> A presentation discussed the 750 tree planting project in Rickmansworth, which is to mark a key anniversary at St Mary’s Church and to help plant trees to combat global warming and encourage tree planting in Rickmansworth. The project involves local churches and is working with local schools.</p> <p>It was mentioned that Ray Figg and Three Rivers District Council Tree Officers have kindly agreed to plant 2 trees for St Mary’s Church by the Batchworth Roundabout and both Timothy Tims and John Shaw are grateful.</p> <p>The Cedar tree at the Council was also mentioned and highlighted how important the tree was and discussed the process of photosynthesis.</p> <p>It is hoped by next October that children from the Batchworth Community Council area will plant trees such as silver birch and oak.</p> <p>Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Williams are happy to discuss further with Timothy Tims and John Shaw about the project and to provide help/ contact with local schools.</p> <p>Cllr Tankard and Cllr Phil Williams reported they are also looking into a verge project, rewilding project and also looking into options for planting trees in their areas.</p> <p>In addition, Tim Hill mentioned that biodiversity loss was also important in relation to the Climate crisis and that every habitat can capture carbon to help reduce temperatures. Tim reported that trees, soil, grassland and other habitats are important for carbon capture. Tim referred to the Hertfordshire State of Nature 2019 report. He also mentioned Ash Die back and Oak Processionary Moth are other issues that need to be addressed.</p> <p>Cllr Chris Lloyd also mentioned that when planting trees groups need to budget for the maintenance of the trees. He also thanked the Three Rivers and County teams who have been busy with extra tree work caused by the recent storms.</p> <p>Barnaby Jackson asked about funding sources for planting trees for projects and suggested it might be good to arrange a TRDC meeting to discuss further.</p> <p>For further information about the 750 tree planting project, please go to www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk/750-trees.</p>	

	<p><i>Presentation by Elen Roberts “Recycling and Waste in Three Rivers”</i></p> <p>A presentation was given by Elen Roberts. She discussed how food waste is recycled at an anaerobic digestion plant under a Hertfordshire County Council contract and is promoting the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, and the Remember Your Reusables campaign run by WasteAware. Elen also reported about the Resources and Waste Strategy.</p> <p>Cllr Williams reported that Three Rivers District Council was really good at recycling and were third in the country in 2018/19.</p> <p>Russell Ball asked whether Elen goes to schools and Elen reported that discussions were made in schools especially Eco Councils and she was talking to teachers in terms of waste and recycling. Elen will also be doing assemblies and activities in schools.</p> <p><i>Graham Everett reported about issues around plastics and if there is a risk of contamination to landfill.</i></p> <p><i>Elen reported that landfill contamination was only 4%, which was very good.</i></p> <p><i>Tim Hill mentioned that it is important to look at “Waste Water” and we can all do our bit to help conserve water to help habitats, e.g. along the River Colne, which is a very important river habitat in Hertfordshire.</i></p> <p><i>Jennie Probert reported that it was important not to waste water.</i></p> <p><i>Barnaby Jackson asked if it would be possible to recycle soft plastics? Elen reported that soft plastics may be phased out in due course.</i></p> <p><i>Jennie Probert mentioned the necessity of keeping batteries out of bins.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Williams reported that paper bags are best for composting.</i></p>	
5.	<p><i>Presentation by Rebecca Young “Sustainability in Three Rivers – An opportunity to discuss how to make Three Rivers carbon neutral by 2030”</i></p> <p><i>With reference to reports below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How to make Three Rivers carbon neutral (report)</i> • <i>How to make Three Rivers carbon neutral - App B</i> <p><i>Rebecca looked at the report around achievements and the green expectations plan. The reports looked at waste and recycling and about sustainable travel. The reports also looked at planting trees. Rebecca Young reported that she would welcome any thoughts and the Council is looking to</i></p>	

	<p><i>appoint a Climate Change Officer soon. One of the elements of the report is to change behaviours, e.g. with businesses.</i></p> <p><i>Russell Ball reported that it was important to think about revenue budgets for tree planting, as well as initial capital funding.</i></p> <p><i>Tim Hill reported that climate change adaption is not just about planting trees and all habitats were important to work toward this goal. Re-wilding projects are also very good for providing a CO2 buffer and for biodiversity.</i></p> <p><i>Jon Tankard reported that rewilding projects were good.</i></p> <p><i>Tim Hill reported that he was working with Stevenage Borough Council on a re-wilding verge project there. Tim has discussed briefly about the state of nature report and will be inviting some Three Rivers District Council Councillors and Officers to a State of Nature Launch on 24th March.</i></p> <p><i>Barnaby Jackson mentioned about making Sarratt more sustainable and was funding available? Rebecca Young reported that there might be funding available.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Williams reported that it would be important to contact landowners, County Councils, District Councils and Parish Councils and Local County Councillors about this, as they may be able to help with potential projects.</i></p> <p><i>Timothy Tims reported that it would be good to get a programme for replacing trees, e.g. in roads as there does not seem to be a programme for tree replenishment. Timothy reported that it would be good to get funding for this and replace trees in Three Rivers.</i></p> <p><i>Russell Ball commented on the issue about car parking on grass verges. Councillor Phil Williams reported that damage to grass verges can be reported to Hertfordshire County Council.</i></p> <p><i>Rebecca Young reported that it may be good for the future Three Rivers District Council Climate Officer to meet with Tim Hill, especially to discuss soil and carbon capture issues. Tim Hill thanked Rebecca Young.</i></p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><i>To note the information exchange that took place between the member organisations present at the meeting including:</i></p>	
	<p><i>Councillor Joanna Clemens:</i> <i>Councillor Joanna Clemens reported that there was recent chainsaw noise activity near the Withey Beds, but all agreed that this was not happening at the Withey Beds site.</i></p>	

	<p>David Montague, <i>Rickmansworth Waterways Trust</i>:</p> <p>David highlighted the forthcoming Rickmansworth Festival, highlighted the importance of School Litter picks and supported initiatives such as tree planting. He hoped the Environmental Marquee would help educate the general public.</p>	
	<p>Keith Pursall, Maple Lodge Conservation Society:</p> <p>Keith reported about the planning application at Maple Cross. The site involved is unimproved grassland habitat and bats use the site. Keith expressed his concern about this development application and wants the land to be returned to green belt.</p> <p>Councillor Chris Lloyd reported that the Three Rivers Local Plan is being delayed, there is a 600 housing target and recommended that MP's should be contacted about the local plan and the number of houses that Government are expecting in Hertfordshire</p> <p>Councillor Phil Williams reported that Three Rivers District Council turned down the application and hoped that the appeal does not go through.</p>	ALL
	<p>Russell Ball, Friends of Stockers Lake:</p> <p>Russel reported that cattle have been introduced at Stockers Lake for this year to encourage the wildflower meadow. 150 trees are also being planted to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.</p>	
	<p>Tim Hill, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust:</p> <p>Tim highlighted the importance of carbon capture and also about what is the criteria for taking trees down, especially in relation to ash die back. He also mentioned a meeting on 24th March at All Nations College to discuss the Hertfordshire State of Nature 2019 report.</p>	
	<p>Tony Brooker, Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative:</p> <p>Tony will email Petrina the Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative newsletter.</p> <p>The newsletter highlights the Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative (CVFC) being part of the Colne Valley Regional Park Landscape Partnership team that successfully was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund. Part of the award is helping to fund Angling and Nature Conservation Courses, which start in April. If people want further details, please contact Tony.</p> <p>Tony also reported about plastic recycling and a National Aquatic Plastic Recovery and Recycling scheme. The project promotes beach clean-ups and promotes the use of recycled benches.</p>	ALL

	<p><i>Post-meeting note: For further information, please see TRDC Briefing note March 2020 and follow the links.</i></p>	
	<p>Graham Everett, Watford & Three Rivers Friends of the Earth and Friends of Croxley Common Moor:</p> <p>Road Verges: Graham reported that road verges should be cut once a year and their arisings removed.</p> <p>Misuse of wood from woodland: Graham also reported his concerns about woodlands and people removing wood and has raised this with Three Rivers District Council.</p> <p>Graham also wanted to raise the issue of the health impact of idling engines.</p>	
	<p>Doug King, Friends of Chorleywood House Estate:</p> <p>Doug reported that the Old Fence at Chorleywood House Estate was being removed and was being replaced by knee high rail fencing, which will improve the vista to the area.</p> <p>Doug also reported that there will be an exhibition at Chorleywood House Estate in the Lady Ela's Summer House Museum during Easter 2020.</p>	ALL
	<p>Elen Roberts, Three Rivers District Council:</p> <p>Elen reported that Three Rivers District Council are supporting this year's Great British Spring Clean. Three Rivers District Council is arranging several litter picks, which will be publicised in due course. Elen encouraged everyone present to bring friends and family along to the event.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: all GBSC litter picking events are now postponed.</i></p>	ALL
	<p>Barnaby Jackson, Constituent:</p> <p>Barnaby Jackson wanted promote to members of the Environmental Forum about the idea of citizen assemblies and how to get involved.</p> <p>The final weekend of Climate Assembly UK talks is due to take place in March 2020.</p> <p><i>Post-meeting note: please see links to Climate Assembly for further information about this House of Commons project.</i></p>	
7.	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Roger Bangs from SPOKES wished to state his concern about the effect on the Ebury Way by the development of the Travis Perkins site. His concerns included that the development should have been an opportunity to enhance the local area by improving access for all & widening paths around the site.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Lloyd said that Three Rivers District Council would look into this matter.</p> <p><i>Post-meeting note:</i> Three Rivers District Council Officers have responded to Roger Bangs about this issue and will continue the dialogue.</p>	
8.	<p>Suggestions for a speaker at the next Environmental Forum included:</p> <p>Presentation by Tim Hill in June</p> <p>Presentation by Richard Cuthbert Team Leader Definitive Map & Enforcement, Countryside & Rights of Way Service. (Meeting 2 or 3 of 20/21 Calendar)</p>	PL

EF06/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was 7:30pm, Wednesday 10 June 2020.

CHAIRMAN

Associated documents/links related to meeting and action points:

- 750 trees schools seed growing document.
- <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/blog/dr-tony-whitbread/guest-blog-trouble-trees>
- TRDC Briefing note March 2020 Final document (Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative)
- 2020 Ebury Way RB document
- www.climateassembly.uk