

# **Minutes of Annual Public Meeting of The Friends of Limpsfield Common**

**Saturday 28th September 2024 11:30**

**St Andrew's Hall, Limpsfield Chart**

**[friendsoflimpsfieldcommon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflimpsfieldcommon@gmail.com)**

**Apologies** - Maggie Morgan, Stuart Paterson, Paul Byrne

**Speakers** - Tony Pearson, Sophie Martin (on behalf of Maggie) Yves Le Hur, Conor McNeil (NT)

**Welcome** - Tony Pearson, our Chairman

## **Introduction (TP)**

- Introduction of committee members
- Overview of Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday volunteer groups.
- Task Force groups, litter picker volunteers, Air Raid shelter volunteers, Heritage volunteers. We have around 100 volunteers all supporting our various causes.

## **Projects and Activities**

### **Activities undertaken following the survey in 2020**

- Recap of 2020 survey, with 1000 responses.
- SM gave overview of activities undertaken following the original survey, people requested more Dog waste bins, litter bins, maps, seats, trail amongst others.
- These have been addressed alongside new Way Markers, improved footpaths, carpark height barriers, increased parking capacity, flora & fauna information, more family areas.

### **Findings from the Summer Survey 2024 (SM on behalf of MM)**

- Update survey undertaken over the summer. 150 responses received.
- SM gives outline of key requests from respondents (including benches, footpath maintenance) and activities planned, including confirmation of £20k per year for 3 years from funds held with the NT to use on improving and maintaining these areas of concern.

### **Air Raid Shelter Open Days**

- Rob Davey heads up the volunteer team for educational open days at the Air Raid Shelters.
- 120 Year 6 pupils from St Mary's school spent the day at the Air Raid Shelters learning all about the history and experiencing how it must have felt to have used them.
- 120 attended the open day in July and we have had visits from local Cub & Scout groups.
- There are 12 volunteers involved with the Air Raid Shelter group.

### **New Website**

- Overview of new website just launched. And request for any suggestions of content. [www.friendsoflimpsfieldcommon.org](http://www.friendsoflimpsfieldcommon.org)

### **Treasurers Report - YLH**

- Have used £70k from TDC funding
- Income includes donations from Chris Pendred book sales, (an updated edition of the book is being published) private donations, money raised from Air Raid Shelter open days
- Expenses include bird & bat boxes, posts, bins, equipment
- Expendable fund - 25/26 NT Budget proposes £20k p.a. to be drawn down for 3 year for path maintenance.
- FoLC currently has £15k in bank, copies of accounts available upon request

### **Rangers Report - CMN**

- Invasive Species Management, increase sunlight & open canopy, encourage native flora.
- Yalden Spring improvements, improving habitat, clearing the water and aiming to achieve SSSI status
- Heathland scrapes, destroy the bracken and encourage heather, gorse, honeysuckle etc.
- Footpath management - way markers improved, closing desire lines to improve habitat
- Height barriers at car parks, bike pit - restricting the scope / area
- New notice boards, anti-social behaviour car park watch
- 2024-25 projects include: increase heathland, manage the bracken, more signage, continued Yalden Spring maintenance, dead hedge structures continuing, footpath management.

### **Questions:**

1. Question of fire risk was raised: Mark Richards addressed this, Fire signs erected when risk is high and water is accessible when necessary. Fire beaters are not completely reliable when left out in elements. NT are prepared for fire threats
2. Question of Ragwort was raised: local growing near Grub Street. Has been noted.
3. Question of wildflower donations: although a great idea sometimes it is better to allow local sensitive habitats flourish with help without additional flower bomb planting

### **Heritage & Archaeology Volunteer Group**

- TP gives overview of Heritage group and project outline.
- This group has investigated the air raid shelters, Yalden Spring, Roman Road
- The National Trust Website has Heritage Records which includes Limpsfield Common.

**[www.heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org](http://www.heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org)**

- Volunteer groups will identify and assess the sites indicated on the National Trust Heritage Website

**Thanks to all attendees and speakers**

**Thanks Louise & Holly for the delicious catering**