



Caen Meadow Working Group (CMWG) meeting notes

Thursday 16th May 2024, 6.30pm at The Hub (URC), Norwich Road.

- Attendance** – Noted those present - Bill Dashley, Cllr Ionie Lyons-Clayton (Chair), Cllr Peter Mantle (rep from WPC), Nicky Nicholl, Ruth Rhead.
Apologies from Laura English, Angela Ireland.
WPC membership of the group and Chair – ILC is moving out of the Parish and has resigned from the Parish Council. Willing to stay on as a member of the working group and stay on as Chair. BD happy act as Vice Chair. Cllr Mantle will be the representative from the Council, but may swap around with other Councillors. Agreed.
- Minutes of the last meeting** – from the 18th January. Agreed.
- Update on the work on the **management plan by Colin Studholme**. There have been a couple of meetings. First meeting report given by NN & BD – it was an opportunity to brief CS on the history of the site. Second meeting with CS and Rob Rice from Garden Guardian who is the grounds maintenance contractor. Agreed to change the grass cutting maintenance to have more meadow at the top with some more cut grass at the bottom. CS is intending to visit Nigel Robertson and ILC to see their gardens to put the site in context. Some of the plants around the TMG are fairly unusual and probably date from when the cottages were at the bottom of Malt House Lane. The Clerk has sent historical documents and maps to CS. He will visit the site a few more times over the summer and then the plan itself would be completed around September 2024.
- The **agreement with BA for the PC to claim adverse possession of the staithe** - WPC met with BA and Trafford Estates. Issue for the BA was maintaining a site that is not owned by anyone. Agreed that if WPC work to take possession, then the BA will lease it from WPC, maintain and supervise the site. TE agreed to look at undertaking some temporary repairs in the meantime. Have since secured the commitment from the BA in writing and the project, including budget, has been agreed at Full Council. Quotes and discussion were had with a number of solicitors and now a specialist solicitor has been appointed. Work has begun on building a case for adverse possession.
- Works by BA to the staithe** – BA have undertaken repairs to the quay heading.
- Report from a meeting of Belaugh Parish meeting to discuss the high levels of **outflow from the Belaugh Anglian Water "water management facility"**. The Chair of Belaugh then attended a WPC meeting to report. WPC have written formally to AW to register a complaint about discharge levels. AW have responded – there is investment taking place at the facility and they are “on top of” the monitoring. Noted however eColi is not monitored. Noted that the early morning swimming group has relocated to Wroxham Broad. Debated if the tidal flow would bring back any effluent to Caen Meadow. Future Brook Park development in Hoveton would have a pipe run to the Belaugh plant, creating concern about capacity. Discussed the difficulty in testing the water. WPC to follow up. **ACTION WPC**
- Possibility of closing down the path that goes along the back of NN’s boundary to stop disturbance of nesting birds. NN requires access to the back to cut the hedge and maintain the fence. Agreed to have some logs placed at the front of the path to block it off. Clerk to arrange. **ACTION CLERK**

8. Planting more willow within the woodland adjacent to the river adjacent to Holly Cottage boundary (north west corner). Recommendation from CS. Very straight-forward – break off a section and then push into the ground. Would extend cover in this area. Agreed to ask tree warden Angus Turville to do this. **ACTION CLERK**
9. Dividing up the snowdrops in the woodland on the slope along the northerly border. Recommendation from CS to extend them. Agreed to ask tree warden Angus Turville to do this. **ACTION CLERK**
10. Possibly organising a bio blitz day in the summer – group would prefer to do this in 2025. WPC don't have any capacity to organise anything additional.
11. Parking, including parking for St Mary's – complaint from St Mary's about parking at St Mary's on Sundays. Led to a wider debate about the impact of Caen Meadow traffic.
12. Update on roll top bin – back in place and operational.
13. **AOB** – Touched on signage – will need to be revisited once the management plan is complete. Hedge growing well near entrance.
14. **NEXT MEETING DATE – 18th July 2024, 6.30pm.**

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