

FRIENDS OF WALTON COLLIERY NATURE PARK PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**1 June 2010
19.15 – 20.15**

Item	Detail	Action
Attendance	Committee - John Baxter, Jacqui Bruce, Andrew Firth, Kate Nixon, David Keighley, Lou Hall, David Stringer, Gill Wiehl Public – Henry Atack, Trevor Atkinson, Roy & Margaret Bedford, John Berry, Colin Booker, John Eyles, John Sargent, Elizabeth Smith, John Smith, AM & GR Cox, Mike Kidd, Pam Walters, B Watson, Phil Wiehl, Melvyn Whittaker, Sally Wright	
Welcome & Introduction	Welcome and introduction of the committee by David Stringer, Chairman of FWCNP	
Apologies	Eric Bootland & Mike Caswell	
Minutes of previous meeting	N/A – 1st meeting	
Progress to date	Working parties – DS gave an outline of work at snake rocks cutting back saplings & brambles, litter picking, tidying and new planting at the memorial garden. Funding – J Bruce reported that there are several funding pots but these need a purpose for a particular project and feedback to the funding source is often required. Any ideas are welcome. Publicity – newsletter	Please contact fwcnp-secretary@btyahoo.co.uk with ideas to be passed onto J Bruce
Future projects	<i>FWCNP committee input</i> LH reported on the walk by members of the committee to identify projects eg drainage for paths, an inappropriately placed kissing gate that needs removing, inappropriate fencing, unsafe access to the railway track and steep banking nearby, prevention of quad bikes coming into the park, improvement of the entrance for horses, litter. <i>Wakefield District Cycle Forum (WDCF)</i> DK reported on the cycle routes eg the Transpennine trail, funding raised by WDCF to install the map board at the Shay Lane car park and improve the cycle route – this will eventually go by the Yorkshire Water sewage works and onto to Crofton Sidings.	

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<p>Future projects (continued)</p> <p><i>Police issues</i></p> <p><i>WMDC Countryside Ranger</i></p>	<p>DS reported the ongoing problems with damage to the bird hide and the involvement with the police and in particular PC Davies. DS attended a meeting at Crofton High School to put FWCNP concerns forward. If anyone sees any behaviour they are concerned about whilst in WCNP contact the police on 01924 293259 or PC Eddie Davies' mobile on 07917502972. Please note do not to approach any trouble makers but contact the police.</p> <p>J Baxter reported that he works with 4 other Friend's groups and other educational groups besides FWCNP and sites would deteriorate and lose habitats without Friends groups.</p> <p>WMDC has an ongoing 5 year management plan in place for WCNP. Work is dependent on wildlife eg nesting. Bigger projects can be done in the winter. WCNP is the most diverse site in Wakefield and is the best place for grass snakes but contrary to belief there are no adders.</p> <p>He recognises the difficulty in identifying places; this is a work in progress. He had hoped to bring a large scale map but it is not ready as yet.</p> <p>There are problems in the park - drugs equipment had been found and with vandalism, therefore communication from Friends is important so that things can be 'nipped in the bud'. PC Davies was praised.</p> <p>The Crofton scout group have said they wished to be involved in WCNP for their conservation badge.</p> <p>South Yorkshire Heather Restoration has supplied 300 plants to replace the birch scrub – these will need planting.</p> <p>The group is doing well; a constitution has been put in place so that work can only be done in consultation with the FWCNP committee and council staff.</p>	<p>Police: 01924 293259 PC Eddie Davies: 07917502972</p> <p>J Baxter to inform the group when planting is required.</p>
<p>Any other business/ questions</p>	<p>P Walters reported that she is the chair of the Wakefield Badger Group. She offered to be a link to the biodiversity group (and asked if we had established links to other wildlife groups such as the owl preservation group).</p> <p>She also suggested that naming WCNP areas could be used as a fund raising opportunity.</p>	<p>Points for committee meeting agenda</p> <p>Point 1</p> <p>Point 2</p>

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<p>Any other business/ questions (continued)</p>	<p>J Baxter replied that the WMDC does have a link with the Biodiversity group and that naming areas for fund raising had been successfully done by other Friend's groups.</p> <p>R Bedford reported that he has been involved in butterfly conservation on WCNP since 1994 and offered his expertise to FWCNP. He has been tasked to scientifically record butterflies in WCNP 26 times a year and therefore has acquired a lot of statistics.</p> <p>A lady mentioned the problem with dog fouling and that she had contacted the council three times regarding bins but apparently there is no funding.</p> <p>There is also no signage at the access points regarding dog fouling. P Walters stated that signage should focus on litter as well as dog fouling.</p> <p>J Baxter said that Friend's groups often put pressure on the council where he is unable to, so it may be appropriate for us to write to WMDC as well as Network Rail about the access to the railway track.</p> <p>J Smith asked whether the FWCNP had approach either Crofton High School or Walton Primary as they are both interested in green issues.</p> <p>He also said we must be careful about how as a group we deal with young people, as troublemakers are only a minority and other young people feel unsafe.</p> <p>J Bruce reported that she had been requested by an older gentleman in the village that we provide a link to the colliery.</p> <p>J Baxter replied that the name WCNP had been chosen to reflect the heritage of the site and that interpretative boards were being made which gave information about the colliery. A guided walk about the industrial heritage of the site could be arranged.</p> <p>TA stated he was a descendant of someone who lived in one of the cottages on Spike Island and another gentleman said his wife's father worked at the colliery. They were both willing to share information with the group.</p> <p>P Walters suggested that the group contacts the National Mining museum to see if they have any information regarding Walton Colliery.</p>	<p>Point 3</p> <p>Point 4</p> <p>Point 5</p> <p>Point 6</p> <p>Point 7</p> <p>Point 8</p> <p>Point 9</p> <p>Point 10</p>

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<p>Any other business/ questions <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>The issue of the unsafe access to the railway line was raised; one gentleman was concerned that we could end up with inappropriate railings. J Baxter replied that he was concerned about horses/cyclists coming down the hill out of control. Network Rail is looking into fencing but this may take a while. One gentleman said he worked for a rail company and would be happy to establish contact between Network Rail & J Baxter.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that digging a ditch or planting trees may be appropriate.</p> <p>A map of the park was requested and J Baxter recognised that signage is negligible and high on the list of things to do and hopes to also have colour coded trails.</p> <p>Pathways suitable for horses was also suggested as, particularly in winter damage can occur that takes a long time to recover.</p>	<p>Point 11</p> <p>Point 12</p> <p>Point 13</p>
<p>Close of meeting</p>	<p>DS closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their input.</p> <p>Date and time of next public meeting. 24th August 2010 – 7.15pm in the Walton Village Hall</p>	