

## **DARESBURY PARISH PLAN – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN DARESBURY PARISH ROOMS ON MONDAY 10 December 4pm 2007**

Present: Lyn Goodkin (Chair), Mervyn Hogan, Frances Hough,  
Paul Oldfield (Halton BC)

Apologies: Alan Goodkin Sarah Hogan Ian Brittain Eleanor Brittain Ian Ireland  
Wendy Harding & Ruth Neville.

#### **TREE PLANTING**

- Lyn announced that Cheshire Landscape Trust had approved the list of trees presented and they were being collected on Thursday morning (13<sup>th</sup> Dec) by Lyn and Francis.
- Lyn and Alan have done Grid References for where the trees are to be planted.
- We will plant them in January on whichever date most can help & provided not frosty or snowy. Paul said they will need weeding & watering if possible & set just out of hedge or marked so don't get cut off. He will try to get tree guards, canes & florescent jackets (latter for us not trees!)
- The trees chosen are: Oak (mostly), Crab Apple, Rowan, Silver Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Spindle Tree, Field Maple, Horse Chestnut and Scots Pine.
- Lyn asked Duncan of Cheshire Wildlife Trust if there are any particular trees that are better at encouraging wild life/birds etc than others. Horse Chestnut apparently grows quicker than Oak and provides similar habitat while oaks are getting established. Duncan has also given us approx 3 horse-chestnuts in pots and about 90 bare-rooted whips 30cm high including alder, larch & pine, which may be more suitable for the copse at Newton Bank Farm. Lyn has also grown 3 horse chestnuts 1 oak & 1 birch.

#### **DARESBURY NATURE RESERVE**

We all agreed that the plan was agreeable (with the exceptions mentioned in an e-mail to Paul. These were: No towpath link – in case of vandalism, the bench to be sited just beyond the pond, no link from the informal path to the towpath, no bridge over brook – again due to possible vandalism). Paul explained that he has had to include access to Runcorn area and also that paths wide enough for prams & disabled access also unfortunately allow motor bikes. We understood the problems and compromised and thanked Paul for all his work to further this project.

- Updated plan for the nature reserve was presented by Paul O.
- The plan includes 3 different seasonal meadow plantings, pond and woodland planting.
- A hedge (with gaps) to be planted along the boundary with the railway.
- The path on the West of the brook will be hard standing and meander through the different planting areas to a bridge at the South end.

- The path on the East side will be a mowed one, going through a fenced tree plantation and back to the North of the site and with access from the Bridgewater canal.
- Paul discussed his ideas on funding and timings etc and indicated that he would probably present the proposal in January or, more probably, April 2008.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Lyn also reminded us that we have some **primroses** on offer which we agreed would be nice planted in the churchyard area. David Felix has agreed. Duncan is clearing a path to reach them in spring.
- **Oil.** Phil has agreed to get quotes for oil deliveries for a group of residents wanting central heating oil. He will email residents to see who is interested.
- **Hedges:** We are pleased to see Commonsides Farm hedge has been replanted.
- There has sadly been an intimidation problem with hedge laying on west side of village. It has now been completed by a contractor from outside the area.
- The **expressway** widening probably not likely to start for about 12 months.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This would be decided once replies received on most convenient date for tree planting. Next indoor meeting sometime in New Year in evening, as and when needed.

#### **ACTION**

All to read Tree planting leaflet!

CLT Lyn & Frances to collect trees on Thurs from CLT at Marbury

PAUL OLDFIELD - to progress Daresbury Nature Reserve application, borrowing High Vis jackets & providing tree guards & canes for new trees.

NATIONAL TRUST – Lyn to approach NT re need for improvements to Lewis Carroll Birthplace site

DAVID FELIX - re when & where Horse Chestnut to be planted on church land

CHRIS MARSH – Lyn to contact CM re whether she has made any progress on land for nature area in village centre (either field by school or by Millennium walk) .

DARESURY PARISH COUNCIL Lyn will send minutes to Roland Harbron for Daresbury PC.