

Belhus Woods Country Park

Friends of Belhus woods Community Group



Meeting of the group took place on the
8th February 2012 at 7.30pm

1. Notes of last meeting discussed and agreed.
2. Finance -update, balance of account in Jan 2012 £561.29.
Money raised from the Christmas do £100 is now also going to added to this balance.
3. Charity number - HMRC still going through, hope to have the charity no. soon.
4. Wildlife garden - Rob gave an update, the cheapest place to get the fencing is Oddys, £762 (inc vat) £635 (excl vat). Friends of agreed to fund this. Rob said he would work in his own time with the mini digger to bore the holes for the 50 posts, but wanted to get the group involved in helping place the posts and backfill the holes, some would be cemented in, date to be confirmed but possibly Sunday 19th February.
The next step will be to fell one or two Horse Chestnut trees from the 1st garden near the entrance to let light into the area in preparation of the planting at a later date. Claire said she may have some plants from the wish list.
Paul has spoken / emailed B&Q, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose in Upminster about making a donation.
Sharon had written a letter which she showed the group that will go out to any other local companies to try to raise support for the project.
Thoughts were to send to Ockendon Garden Centre, Roots & Shoots, Deeks, Travis Perkins etc.
5. Events update, 4th March is the date for the next dog walk, same as before, Greyhound rescue stall, charity table and this time bacon sandwich and drink or soup and a roll included in the price which was agreed as £2.50.
Paul said he would kindly supply the bacon and rolls.
Next will be an Easter egg hunt over the Easter weekend bearing in mind that this is also the weekend of the American Civil War re inactment.

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- Thanks to Paul for supplying the notice board for the Friend of Group.
- Motorised wheelchair update, still a problem with the batteries, could cost £300 to be replaced, which may have been to lack of maintenance. The wheelchair should have been left plugged into the electric to maintain the battery life. A thought is to contact some local disability shops to see if they would help out by donating a battery, we will need to obtain the make and model number.
- Fund raising letter of thanks update - The group is still not happy with the outcome of this, but going forward the group said in future they could bank any monies raised and pay straight to the charity involved.
- Falconry - The MYCA are working on the falconry and Paul spoke to Wayne recently about the Friends of Group and asked him to come to a future meeting to introduce himself.
- Mark raised the issue that the football pitch gate is locked but people with dogs are still using the area and not cleaning up the dog mess, Tony said he would place a sign on the gate, asking them not to use the area.
- Paul said it have been brought to his attention that dogs were being trained in the old BBQ area, which could be quite intimidating, Tony said they have now moved to private land to do this training.
- Mark raised about the opening times of the Centre, Tony said he cannot afford to have the Centre open for longer in the winter period. Mark raised the issue of volunteers manning the Centre, Claire said this would have to be looked into, but Tony has concerns that the EEC may see this as a way of getting rid of the paid staff, no one wanted that to happen but said if would have to be agreed that it was done in addition to paid staff and not instead of. At the moment the Centre is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, Paul asked if the website could be checked as he thought it did not state that.
- Sharon will get a Friend of Belhus email set up for people wanted to contact the group. Now set up friendsofbelhus@yahoo.co.uk
- Paul said it would be good to have a notice board outside near the seating area to let people know what we are doing.

Next meeting: Wednesday 21st March 2012 7:30pm