

RHSO (Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard)

Meeting 11/04/2023 7.30pm

23 Rowney Gardens, Sawbridgeworth

Present: Ruth and Eric Buckmaster, Adrienne Richardson, Colin Gill, Geoff Williams, Hazel & Dave Mead, Nickie Hancock

Apologies: Lanier, Robinne

Purpose of Meeting: Update and Planning for events

Topic	Discussion/ decision	Action
Welcome	Ruth welcomed everyone & we received apologies from Robinne, and Lanier	
Update on replanting proposal	<p>We discussed types of trees that could be planted and Ruth reported that she was waiting for a response from Rob Laver, Peter Lawes & Paul Reed. We discussed the possibility of plums and pears which gained support from all present.</p> <p>A discussion followed on the sourcing of manure, cutting the area, measuring it out. Adrienne said that once an area is measured out she could keep it cut or low – so marking out was agreed. However we need to know what type of trees will be planted to give a better idea.</p> <p>Colin explained that he had been to a Herts Go Green group on Microsoft Teams, where he talked about the history of the Orchard and the planting proposal. He explained that we were looking for a grant and will go back to the organisers to see what suggestions were made</p> <p>We talked about the £500 donation that had been offered by Barrett Homes</p>	<p>Ruth</p> <p>Adrienne</p> <p>Colin</p>
Maintenance update	<p>Adrienne updated n the current situation with the trees and the removing of membranes and our current mulch situation. She has asked Richard Newman if he could provide us with woodchip that is deciduous and doesn't include apple or cherry and how we would be grateful for him to place it in pile on northern boundary near the large sign. This to prevent mixing with conifer chippings at southern end.</p> <p>The mulch is conifer and needs to be left for 2 years before we dare use it. 26 trees still have membranes (smaller trees) Ruth emphasised the need to make the Orchard more sustainable so we need to remove these membranes.</p> <p>Also, site has been cleared of all apple prunings that were left for rabbits. I walked the whole site and nothing left to cause problems for annual grass cutting.</p>	

Topic	Discussion/ decision	Action
	<p>We discussed that some of the trees that are not doing very well could possibly be dug up and either replanting or moving to a better site in Oct/ Nov</p> <p>Colin is to contact Richard Lawrence for mulch (not apple, cherry or cyprus)</p> <p>Adrienne explained that Rob had pruned the young plum trees</p> <p>We had a discussion about the marking on the trees and Ruth will contact Eugene</p> <p>We discussed how we couldn't maintain the site as a whole but agreed that our priorities were to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Find more mulch 2) Explore a new sign – Eric will contact CSM but the sign needs to be bigger (wider than current) 3) Equipment poles and picker heads – we agreed to get 4 more or 6 if there was a deal – Adrienne to explore 4) Update the tree labels – ruth to contact Eugene re his intentions <p>The grant from Barrett Homes could be used to fund all this</p>	<p>Colin</p> <p>Ruth</p> <p>Colin Eric</p> <p>Adrienne</p> <p>Ruth</p> <p>Nickie</p>
Finance Update	<p>Hazel updated us on the accounts £3749.76</p> <p>Trula in Full of Beans is finishing in June. We all agreed to get her some flowers now.</p> <p>We hope that the new owners will continue the arrangements but don't know.</p>	<p>Hazel</p>
Future Events	<p>Bubbles Teddy Bear Picnic 14th May 12 – 2</p> <p>Posters – Adrienne</p> <p>Buy bubble pots – Hazel</p> <p>Get apple juice to sell – Hazel</p> <p>Check if Monique & Robinne can help – Nickie</p> <p>Put up 2 gazebos & tables – Ruth/ Colin/Eric/ Adrienne</p> <p>Another bell Street stall – Ruth check licence & once confirmed Nickie to do rota 24th June 9 – 1</p> <p>Apple Day – provisional 7th October</p>	<p>Adrienne Hazel</p> <p>Nickie Ruth/colin/Eric/A drienne</p> <p>Ruth Nickie</p>
AOB	<p>First Aiders</p> <p>Nickie to ask regular volunteers if anyone else could train to cover us. Ross Leary could run a session as a group</p> <p>Please could current first aiders check when their certificates run out</p> <p>Storage: Hazel to contact Steve to see where we're at with Rivers Hospital storage possibilities</p>	<p>Nickie</p> <p>Geoff/ Eric/Robinne</p> <p>Hazel</p>
	<p>Next meeting Tuesday 27th June at 7.30</p>	<p>Nickie</p>