

Friends of Harebreaks Wood

Meeting on 13 April 2011 at St Mark's Church Hall

1. Matters arising from meeting held on 12 January

Treasurer: Keith Cheyney has spoken to Ian Brandon but he has still not contacted Steve Harvey regarding handover.

Community Noticeboard: Steve has not yet received a key from Ian Mather.

2. The Former Leggatts Playing Field

The question of responsibility for the playing field continues to be evaded. Steve has told Carol Chen of the Borough legal office that, The Taylor Wimpey planning application stated the playing fields would be handed over to the Borough Council and that this was re-iterated by the Inspector at the subsequent planning appeal. Carol Chen said that the Parks Officer had put the matter to Taylor Wimpey but they had not replied. Now HCC wants to move the boundary with Cherry Tree School 10 metres into the playing field in order to accommodate new classrooms. Steve has alerted local councillors and the MP to this with the object of persuading WBC to oppose this as constituting a loss of public space and to open the established footpath from Harebreaks Wood to allow public access as per the planning application. Meanwhile it appears that the council are maintaining the playing field for the exclusive use of Everett Rovers. It is not yet clear whether there will be access from the Leggatts Way end of the site when the current building work is finished.

3. Survey of Local "Green" Areas

Richard Ahrens attended the meeting held on 17th January. He thought it was not a very productive evening - some consultants presented their ideas for what might be thought of as "green spaces" rather than true conservation areas.

4. Wild Life Records

Since the last meeting, Steve has not been sent any lists of species recorded in Harebreaks Wood (but see report on Dawn Chorus event). He would still welcome information, lists of sightings and pictures to add to the archive.

5. Tree Planting

The tree planting on January 22nd was well supported and over 80 whips were planted in less than 2 hours. A quick tour of the Woods afterwards found them in a reasonably tidy condition, and this was also true for the Litter-pick in February.

6. Dawn Chorus

Although a disappointingly small number of people attended, this was a very rewarding event with 29 species recorded under excellent weather conditions. Two members from the Herts Bird Club gave expert advice.

7. Dates of Meetings (For all events, meet in St Mark's Car Park)

Saturday 30 April	1.30pm	Bluebell Walk (Steve will e-mail reminders)
Saturday 18 June	1.30pm	Litter-pick
Friday 15 July	9.30pm	Bat Search (Ian has confirmed he will be available this date)
Saturday 24 September	1.30pm	Fungus Foray (Steve to check with Ian Mather regarding finding an expert to help in identification)
Saturday 15 October	1.30pm	Litter-pick

We continue to try to find someone to guide an investigation of the butterflies and moths to be found in Harebreaks Wood.

Dates for planning meeting: Wednesdays 13 July and 12 October at 7.30pm in St Mark's Church Hall.