

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 25 May 2022
at 7.00pm in Executive Suite at Oxford Brookes University**

Present: 13

Heather Armitage (HAr)	Friends of Lye Valley
Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Rosemary Belton (RBe)	Friends of Bury Knowle Park
Richard Bradley	Friends of Quarry – TRUSTEE
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – TRUSTEE
Liz Grosvenor	ADMIN SUPPORT
Viv Miles	Project Lead on Connected Communities - TRUSTEE
John Nealon	TREASURER & TRUSTEE
Anne Partridge	U3A
Hilary Seal	St Annes’s, Gathorne, Rock Edge, St Margaret Roads RA
Andrea Siret	Oxford Brookes University
Cllr Roz Smith	Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry) Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst)
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

Guest Speaker Dr Judy Webb

Apologies: 4

David Colbeck	Friends of Headington Hill Park
Philippa Logan	Shotover Preservation Society
Cllr Chris Smowton	Oxford City (Headington)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington

1.	The Chair welcomed and introduced all attendees. Apologies as above	Action
2.	Confirm Minutes of previous committee meeting held on 30 March 2022 Agreed. And Exec Minutes of 25 April Agreed	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The criteria for stall holding at the market and festival have been agreed by the Executive and the market manager who are being consulted – it will then be circulated. We still have a vacancy for a lead for the Greening project The Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF) AGM will take place towards the end of June and will be announced shortly. 	EXEC ALL PC
4.	Talk given by Dr Judy Webb, Chair, Friends of Lye Valley (FOLV) We congratulated Judy for her inclusion as No. 25 on the Radio 4 Woman’s Hour Power List 2020, for which we were one of the proposers. Judy outlined the work of the Oxford Brookes MSc project on Conservation Ecology, undertaken by Adam Bows , on the effectiveness of the alkaline fen ecosystem restoration in the Lye Valley. This is set out in detail on the Friends of Lye valley website About the Lye Valley, Oxford (friendsoflyevalley.org.uk) which also explains about the weekly work done with the collaboration of BBOWT and the assessment of botanical changes which has resulted in there being more flowers and	

	<p>increased nectar resources, thus proving that it was a successful project.</p> <p>Also on the above website are details of another Oxford Brookes MSc project undertaken by Darcey Haldar on estimating the carbon stock in the Lye Valley's Peat fen. On looking at 1 ½ to 2m of peat it could be determined that the peat had been forming there for thousands of years. Radio carbon dating calculated that at the base of the deposits, this figure was in fact 14,000 years ago i.e. when plants first colonized the wetland at the end of the last ice age. The carbon stock survey was undertaken in the North fen, (part 1 of the SSSI) by taking lots of samples of cores. The carbon store was an average of 229 tons per hectare. The North fen SSSI section is 1.24 hectares and this therefore multiplies out as 284 tons of C.</p> <p>For interest, 1 ton of carbon is that is stored in one fully-grown 200yr old oak tree i.e. the peat carbon store in the North fen area is the equivalent to that of 284 fully grown oak trees. This peat is all underground and it can only retain the carbon by being totally wet. There is a need to look after this carbon store for the future, and keeping it wet allows the wetland vegetation to draw down more CO² out of the atmosphere and turn it into more peat. Academics at the University of East London have calculated that over a hectare, a layer of peat as little as 30cm deep can contain more carbon than the same area of a rain forest.</p> <p>The Council has been asked to bear this in mind in planning applications in the fen rainwater catchment area so that water can be retained from roofs and landscaping can incorporate good drainage into the ground, such groundwater then feeds the fen springs. All new developments should have a 10% biodiversity net gain but this does not help water infiltration. Actually restricting housing to keep green areas with natural infiltration is up against the need for more housing in the city.</p> <p>PC asked how much water is needed? The brook has been eroded by nearby building run off, drying the fen; plus the paving-over of front gardens restricts rain getting into the soil - even “permeable” paving slabs get clogged up. Judy would like there to be retrospective greening to get rid of the concrete and replace paving with gravel or even grass which lets rain into the soil. Climate change is bad news and recent dry months and hot weather have dried out peat bogs in areas and have made them vulnerable to catching fire. In the Lye Valley they have been damming up drainage channels to hold back spring water and damming the brook to slow road run-off flow, both trying to keep the fen wetter. Such activities have increased the biodiversity of the valley.</p> <p>Judy advocates the use of water butts from which to water the garden, and to develop a “rain garden” by interrupting the water run-off from the roof, stopping such flow going to the storm drain which erodes the fen. Putting such water into the ground in Headington helps the fen. The North fen is the area where the board walk is, the south fen is only ½ hectare further down the valley on private land. Both sites have the Arctic Alpine Grass of Parnassus flower that is the logo of the FOLV.</p> <p>AS asked if recommendations for water conservation could be put on their website to encourage everyone to help.</p>	
5.	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy</p> <p>The treasurer reported that we had spent £71K of the CIL money but had £69K left. There is £5 – £6K due to be spent in BKP on cherry trees in the Autumn. He pointed out that CIL monies are available to areas across Headington, not just the centre.</p> <p>All CIL applications are listed on the HA and HNP websites, and new ones will be circulated to the membership.</p> <p>c. £3K was allocated to the hanging baskets and c. £47K to the Headington regeneration project.</p> <p>Funds will be required for the replacement of lights in the trees that have failed, and c £33k is being held for the BK Park project in case the company involved, Courtside, cannot raise this sum themselves.</p> <p>We encourage applications within certain dates three times a year. The next deadline is the end of June.</p> <p>Everyone who wishes to submit a CIL application is asked to note this date.</p> <p>Monies from the Clive Booth Village development was expected to be 800,000, but clarity is being sought as to whether the rules for CIL and charities mean that this sum will not be provided. Cllr Susan Brown has been asked to look at this because the generation of CIL for the City was a factor in the consideration of the planning application. If it is not forthcoming then other areas of the city will be affected too – the</p>	ALL

	<p>total pot from this development amounted to c. £3 million. RBr and PC have been chasing this and we await developments from the council. Jerry Woods, Director of Estates at Brookes, has been in touch with RBr about this.</p> <p>RS has agreed to ask full Council Committee if we do not hear soon.</p> <p>AS sent us this link Estates development - Oxford Brookes University on the up-to-date position.</p>	
6.	<p>Connected Communities week</p> <p>This is running from 23 May. The impact is difficult to quantify as the activities are spread over many areas of interest. The complete list of events is on the website and JN was thanked for his work in this respect. The week has been publicised via posters and social media and at the market on Saturday 21 May. The overall objective is to get socially isolated people to meet up with other people. We are liaising with the Manor Surgery, but less so with Hedena Health.</p> <p>Brookes have been contributing with various fitness programmes, and there have been coffee mornings, lunches and Zumba and Pilates classes. See Connected Communities Week - Headington Action</p> <p>HAr asked if there were activities for younger people who are lonely. It was suggested this will be addressed in the future if all these initiatives are embedded into a year-round project, with the database expanded database accordingly.</p> <p>HAr also suggested a skate ramp for BMK and skateboard activities for youngsters that do not want to be part of a team. She suggested using part of the crazy golf area in BKP, but this will be subject to the proposed development and consultation. This idea will be discussed further.</p> <p>RS will liaise with Chris Smowton to take this forward.</p>	
7.	<p>Headington Festival - 28 and 29 May</p> <p>Banners, leaflets, posters, articles in Headington Occasional, social media have all been employed. There will be an expanded market on Saturday and Jean Wykes will be doing her usual chalking with children.</p> <p>The Sunday activities begin at 1pm. The committee is busy putting together the final details and hope to find someone to count the crowds to measure our success. Likewise we are looking for someone to monitor the parking at St Andrew's School (being used by the stall holders)</p>	
8.	<p>Update on projects and activities</p> <p>Market No report, but using the north side of London Road has increased the footfall.</p> <p>Headington Centre regeneration The funding for this is in our account and AR Urbanism, a firm of consultants from London has been engaged to take this forward. It is being project-managed by Adam Symonds and a stall at the Festival will garner views on the vision for Headington. There will be numerous surveys and examination of traffic data and the conclusions will go out for consultation. We are compiling a list of people who would like to take part in the consultations and surveys.</p> <p>BKP update RB commented that it would be useful to add to the information on CIL applications as to what the procedures are after an application has been approved. It has not been apparent that once funding is agreed the conversation then switches to the applicant and the council. The CIL group will address this. RB said that 100s of bulbs and plants have already been planted and photos will go on the website in due course.</p> <p>Members projects of interest to HA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS reported that plants are coming soon for the planters in Windmill Road. • HQ village Hall is staging a BBQ for the jubilee and will be able to host up to 100 people. • All Saint' Church is staging a regular Ceilidh (Scottish Folk dances) with various bands and for the future would like to improve the seating and lighting. • Jubilee street parties are taking place in the area c. 7-8 have asked for bunting and equipment 	RB/JN/PC

	<p>and help with road closures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Anne’s Road greening – hollyhocks have been planted in the verges. • York Avenue has requested some planting too. • AS reported that Brookes have a safe streets project (in conjunction with OPT) that has resulted in lights being put at the top of south Parks where people were not feeling safe when walking at night. They are also involved in “Night Safe” which covers the city centre, Cowley Road area that involves better lighting, street pastors and “angels” who support distressed girls and women. Designated safe places (eg Randolph and Malmaison) where trained people are on hand to help with the distressed. Brookes has agreed to join this list and will be available for any member of the public. See New Nightsafe Network launched to improve safety of women at night Oxford City Council. People can download an app to find these safe places, and will be helped with water, finding a taxi, and anything else that is needed. Generally these places are manned by first aiders who are trained additionally in support skills and are open 24/7 and they liaise with the council, Thames Valley Police and the ambulance service. It is an impressive professional organisation with great coordination. 	
9.	<p>Finance The market has returned strongly to London Road and is now back on track to levels we saw pre-pandemic. It has generated c 10k to put towards HA activities.</p>	
10.	<p>Arrangements for change of Chair</p> <p>As reported in the Executive Minutes the chair will rotate amongst the trustees. It has been decided that it will be fairer to have each chair available for 3 months and the rota will look like this: Elsa April, May, June Viv July, August, September John October, November, December Patrick January, February, March</p> <p>During these periods any communication needs to go to headingtonaction@gmail.com rather than any personal email address.</p>	
11.	<p>AOB RBr and EB attended the council transport consultation (details sent out with papers for this meeting) and more consultation will follow. It was on bus gates, the working place levy and the zero emission zone. Highways will be carrying out more detailed consultations in the coming months which will give us an opportunity to comment. The bus gates that will affect us in Headington are in Hollow Way and Marston Ferry Road. It is hoped all local areas, affected by the displacements of traffic, will be consulted- this includes, Kidlington, Botley, Wheatley etc.</p> <p>There is also a Bus Service Improvement plan being considered later in the year and this may look at the areas where there are no buses, possible cheaper fares for youngsters, and aligning the park and ride buses to the shifts at the JR to obviate staff having to bring their cars to work.</p> <p>EB attended the Brookes Residents’ Association meeting where the Safer City initiative and “Night Safe” were discussed</p> <p>AS alerted us to the fact that the main Railway Station will be closed from 10 September for 4 weeks for reconstruction works to be carried out.</p>	
12.	<p>Next meetings at 7pm at Oxford Brookes, Executive Suite on 27 July –chaired by Viv Miles</p> <p>Venue to be confirmed for the following: 28 September – chaired by Viv 30 November – chaired by John Nealon 25 January – chaired by Patrick Coulter</p>	
9.	<p>The meeting closed at 8.53.</p>	