

Woodland: notes re future management

Having looked at our woodland development plan and the maintenance issues involved, and taken the lead over the past few years I have concluded this is a herculean task. Parish Councillor(s) and/or volunteers cannot provide the care, maintenance and development required.

Following the Richard Harding and Penny Burt presentation to North Hinksey Parish Council 18th October 2017

The arable field that rises up behind our woodland is the proposed site for spoil from the flood alleviation scheme, subject to planning permission.

I spoke to spoke to Richard Harding (member of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme project team) and Penny Burt (landscape design). Future use of this land has been discussed with the owners (Oxford City Council), Nick Frearson (the tenant), and the Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and the possibility of a nature reserve has been mentioned. I have heard Chilswell path residents would be in favour of this.

In the light of this I arranged an informal fact-finding site visit with Andy Gunn, BBOWT's Wild Oxford Project Officer.

Site visit with Andy 20th October 2017

The woodland is looking lovely.

Andy reports that BBOWT has been involved in the conversations between the Environment Agency, Oxford City Council, and Nick Frearson considering the possibility of a long-term scheme to develop the spoil waste area into a nature reserve, woodland and meadows.

I asked Andy if BBOWT would be interested in managing our woodland in the short term (including the meadow area and wetland at the top). BBOWT manages Happy Valley and other sites in Oxford for the City Council.

He was enthusiastic, saw this as potentially part of the larger scheme joining up Happy Valley, the spoil waste area and the community woodland. This joining up makes a stronger case for BBOWT to take on the management of our woodland

I would like to propose that the Council consider this course. As is the case now in the burial ground, we have chosen to use experts. BBOWT is already present in Happy Valley. It has the knowledge, expertise and

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infrastructure to carry out work and development in the woodland to ensure that it thrives in the short and long term.

I told Andy that the Council would need to discuss this idea

Andy has read these notes and suggests I/we contact him when the Council has discussed this.

Cllr Maggie Rawcliffe
Monday 30th October 2017