

Minutes of the National Trust/Lode Liaison meeting

March 12th 2019

Present Charlie Platten, Polly Ingham-Watts, Jack Watson, Chris Hammond, Charlie Rickard, Peter Wells, David Trigg and Fran Platten

Matters arising from the minutes

Cycle path. The new interactive sign on the main road was deemed to be a success as it seems to have slowed down speeding cars

Money from the sale of the land, called Fassage Green, will not go to the Abbey, but instead to the NT central pot as it is alienable land, and therefore can be sold. However, land that is sold locally through compulsory purchase will go to the Abbey, as is the case for the possible sale of land for a new burial ground for Bottisham PC

The NT has now changed the wording on its website regarding walks in Lode and suggests that they park at the Abbey and walk from there. This hopefully will discourage people from parking in Mill road to go for a walk

A new, larger dog bin has been installed by the Mill, and CH will monitor it. If it overflows, then a second bin will be considered.

We are looking for a resident who lives in Fairhaven Close to join the group. They would need to be able to come to daytime meetings. So far we have not had any takers, but it will be advertised again in the Lode Star

Update on the Fassage Green purchase from the NT

CP reported on the latest meeting with the PC. The contract has been agreed and is ready to sign. No completion date has been set, but contracts will be exchanged soon. There is one slight problem namely the disputed position of the boundary on the NE side which borders the Ely Diocese land. It appears to be 2m from the ditch, on the Fassage Green side. Some think it is in the ditch, but PIW says

that she has contacted Jenny Scarff, the estate manager for the NT who recently measured it and will check with the GIS [Geographical Information System] records to confirm the position.

Report from Anglesey Abbey PIW

Polly reported that it had been a challenging financial year, slightly helped by the recent fine weather in February. This had reduced the £400K below budget to £320K, so still a significant reduction to the budgeted income. This was caused by the dreadful weather at Easter, and too hot last summer. They have a new system in place to manage the traffic having invested in duty managers who now have the skills to sort out the problems. It has worked well and we have not had any complaints.

They are recruiting an events manager who will manage the winter lights programme and come up with other events to encourage footfall. They are to add one more day to the winter lights which will be another Thursday in the third week, so the total number of days will be 11. PIW pointed out that this event attracted many adults as well as some families, and they were proud of the accessibility of the event and recorded wheelchairs coming to all the evenings. The new manager will introduce some ticketed events such as outdoor cinema, and various workshops which are very popular, and can be put on at quiet times. They hope to spread out the experience in Hoe fen for young families, and manage the woodland down there with conservation work and better access which is a bit patchy at present

There is a 10 year infrastructure plan which PIW is working on. There are few buildings which can be converted, so to cope with the increased number of visitors, new buildings will have to go up. This is very difficult because of tight planning regulations, so PIW hopes to work closely with the PC and residents of Lode to mitigate some anxieties, which have caused problems in the past. They are hoping

to improve Hoe Fen which is a long way from the house and add facilities such as toilets and a small food outlet.

Walks round Lode Discreet signs have been put up near the tennis courts requesting that dogs be on leads and waste be disposed of responsibly. Anglesey Abbey does not allow dogs into the property, so they do not have signs in their car park.

JW says that they should have chippings from the programme of tree cutting so they will lay these along the path beside the tennis courts, allotments and then the path that goes to the Mill behind Mill Road. That will be much appreciated. Thanks go to him and his team

AOB CH reported on issues raised about noise at the winter lights from some residents in Mill road. Guidelines in the Code of Practice for Noise control at such events/locations suggests a mean noise level limit of 15 dB(A) above ambient, which would be 51dB(A) according to measurements taken at the time. The music was too loud, rising to a mean of 58dB(A) during some parts of the performance. Feedback from residents was that that the folk music was acceptable, but that the music accompanying the fire display caused unacceptable disturbance. PIW and JW are aware of these problems and say this will not happen again. Apart from the noise, there were no reports of any issues arising from the visitors or catering arrangements.

FP thanked PIW and David Jordan who turned out to help at the litter pick in February. It was much appreciated and did not go unnoticed by residents of Lode! Finally JW has organised with Liz King to bring 15-20 volunteers to help do practical work on the Fassage Green site in April and June, which is marvellous.

Date of next meeting 29th October at 1.30 at the Abbey

