

The Minutes of the National trust/Lode liaison meeting

March 13th 2018

present Charlie Platten, Amanda Forecast, Charlie Rickard, David Trigg, Peter Wells, Brian and Maggie Camps, Jack Watson, Robert Stevens, Fran Platten and Emily Tydeman

We welcomed Emily Tydeman who is the Estate manager for the National Trust

Matters Arising

Harvey's Drove. There was concern over the hedge which needs cutting back. ET said she would e mail the leaseholder who lives abroad.

Richard Todd's old house. A local resident was asking when would it be lived in. JW says that it will be used for volunteers and interns when the need arises. DT asked about the parking, There is parking at the back as well as one space beside the house. JW thinks that most volunteers would not have cars and the issue could be looked at if problems arose

Update on NT land

ET told us the legal position about the land beside the Recreation ground which is owned by the NT. In the 1960's the land was handed over to the NT on the death of Lord Fairhaven. Some of the land was alienable, and was sold in 1971 to build Fairhaven Close. The sunray allotments and the surrounding land is also alienable. The land could be used for conservation or community use, but because it is investment land, it has to be sold with the money going to the estate. This does not necessarily mean that it has to go for housing, but it cannot be leased to the PC or any other party

If the land were sold for housing, it would need full support from the PC. There are restrictions anyway because the road up to the cemetery is very narrow and the entrance from the Fairhaven Close would have to cross the allotment land owned by the PC

Each year the land is valued by the NT but ET has not yet heard what this value is. At the moment the land is valued as allotment or agricultural land.

It is possible that Wicken Fen could buy it, as it is in the Wicken Fen Vision. The line of the Vision is fairly moveable particularly when they are dealing with communities. ET and AF are in early discussions with Wicken at the moment. If Wicken bought the land the process could be quite quick, and the land would then be inalienable, and they could form a partnership with the PC to form a community space which would then be managed by the PC.

RS thought it would improve the social community of the village which was lost when the school went.

Maintenance of this land in the short term

Rob Small from Lode PC has organised and led 2 working parties who have cut down the brambles, cleared and mowed the very long grass after removing a lot of stuff left behind by the allotments over many years. It was agreed that NT volunteers would join the locals on

Sunday 25th March and do further work, have a bonfire, eat hot dogs and drink local cider made from the Orchard Day last year. They have planted a hedge to provide a wind break for the Orchard. There are already people using the footpaths now they have been recovered from the brambles. He hopes to form a Lode Orchard Group, who will cut the paths each quarter, so it is possible for children to play, and people to walk easily.

AF and ET will meet to discuss the next steps to manage the land in the longer term

Cycle path

The opening had taken place the day before and over 100 people had turned up including many families. FP commented on how attractive the section was on the NT land with a wide gap between the hedge and the path and the same between the path and the farmer's field. CR is sourcing wild flower seed to plant on the bare earth and has been promised £300 to pay for it from CCC.

RS reported that Lode PC had applied to get money for a mobile interactive sign to highlight the entrance to the path and reduce car speeds. [we have been awarded this money, so that will be done. Also the solar studs have now been installed]

Fence/hedge behind the bus stop in the High Street

AF has met with the contractor who will cut this back and renew the fence, which is leaning right out into the path. A date has yet to be confirmed and we are awaiting that from the contractor,

Footpath going from the Mill to the tennis courts

AF will order wood chippings which can then be distributed by village volunteers to put onto this muddy path. CR is in charge of this process. Alan North, the new garden and outdoors manager will be able to help us in the future over these sorts of issues.

Public footpath behind Pigeon Wood

A map was supplied to show the footpath which runs from Lode Mill alongside the field up to the old railway line. When it reaches the end of the wood it is supposed to cross the field, but most people divert through the wood for a short distance and get to the railway line that way. RS wanted to know if this original route was going to be reinstated, or can a permitted path be used through the wood. It was agreed that there is no need to extinguish the original line of the footpath which is very expensive and instead footpath signs could be put up to show the 'new' permissive route instead. This was thought to be a very satisfactory solution and agreed to by all.

Anglesey Abbey update AF

Heat Source pump. Planning permission has now been granted to install a heat source pump which will be put in the lode. It will then heat the Abbey itself, the cottages beside and though expensive will free the buildings from heating with oil. The work will start in late April and be in 3 phases. It is expensive but they believe it will be a good investment. However, It does not include the summer house.

Security measures

Height restriction gates are to be installed to prevent travellers setting up camp in the car parks which happened in 2016. It caused a lot of disruption and expense. The gates will be at the entrance to the overflow and the oval car parks and bollards will be installed in the main car park. The gates are not very attractive but they will be decorated, and will not obstruct the footpath. There will also be a bollard on the footpath running alongside the grass car park to prevent vehicles getting through

Secondary catering facilities

There is a plan outstanding for a temporary secondary catering unit to be placed near the tennis courts in the Paddocks behind Mill road.

AF reported that AA numbers have increased year on year without any advertising and they now have 400K visitors each year. It seems this number will continue to grow as the population of Cambridge increases. They need new gardeners' accommodation, toilets, catering and office space, and unlike many of the NT properties which have parkland settings it is actually quite a small estate with not many buildings. They have limited areas where they can put buildings because they have grade 1 listed parkland which occupies a lot of the land

AF wants to have an open meeting on a Saturday morning as we have had in the past, to talk about these plans for the next 10 years so as to cope carefully with changes that will need to be made.

AA won a National trust award for visitor experience out of 500 properties. Well done to the staff and volunteers at the Abbey.

AOB

MC asked about the Archimedes Screw at the Mill, which was suggested some years ago. AF said it was not viable. However she says the water wheel is being repaired at a cost of £25K

PW asked that the sign in the paddocks which fell down be removed. AF says she will get it done.

RS says there are 2 gaps in the hedge where people can get through along the path from the kissing gate to the Abbey. AF to discuss with outdoor team.

RS Dog bin overflowing. Discussion if 2 bins are needed. Suggest we should ask for it to be emptied twice per week instead. RS to contact ECDC

CR charges for car parking a AA ? AF says that not for the moment. It requires staff to maintain them and security to protect them and it was not considered worthwhile.

Triangle of land beside Rose Walk. ET to look up to see if it is owned by the NT. She has done so and it is Highways. The map is attached and will be presented at the next meeting

Date of next meeting There will be an open meeting in the summer whose date will be announced, but the normal meeting will be on Tuesday 30th October 2018 at 1.30

