

MCF Chairmans' report 19th July 2023

Thank you for coming to this meeting and a warm welcome to Prospect woodland and wild area.

2022-2023 has been a strange year. We have secured a joint venture with MHDC at the Memorial woodland behind Malvern Retail Park and have made significant inroads into making this woodland a nice place to be. There are incidences of vandalism still, but I think if we address these swiftly, the perpetrators will get the hint and move on.

Alastair Pounder, MHDC has agreed to supply a gas burner (Hired) to scorch the Oak seating (Hibernaculum) so that it becomes less desirable to graffiti it. We will see how it pans out.

We have been asked to schedule in some painting of site gates also.

MHDC have asked us to supply a list of required tools for the purposes of cleaning up the woodland. Please have a think and forward me any suggestions for tools we don't own already and could do with.

Members of the Enigma trading estate are very interested in supplying working parties locally during the winter months to manage pathways and understorey.

We have still to leaflet the local community to try to increase our membership. This should be a priority.

Beauchamp Road Green in partnership with Platform Housing remains a thorn in our sides. There has been no movement whatsoever. Platform have so far not arrived at an agreement with us or the community group we would be working with. (3 and a half years after this agreement was first mooted). I have not given up on it however and will continue to poke the bear until we hear something positive.

Townsend Way community woodland remains on our books and we plan to hold a scything morning in mid August at the Townsend Way Memorial Meadow to cut back long grass under the fruit trees. I have yet to hear back from Malvern Hills Trust Community Officer about any other local collaborations we can participate in such as understorey management. etc

Cuillins Wood has remained closed as we no longer have any play leaders to help run it.

Abundance has fallen victim to lack of adequate storage and near draught conditions which badly affected fruit yields last year. I am hoping that one of our trading estate partners may come to the rescue with storage space.

I was reminded last that we need to develop a 5 or 7 year plan for Malvern Link Station with regard to hedge creation and coppice management. The same can be said for all our projects...Please come forward with jobs to be done and we'll schedule them in...

My thanks to Ian for doing a Stirling job with the books and finances and my fellow committee members for keeping me in line.

Lastly can I emphasise that we need to push MCF into the public gaze at every opportunity because this will lead to new members and that is the one area we are needing to increase.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Dave Munday,

Chair, Malvern Community Forest.