

7.2 Representatives on Other Bodies

Report re. the Annual Highwood Management Conference

The Conference, held on 17 August, was attended by representatives of Woodley Town Council and Earley Town Council (Councillors Geoff Littler and Sheena Matthews), and by Stephen Bartlam, WBC Countryside Ranger.

As last year, the Conference was preceded by a site visit of Highwood and Southlake during which Stephen Bartlam pointed out various aspects of the work that had been undertaken in the previous twelve months (and which would be referred to in his Report to the Conference later) – such as making safe dangerous trees, dealing with ash die-back, ditch clearance, footpath improvements, litter picking, and removing fly tipped garden waste.

At the Conference, Stephen Bartlam presented and expanded upon his Report. Of particular significance is the work – that is close to finalisation – on the design of Information Boards that will be installed in coming months at a number of sites around Highwood, that will provide details of the flora and fauna that are to be found in the woods. The Conference recommended, and Mr Bartlam agreed, that when finalised, copies of Information Boards be circulated to local schools.

The ETC representatives asked whether any action had been taken on the suggestion raised last year, that a directional sign be installed in Church Road – pointing towards Highwood, as there may be many residents in Earley that are unaware that access can be obtained to the woods from Church Road. Mr Bartlam responded that that hadn't been pursued, but that he would now take it up with WBC's highway service.

Although termed 'Highwood Management Conference', the ambit of the Conference (and the site visit) has now expanded to cover the work done by the Ranger Service at Southlake.
