

Amenities and Leisure Committee Meeting – 14th September 2022

Agenda Item 5 - Green Fair Report

On Saturday 6th August 2022, we saw the successful and long-awaited return of the Earley Green Fair.

The fair was well attended by a large number of visitors throughout the day and saw the return of many of our regular stallholders, along with some new ones such as CAB Mobile Unit, Herbie Hedgehog Rescue, Twinkle Trading, Garden Goodies and Becki's Blossoming Books.

We were extremely lucky to have such beautiful weather on the day and speaking to many people, they told us that it was great to have the fair back and that it had been nice catching up with people that they had not seen in a long time due to the pandemic.

The ETC stall was pleased to receive many visitors who were able to look at our '26 to Cop26' display and general information boards. Officers on the stall were on hand to give advice and answer questions. We also had free 'Hook a Duck' for children with a variety of prizes such as flower seeds, insect magnifying glasses, giant insects, butterfly laces and sweets.

The ETC councillors' stall was manned by a number of councillors throughout the day, offering information, free squash and running a drawing competition. Mayor Maher had the honour of judging the tree drawing competition and there were three winners in different age categories who each won a deluxe bug hotel.

In previous years, the Green Fair has only operated with the help of a few members of staff but this year we encouraged the involvement of many officers who volunteered to help on the day with manning the gate, putting out tables, erecting gazebos, helping out on the ETC stall and packing up at the end of the day. In terms of the arrival/departure of stall holders, health & safety and the general operation of the day, we organised it differently from previous years and are pleased to report that the day ran smoothly with minimal incidents.

As it was the first Green Fair organised by the Deputy Town Clerk, the Operations Manager and the Town Clerk we were able to learn from the day for future fairs. In general, the feedback we received from visitors and stallholders was very positive.

Unfortunately, a major downside on the day was the lack of refreshments/food, caused by being let down by the provider on the day of the event. We have been in talks with someone about next year's event so this should not happen again.

A press release has been issued and a write up of the day, along with photos can be found on the town council website.

Emma Carroll
Deputy Town Clerk
23.08.2022

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8.1. TREE PLANTING – Bulmershe Park

On 15th August 2022, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk attended a site visit with Laura Buck (WBC), a representative from Freely Fruity, Sheena Matthews (ETC & FoBOS) and 2 officers from Woodley Town Council to discuss a Friends of Bulmershe Open Space proposal for fruit trees, successional planting and an edible hedgerow to be planted in Bulmershe Park.

Bulmershe Park is in the northern corner of the Bulmershe SULV. It is jointly owned and jointly managed by Earley Town Council and Woodley Town Council and currently consists of a large mown area, established areas of trees and shrubs and a small orchard. FoBOS has been lobbying for improvements to be made to the whole of the SULV area, most of which is under WBC control, this meeting dealt solely with the Bulmershe Park area.

In a very positive and constructive meeting it was agreed by all parties present that:

Orchard:

- The small orchard would be restored and expanded
- Freely Fruity to supply fruit trees (mid – late September)
- Freely Fruity to prune existing fruit trees
- Trees to be planted within mown strips as well as in the unmown areas in between – this will improve the biodiversity under and around the trees
- WBC to plant said trees
- WBC to provide mulch and protection to new trees
- WBC to be responsible for establishment of new trees. To include watering and re-mulching
- WBC's responsibility to last for 2-3 years, ie until trees are established
- After this point, ETC and WTC will take on responsibility for the fruit trees
- They will be low maintenance and there was a suggestion that FoBOS volunteers would be willing to assist

Edible hedgerow:

- WBC will rotovate a strip along the fenceline
- WBC to supply and plant hedgerow plants (November onwards)
- WBC to be responsible for mulch, water and establishing plants on same terms as the orchard, ie 2-3 years
- Once established, the hedgerow would become responsibility of ETC/WTC

Successional planting:

- There are currently older, established trees in eastern area of the mowed grass (includes oak)
- The plan is to plant whips of suitable species around these, hopefully to provide successional trees (November onwards)
- WTC currently carry out the mowing of the area and they confirmed this would not pose problems, it will slightly reduce the mown area but it was felt this would not be detrimental to users of the space

Jo Friend, Town Clerk

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Agenda Item 9 - Telephone Kiosks

Earley Town Council has acquired the two red telephone boxes, one located in Silverdale Road and one in Wychwood Crescent.

Councillors should now decide how the kiosks are to be used. Other red telephone boxes have been adopted by various town and parish councils or community groups around the country who have repurposed them into a wide range of things, including book exchanges, defibrillator 'houses' and so on.

Possible uses to consider:

- Defibrillator
- Book exchange
- Toy swap
- Art gallery
- Information kiosk
- Planter

Wychwood Crescent

The kiosk is located on a residential street and is clearly visible to pedestrians and passing traffic. The nearest defibrillator to this location is at Medivet, which is fairly close by. Whilst vandalism is always a concern, this area is residential and is not renowned for such issues. The condition of the box is fair, it could be repainted and repurposed on site.

Silverdale Road

This kiosk is located at the side of the parade of shops and very close to the exit of Maiden Erlegh School, it is somewhat tucked away from the main thoroughfare. Its condition is poor, it has obviously been repeatedly vandalised and there is a concern that this would be a recurring issue. There are 2 defibrillators listed in the area, one at Tesco Express and one at Aldryngton School. Should no suitable use be found for it in situ, Councillors may wish to consider removing the box and relocating it elsewhere although it would then lose its electricity supply so lighting would be difficult. There would be further costs involved in relocating the box.