



Friends of Park Wood

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Current update and Spring Newsletter 2018

‘STOP PRESS’

A meeting will be held with George Hollingbery, our MP, Beccy Speight, the Chief Executive of the Woodland Trust and Kerry Clarke, Head of Engagement and Volunteering at the Woodland Trust to try and resolve the issues. Results of the meeting to be presented at the AGM.

“URGENT”



We need YOU

at the AGM on Wednesday 23rd May 7.30pm at the Baptist Church, London Road, Waterlooville to decide the FUTURE of the Friends of Park Wood

Whilst we now have most of the Woodland Trust processes and policies that we have to sign up to work in the wood, the Third Party Agreement is not fit for purpose in its current state and restricting in what we can do.

What is likely to happen as a result – the page illustrates the intransigence of the Woodland Trust?

Events are unlikely to continue in Park Wood. This includes the much valued and very well attended Easter Egg Hunt. Work by Friends of Park Wood (FoPW) may cease in the wood. This is due to the Woodland Trust (WT) insisting the Friends of Park Wood sign an agreement which limits their activities.

<i>What the FoPW do</i>	<i>What we will be permitted to do by WT or what will happen if FoPW finishes</i>
<i>Paths</i> – maintained, repaired and paid for to ensure clear access to all, including pushchair and disabled access	<i>NO</i> – they must remain as per other WT woods, although the majority are <i>not</i> in urban areas and are <i>not</i> thoroughfares. They will be reviewed yearly thereby making access increasingly limited.
<i>Funding</i> – applied for funds from local sources (not usually available to the WT) to pay for Public Liability Insurance, events, tools and refreshments etc	<i>NOT ALLOWED</i> to apply for funding unless the WT give approval for it to go ahead. Without funding for the PLI the FoPW cannot operate. It appears the WT do not like the FoPW having access to funding not usually available to them
<i>Events</i> – put on in the wood for the community	<i>NO</i> unless permission is sought a year in advance and it fits in with the WT programme <i>WHICH WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH FoPW</i>
<i>Litter</i> – FoPW wardens collect litter. Litter is collected at Workdays. Litter bins are emptied by volunteers	This will <i>CEASE</i> if FoPW folds. <i>WT will do a litter pick twice a year.</i> To put this into perspective the Workday collects 12 bags of litter a year, the two bins are emptied on average once a week – <i>that amounts to over 110 bags of litter yearly</i>
<i>Use of chainsaws and strimmers</i> – Volunteers have used this equipment to remove trees that prevent access across paths and to tidy up the edges of paths. Volunteers are trained and certified in the use of this equipment	<i>Chainsaw use BANNED</i> - strimmer training provided to volunteers by WT but it is unclear as to whether they will be able to use strimmers as this decision keeps changing
<i>Mowing of meadows</i> – equipment hired and paid for by FoPW, used by volunteers. Mowing is carried out once or twice a year as required	<i>BANNED</i> by WT – they <i>PAY</i> for contractors to do the work
<i>Connection with local businesses</i>	Will cease if FoPW folds
<i>Ad hoc decisions</i> – any issues or incidents in the wood are dealt with immediately by a member of the committee e.g. drug paraphernalia, trees down, fires, ditches blocked – this will cease if FoPW folds	<i>IMPOSSIBLE</i> – WT deals with these issues as they see fit – they do not seem to be able to comprehend this is an <i>URBAN</i> wood, and therefore the problems that arise usually need dealing with quickly <i>and they are not available at the weekend.</i>

We hope you will all understand why we feel the WT does not seem to understand what the FoPW are about and what we stand for. Our Chair, Inge, will be standing down on the 23rd May, and should the vote be for the FoPW to continue, a new Chair will have to be elected, who may wish to sign the agreement as it stands. She has dealt tirelessly with the WT who have taken intransigence to a completely new level. We can only give her our heartfelt thanks for getting us this far.

On a lighter note, the Easter Egg Hunt was the most successful we have had, 89 children and 76 adults attended, the weather was kind to us and a wonderful time was had by all. We thank ALDI for the donation of the chocolate eggs and bunnies and CLHAIRES hairdresser for selling tickets. We very much appreciate your donations, time and effort in helping us with what is now an annual event.



NEWS:

The wild primroses planted by the FOPW are looking beautiful along the banks.

Membership is being carried over to the end of May when the outcome/future of FoPW will be decided.

The flood alleviation scheme/scrapes (or possibly even a pond) has been an unmitigated disaster, the surrounding properties have seen no benefit from this scheme, and some have said because of the large body of water remaining, the water continuously seeps into their properties.

The trees planted in various areas in the wood have all taken and are flourishing as are the spring flowers. The bluebells are self-seeding all over the wood and we should have a wonderful display shortly.

Regular visitors to the wood will be very much aware of the sorry state of the paths – new paths are being forged and existing paths are being widened – they have not been attended to for over 18 months AND IT SHOWS – WT is responsible for the paths not FoPW at present..

Workdays will continue for the time being, THE LAST SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH.

This could very much be the last newsletter written by the current committee, we sincerely hope not, so
PLEASE COME AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT



GLORIOUS PARK WOOD