

Minutes of the Community Group 08/05/24

Present: AE, DF, DE, JR and TF (by video link) – Not available AF, AS

1. **Orchard:** After a full discussion it was agreed the date for the orchard planting should be the weekend of the 21/22 September 2024. A Community Event will be planned in celebration.
2. **Roles and Responsibilities:** Committee members discussed the value in everyone having a role and an individual responsibility for aspects of Canada Woods and Community Park. AE and TF will work as Event Planners and set out events for the next year. This will include working party events as well as community events. JR will collate details of all clubs, schools and community groups in the area. There will then follow an introduction of the Friends of CW & CP Community Group to those groups with a view to working together on community events, helping with specific projects and generating volunteers for general maintenance programmes. AF will set up a donation and a branded hoodie sales item on the website and will continue to publicise events and information. DF will continue to make funding applications, request quotations, complete risk assessments and specific permits for events. DF and DE will also help in the generation of volunteers and advertising of events with a series of media stories and requests via social media etc. AE will also investigate the possibility of a 'tree quest' background story and associated resources for younger children. DE will continue to provide his woodworking skills for seating etc.
3. **Youth Council request:** The Group reviewed the list of ideas for Community Park given by The Youth Council and thank them for giving a lot of thought to their requests. After a full discussion it was agreed that some of the ideas generated by both Youth Council and Youth Club could be incorporated into linking Canada Woods with Community Park, such as a zip wire and monkey bars as this might be seen as natural play in terms of funding and be in keeping with the Group ethos. The Community Group note the preference is for items to be made from natural materials. All the requests have been added to the list of proposals. DF to send formal thanks via the leaders.

4. **Funding and Priorities:** Accessibility is still the priority. However, after the slippage on MLAV2 the Community Group offered to put back their request to LHFIG for an accessible footpath behind Beechwood in favour of the PC seeking help with MLAV2 above the river. The Community Group would like permission from the PC to apply for funding for items of woodland equipment for the Youth and the repair of the upslope on footpath MLAV2 and perhaps the accessibility for MLAV2 behind Beechwood could also be included from other sources instead of LHFIG for the time being. The Community Group discussed ways to fulfil criteria and how to make a difference to the whole community in accessing and enjoying Canada Woods and Community Park. The focus for funding is natural play, biodiversity uplift, family orientated open air events, disabled access and footpath restoration throughout the woodland.
5. **Army Cadets:** The Group discussed ways in which the Army Cadets could benefit from Canada Woods and Community Park after a telephone conversation with the Officer in charge of Lavington Brigade. The age range is 12 -18 years and Lavington seem to have a good number of cadets. They would like to get involved and the Group felt that this would be beneficial to all. We await some dates for meeting with them on site to discuss ways in which we could help each other.

There was no other business.