

**Manor Woods Valley Group (MWVG)  
Committee Meeting and Open Forum Number 3  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, 7 pm  
at Zion Community Space, Bristol**

Present : Twenty one members including committee members Martin Grant, Peter Loy-Hancocks, Cheryl Loy-Hancocks) and André Coutanche  
Apologies : Davina Blake, Bethan Grant and Rachael Harvey

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

2. Martin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including Stephen Clampin, Parks Operations Coordinator (South) from Bristol City Council, Ella Hogg, Volunteer Coordinator from Parks at Bristol City Council and Emma Moore representing Friends of Bishopsworth Library. Attendees were each given a glass of Manor Woods Orchard apple juice.

**3. 'Trees' Presentation**

Peter delivered an informative and enjoyable presentation on Trees. He pointed out that they good for our health, part of our landscape, can help us fight climate change, help prevent flooding and provide a home for wildlife. He then said that there were 500,000-600,000 trees growing in Bristol and that they are worth c£280 million to the city. Bristol's One City Plan (January 2019) calls for tree canopy cover to be doubled (from the current 12%) by 2046. It was suggested that manor Woods Valley may be able to contribute to this target.

Questions from the floor included; should developers be required to include tree planting in planning proposals (A – yes, but they want/need to squeeze in as many houses as possible), and are all trees equal, or do some provide more benefit to wildlife and the environment (A – no, natives are preferred)?

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl presented an overview of the Financial Statement of the Group covering the period September to December 2019, attached. Martin presented a three year budget plan, attached, and re-iterated that MWVG should only raise funds for specific projects.

**5. Planning Report**

Andre provided an update on two issues. A formal application was submitted on 24 Oct for the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRC) on Hartcliffe Way. A house on Bishopsworth Rd applied to fell trees in garden & prune trees overhanging from MWV. The BCC decision stated that a Tree Protection Order (TPO) didn't apply and that the house owner was within their rights to cut back overhanging trees.

**Tea/Coffee Break** – a free raffle for a bottle of Bumblebee apple juice was held.

## **6. Friends of Bishopsworth Library (FoBL)**

Emma Moore spoke about the ways in which FoBL and MWVG could work together and apply for an Innovation Grant worth up to £3K. Proposals include a summer event, installing raised beds in the library gardens and organising horticulture and nature conservation sessions for children and young people.

## **7. Activities Since Last Meeting**

Martin provided an update on activities since the last meeting and on priorities and plans. Activities described included; mowing of the Rabbit Field and the orchard by Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) using a bar-mower; regular volunteer and Good Gym work parties, and Bristol University and TSB Bank staff volunteering sessions, which has seen significant repairs made to the woodland path; a meeting with City of Bristol College South Bristol Skills Academy that should lead to construction students working in MWV; the installation of six bird nest boxes and five bat roost boxes; the production of "Bumblebee apple juice by Bushel+Peck in Gloucestershire, 40% of the juice content of which is from Manor Woods Orchard; Geocaching events are now taking place in MWV; and planning winter work – mostly woodland path repairs and coppicing.

The priorities and plans have been categorised as high, medium and low priorities, with these allocated to groups (nature conservation, learning and fun activities, infrastructure, funding, community relations, and communications. See attached document.

## **8. Open Forum**

Peter asked the meeting for suggestions of tree varieties to be planted in the orchard. Suggestions included a Stella cherry, Green or Goldengage, Victoria Plum, and Bramley, Russett, Cox and Granny Smith apples.

Suggestions from the floor included mapping/marketing out distances (as done on the Northern Slopes); repurpose a fallen tree for use as a bench; a wassailing event in January; introducing a modest membership fee (Martin explained that this was not allowed for in our constitution but that people were welcome to make donations); updated the interpretation boards; and producing a tree identification map. These suggestions will be added to the 'priorities' document.

## **9. Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were circulated for any comments. Martin advised that MWVG has made positive contact with Merchants Academy, but that Bedminster Down School has not yet responded to emails.

## **10.AOB**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7pm at Zion Community Space, Bishopsworth Road.

**Appendix 1: Financial statement September 2019 to December 2019**

	<b>INCOME</b>			
May-19	Donation			£100.00
May-19	Transfer - MVCG			£760.00
May-19	Donation - Cash paid in			£23.04
Aug-19	Transfer - MVCG			£4,070.10
Sep-19	Donation - Cash in hand			£10.00
Oct-19	Donation in kind - timber for bird and bat boxes			£49.94
Nov-19	Transfer - MVCG			£2,500.00
Nov-19	Donation - South Bristol Gardening Club			£60.00
				£7,573.08

	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
May-19	Printing leaflets/flyers (Launch Event)			£55.61
Jun-19	Launch - Refreshments			£29.40
Jul-19	Bank charges			£0.80
Sep-19	Timber - Woodland Path Project			£191.14
Sep-19	Quarterly Meeting - Venue hire and Refreshmen			£72.40
Sep-19	Bank charges			£0.60
Oct-19	Timber - bird and bat boxes			£49.94
Oct-19	Bank charges			£0.20
Oct-19	Nails, buckets, gloves			£50.19
Dec-19	Timber - Woodland Path Project			£320.29
Dec-19	Printer ink			£55.79
Dec-19	Buckets			£10.00
				£836.36
	Cash in Hand			£ -
	Triodos Bank			£6,736.72
				£6,736.72

## Appendix 2:

<b>Manor Woods Valley Group BUDGET PLAN December 2019</b>				
<b>Expected Income</b>		<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Main donations		2,800.00	-	-
Talks		50.00	100.00	100.00
One off donations		50.00	100.00	100.00
Calendars		-	100.00	100.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,900.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Expected Expenditure</b>				
Website		-	50.00	50.00
Bank charges		30.00	30.00	30.00
Printer cartridges & stationary		56.00	100.00	100.00
Publications (leaflets design and printing)		56.00	250.00	250.00
Publications (Calendar)		-	100.00	100.00
Venue hire & refreshments		103.00	300.00	300.00
First aid kits		-	15.00	15.00
Tools		10.00	200.00	200.00
PPE		40.00	70.00	70.00
Work party refreshments etc		-	50.00	50.00
Training/travel		-	100.00	100.00
Expert fees (eg owl, bat walks)		-	200.00	200.00
Materials		50.00	-	-
		345.00	1,465.00	1,465.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,555.00</b>	<b>1,390.00</b>	<b>225.00</b>
<b>PROJECT WORK</b>				
		<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
<b>Restricted income - Slow Worm Project</b>		4,070.10	-	-
Expenditure - Park Work		1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>3,020.10</b>	<b>1,970.10</b>	<b>920.10</b>
<b>Restricted income - Orchard Project</b>		560.00	-	-
Expenditure		-	280.00	280.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>560.00</b>	<b>280.00</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Restricted income - Woodland Path</b>		1,000.00		
Expenditure		512.00	244.00	244.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>488.00</b>	<b>244.00</b>	<b>-</b>

**Appendix 3: Manor Woods Valley Group Activities Plan** (based on proposals from the June 2019 launch meeting)

High priority: important and do-able	Medium priority: important and waiting for someone to lead	Low priority: important but probably unrealistic at present
--------------------------------------	--	---

Activity: Nature Conservation	Progress	Outcome
Continue to improve habitats	Numerous volunteer events in Orchard, Rabbit Field and Triangle throughout spring/summer '19; also support from Avon Wildlife Trust and GoodGym. Mini wildflower meadow raked with help of University of Bristol staff.	Exceptional population of Slow worms (see blog posts on website for Slow worm and butterfly survey reports)
Improve aquatic life of Malago	Bramble flailing in Sept '19 has increased light levels at southern end of river; suspected pollution incident reported to Environment Agency.	More light reaches the water
Continue eradication of non-native invasive weeds	Himalayan Balsam plants removed from river banks in July and August '19; Annual survey of Japanese Knotweed carried out by MWVG in Spring '19 and continues to be treated by Council.	Invasive weeds are under control
Create more glades by coppicing	Plan approved by BCC; work scheduled for new year, 2020.	
Plant trees	8 fruit trees planted in Orchard in Spring '19; Meeting with BCC planned for 12 December to discuss planting proposals. 8 more fruit trees to be planted winter '19/'20	8 trees planted and thriving
Continue to support student research studies	3 student projects currently underway in Oct/Nov '19.	Results should help inform works
Install bird, bat and bee boxes	6 bird boxes, 5 bat boxes and 2 solitary bee houses installed November '19	More nesting & roosting opportunities
Reopen the Malago downstream of the Interceptor	It has been confirmed that a main sewer runs the length of the 'lost' Malago, and therefore re-opening of this length of the Malago can not happen; however 'greening' of this line with scrub and tree planting is desirable	Opportunities for green corridor being explored

Activity: Learning and Fun	Progress	Outcome
Harvest and juice fruit	40 kilos of Manor Woods Orchard apples sent to The Cotswold Fruit Co in Sept '19 for juicing; 9 bottles of juice delivered in Nov '19 and 9 bottles of cider expected in the spring '20. Potential or more juice and cider in '20 being explored.	Apple juice produced.
Organise wildlife walks (owls, bats fungi)	Opportunities during '20 being explored	
Establish Young Rangers Group	YR recruited and trained in August '19.	
Organise 'green days' events	Opportunities during '20 being explored	
Continue to wellbeing courses	Next course agreed with Forest of Avon Trust for Feb and March '20. In discussion with University of Bristol about wellbeing course for students.	
Tackle fly tipping and continue litter picks	Fly tipping at Valley Road entrance reported and removed. Informal litter picking continues.	Fly tipping remains a major concern.
Become more skilled	Training in Health and Safety completed by Davina and Peter in August '19; Training in battery powered tools completed by Davina, Martin and Peter in September '19; Training in Crowd funding completed by Martin in Oct '19; Training in restorative orchard pruning completed by Martin in November '19.	More MWVG volunteers able to manage work parties and undertake works.
Re-establish Geocaching	Re established in Sept '19 thanks to Holly	Completed
Establish youth groups (including gardening club)	In discussion (Nov/Dec '19) with Friends of Bishopsworth Library about bid to fund a young persons' nature/gardening group	
Organise treasure hunts	Awaiting support/offer to lead	

	Make Hazel goods	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
	Plant Willow crop	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
	Continue to run guided tours	Wellbeing walk for over 55s planned for Feb '20	
	Organise walks/talks on plants and folklore	Awaiting support/offer to lead	

Activity: Infrastructure	Progress	Outcome
Rebuild/repair the Woodland Path	Numerous volunteering events, including support from GoodGym and TSB staff, in Sept to Nov '19.	Good progress being made
Establish a bridge/crossing downstream of the dam	Awaiting support/offer to lead.	
De-silt the pond	Awaiting support/offer to lead.	

Activity: Funding	Progress	Outcome
Investigate community funds (co-op, Sainsbury's, Police Commissioner's funds)	To be considered	
Use Community Payback	To be considered	
Investigate funding from local businesses	To be considered	
Organise plant sale/swap	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Organise sponsored dog walk	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Become a charity	To be considered	

Activity: Community Relations	Progress	Outcome
Establish contact with Neighbourhood beat officer	Informal contact made	
Take part in Festival of Nature	On mailing list	
Work with schools	Some informal contacts made	
Liaise with small-holders, allotment groups, etc	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Survey MWV users		

Activity: Communications	Progress	Outcome
Produce a calendar of activities and events	Monthly newsletter gives upcoming details of events for month ahead; website shows next upcoming event. Proposal to produce a MWVG calendar to be considered.	Newsletter, website and Facebook page include details
Continue to improve social media, website and poster use.	Thanks to Aidan for the re-design of the poster template.	New poster template in use
Set up Mailchimp	Awaiting support/offer to lead	

2 December 2019