

**Manor Woods Valley Group
Public Meeting
Monday 13th Sep 2022, 19:00, Zion Community Space**

Attendees:

Committee members: Peter Loy-Hancocks, Martin Grant, Adriana Moraru, Clive Weston.

Other attendees: Vicky Smith, Marian Green, Andy Jones

Apologies: Maggie Evans, Jay Croney, Ellie Bacon, Davina Blake.

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Treasurer's report

- Income in the last quarter consisted of £60 Donation from Bristol South Garden Club and £50 donation from SPEX, for a walk and talk respectively. Total £110.
- Expenditure consisted of Bank Charges £1.10, Venue Hire and refreshments £64.55, Forest School £480, Equipment 52.21. Total £597.86.
- Cash in Hand in Triodos Bank was therefore -£487.86.
- Balance by Project: Unrestricted £3,892.38, Ring Fenced; orchard project £299.60, woodland path £488.57, exercise trail £54.80, forest school £40, Crox Bottom Friends Group £120.01. Total £4895.36.

3. Local built development plans

- An objection to the planning application to build on the West Side of Novers Hill has been submitted, ongoing.
- Wring's Yard: breaches of planning adjacent to MWV processed by BCC, a retrospective planning permission application for large building has been submitted.

4. Forest School update

Family day completed, Jay planning more sessions pending funding being made available.

5. Manor Woods Valley and Social Prescribing update

Updates provided by Clive. Forest Fridays in partnership with the Stepping Stones organisation ongoing. The sessions will restart on 16-Sep-22, MWV is not included in the Social Prescribing program yet.

6. Activities since the last meeting and future priorities

We held a celebration and AGM at Zion on Bishopsworth Road on 28th June. Minutes of that meeting are on our website.

Other Activities in the past three months:

- Cleared vegetation and paths in Manor Woods Orchard, the Orchard Triangle, the Rabbit Field, Allotment Wood and along the Riverside Path
- Good Gym cleared ant nests from the tree-tubes and bindweed in Hope Wood.
- Carried out a Himalayan Balsam 'pull' along the Malago. We worked hard to find the last few plants each time. Only two plants were found during the second round.
- Ran a well-attended, 'Exploration of Manor Woods Valley' guided walk for South Bristol Gardening Group and the public.
- Developed a proposal for eDNA surveys of watercourses in the Malago catchment as part of the Malago and Pigeonhouse Alliance.
- Undertook and reported on our annual butterfly survey of the site.
- Conducted and reported on a night-time Glow-worm survey of the site. We found Glow-worms at two locations, both near to the previous records of 26 years ago!
- Prepared a report on the 'Records of Dragonflies from Manor Woods Valley'.
- Undertook a bat survey of the site, positioning a static bat detector, for several nights at a time, in six gardens backing onto the site. We need to do a lot of analysis before we can prepare a full report.
- Again hosted the RHS Britain in Bloom assessors. We should hear in the autumn if we have gained another award.
- Our Forest School course ran and ended with an event for the families of those children that took part.
- Continued the tradition of conducting an 'aquatic garbage raid' along the Malago. A moderate quantity of rubbish was removed from the watercourse.
- Renovated the notice-board at the site entrance off St Peter's Rise; installing a replacement piece of acrylic 'glass' and a new pin-board, and giving the whole a clean-up.
- Heard that we have been successful in getting through to stage 2 of our application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to be directed to improving access arrangements into Manor Woods Valley.
- A hay crop was taken off the Wildflower Meadow at the very end of August.
- Received a report, and photos from a neighbouring garden, of a Roe Deer, followed by reports from the site and on Headley Lane. These are the first for this species on the site.
- An Otter was recorded on a trail cam, dragging a large fish across a garden which borders the site.

Going forward we aim to:

- 'Recruit' a group of UWE students to work with us through the winter months.
- Conduct a winter bird survey.
- Report on the bat survey.
- Rake Valley Hights Meadow once it has been cut by BCC
- Hold an 'Apple Day' when we'll harvest apples to go for juicing, and deliver juice to a local food bank.
- Clear vegetation in Manor Woods Orchard, the Orchard Triangle and the Rabbit Field.
- Encouraging BCC to mow the edges of the meadows and the Rabbit Field.
- Work with the Forest of Avon Trust's 'Forest Fridays' wellbeing course as required.
- Engaging with BCC with regards to entrance designs if CIL funding made available.
- Work towards updating and replacing interpretation boards.

- Commenting on any draft of new Local Plan and Ecology Emergency Strategy that might be published.
- Engaging with the Malago and Pigeonhouse initiative.
- Clive will organise and run monthly mindful walks starting from 01-Oct-22.
- Develop sensory trails – Clive published 3 trails in MWV on the Sense website. Plan to pilot it, depending on new access gates.
- Make progress on interpretation boards - to review at next meeting and considering obtaining quotes from graphic designers.
- Advertise the upcoming events in October to attract more volunteers: **Apple Day** on 08-Oct-22 & **Valley Heights meadow raking** on 22-Oct-22.

7. Matters arising from previous meeting

None.

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 12-Dec-22

9. Open Forum: information exchange, suggestions, issues

Painting wooden posts – working party at some point in winter.