

BORDEN NATURE RESERVE WORKING GROUP REPORT

DECEMBER 2022



Present Cllrs Mike Baldock and Nicola Butlin

The Councillors met on the 28th November 2022

FOBNR and Cllrs Baldock and Butlin attended the meeting with KCC, Waste Management at the Cryalls Lane entrance. Present were Nick Gill, Steve Darling, Charlotte Beck and Malcolm. I was only able to walk so far as it became difficult under foot, but Mike did the whole walk with the teams. These following notes are from FOBNR.

Mike raised the question of the Lease which is due in 2024. Nick Gill intimated that KCC would look favourably on renewal of the Lease. An active Friends group was seen by himself and his team as a really positive sign and gave them reassurance that the Reserve was being properly looked after again.

FOBNR explained the problems with motorbikes that occur with the narrow access point off Cryalls Lane. An attempt had been made to block this, but the riders just broke it down. Mike is to supply details of whether blocking it would be an infringement of public right of way. He also said the wastebin was not needed and would save the council money by not having it.

Steve Darling said he needed 3m wide vehicle access around the site and the access to individual manholes and monitoring points needs to be 2m. No herbicides have been used so far in 2022. FOBNR said if there were ever issues with plant growth impeding the manholes and monitoring points, they are happy to assist with cutting this back rather than use herbicides.

Due to the drought in the summer months, a pond liner had been donated and this was set up where the pond used to be as a watering hole. The recent rain has made the area a much larger area of standing water. Nick Gill approved of a larger butyl pond liner being sourced as it would prevent standing water being contaminated from below. A warning notice is needed, even though the water would not reach any great depth.

Steve Darling approved of the Management Plan and remarked on the importance of keeping a mixture of habitats.

Nick Gill asked that a boundary map of where the fencing would be, forwarded to him so he could give his consent. I did point out to him that KCC had given their approval to the fencing and for it to commence. He was under the impression his approval was also needed.

Can Councillors consider the need for a warning sign for the pond and for new Bylaws signs. The question of disabled access also needs addressing. Could the Clerk please ask the KCC contact she is in touch with about this and could they provide it.

Nicola

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