

## Haddon Wood Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### Introduction

The meeting was chaired by Jon Burgess of the Woodland Trust who explained that the meeting had been arranged to discuss ways to help fund the elements of the project not covered by initial grants to the Trust, and which local residents had asked for. Michelle Byrne of the WT was also present as her role is to fund-raise in the south-west. Hilary Harrison (HH), local contact for the Friends of Haddon Wood, took notes.

### Fund-raising

Michelle explained that there are 4,000 members in the south-west region and all had been sent a copy of the Haddon Wood fund-raising leaflet. It is unusual to target such a large area; this was done because there have been few such projects in the region and it was hoped people would want to support this one.

Michelle is listing all the charitable trusts in the area to approach them for funding, and there are some major supporters of the Trust who she will approach. There are corporate contacts to be made locally, and fund-raising packs will be produced and sent to local schools and sports centres. Other organisations like the Somerset branch of the CPRE will also be approached.

There were about 15 members of the Friends of Haddon Wood present along with some local residents. A lot of suggestions were made about local businesses to approach and Michelle will take these away to work on.

There is no deadline as such for fund-raising although Michelle will be targeting November 2013 which is when the second tranche of planting will take place.

It was reported that an approach has already been made to District Councillor John Crossley for funding from the Community Environment Fund which he holds. Either the Friends of Committee, once formed, or the WT will make a formal application for £500. *Action: HH to investigate who can apply & progress as appropriate*

Proceeds from the Alhampton Open Gardens on 26 May will also go to the woodland.

### Funds needed

The target is £20,000, which breaks down as:

Orchard	£5k
Access works	£5k
Ephemeral pond	£5k
Wildflower meadow	£2-3k
Alteration of stiles into kissing gates	£?
Plus management for the next 5 years	

### **Other fund-raising activities**

Jon & Michelle explained that people can donate benches, or fund, say, ¼ or ½ acre of trees, but not identified trees due to inevitable tree losses. This is also the case for anyone wishing to donate a single tree. Planting of trees needs to go through the WT control panel to ensure appropriate species are planted.

It was suggested that the Friends might take a stand at the Mid-Somerset show in August; Michelle suggested we wait before deciding this to see how fund-raising was progressing as it may not be necessary.

### **PR**

There will be another Community Planting event in November 2013, for which the WT will organise press releases, posters and radio publicity. HH is to put an article in this month's FTN about the March planting event. *Action: Michelle to send HH info*

### **Recognition of Mary Schley's contribution to Haddon Wood**

It was explained how, without Mary & Gert Schley's efforts and input, there would be no Haddon Wood. Sadly, Mary died on 1 April, and there was unanimous agreement that the Friends would like to do something in the wood to honour her memory. This is to be decided when the Committee is formed and Gert is ready to join it and help make that decision.

### **Traveller Activity**

There were reports of a traveller van parking in one of the car parks on the main road and in the entrance in No Through Road. Jon will arrange for padlocks for the vehicle gates. He also asked that people keep a look out for the padlocks being removed, as sometimes padlocks are removed in advance of people trying to gain vehicular access. If a vehicle enters at a later date when there is then no padlock they are then not trespassing.

### **Next Meeting**

TBA; the WT will arrange a further meeting. There will be a meeting of the Friends in the next couple of weeks to elect a Committee. *Action: HH to check availability of skittle alley at the Manor, advise all of a date, and if people cannot attend, for them to register their interest if they wish to be on the Committee.*