

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Where we are:
 - a. Bid
 - b. Wood Allotment
3. Going forward
 - a. Legal structure – licence agreement
 - b. Insurance
 - c. If power tools need chain saw certificates
 - d. Duration of agreement
 - e. Plan
 - f. No buildings except possible wood store
 - g. Capital works in discussion
 - h. Management – working with DCC Senior Forester
4. AOB

Notes:

Ken Bradshaw gave an outline of the HLF bid and Wood allotment Project, gave out a plan of the wood and potential Wood Allotment area and talked about how the group would have to align itself with an existing organisation if the project was to go forward. It was suggested asking the Esh Winning Residents Association, who are a charity. Another suggested the Waterhouses Community Association. In the coming weeks we will ask if either would be prepared to host. KB outlined that insurance would be needed and if chain saws were wanted to be used then CS certificates would be essential. Finance for training and tools and equipment may also be forthcoming from the HLF funded project, though this is limited. It was suggested that the NHS Gateshead have volunteers who look for outdoor environmental projects. An attendee wanted to know if people from Sunnyside could be members; KB suggested it was up to the group to decide but there shouldn't be an issue provided people are happy to travel. Forest Schools was discussed and KB suggested that OASES were interested in looking at more sites to use for Forest Schools. An attendee was interested in the Wood Archaeology project. KB mentioned the possibility of using funding to improve the track from the vehicular bridge and into the wood, creating a 2m wide path with 6 inches of gravel. It was also mentioned the idea of a new permissive path to the west of the wood, crossing the burn with a new bridge, though this would be subject to an agreement with the owners.

Meeting finished c7pm