

MINUTES OF MEETING - YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST AND STAVELEY WORKING GROUP  
- WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2011, AT 7.00P.M.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust:	Dr. Jenny Hayward	Mr. Carl Watts
Staveley Working Group:	Mr. Ken Barker Mrs. Pam Coatham Mrs. Sue Meeke Mr. Ian Wallace	Mr. Robin Copnall (Chair) Mrs. Sue Dibb Mrs. Julie Smith
Guest:	Mr. John Thornton (part time)	
Apologies:	Mr. David Child	Mr. Bernard Atkinson

**1. Welcome and Introductions.**

Robin Copnall welcomed all present, including Mr. John Thornton who is a Staveley resident.

Jenny Hayward asked if the group had a mandate and where this group was going. After discussion, it was agreed that it is hoped that the two groups would work together to aid consultation and liaison between Yorkshire Wildlife and the village with regards to the planning application relating to Staveley Nature Reserve.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.**

The above Minutes were approved with clarification on some points covered below.

**3. Follow up to Point 5.4.a). (Road safety and car parking) of Notes of Meeting between Mr. David Hargreaves of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Staveley Working Group on 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

This point was brought forward on the Agenda so that Mr. John Thornton could respond immediately to any questions the meeting had with regards to perceived verbal agreements made between YWT and Staveley residents relating to access of land at the west end of the village. John first of all provided some background information.

When Cemex first suggested that they would be releasing land for sale, a number of residents were circulated by the estate agents to see if any were interested in buying land. Discussions then took place between the potential buyers, YWT and Cemex (previous owners).

Discussions were held between interested residents and David Hargreaves of YWT outlining two objectives.

1. If the residents purchased the land around the periphery of the proposed expansion to the Reserve, then YWT would be able to purchase the rest of the land.
2. The land would be protected from any development.

There were also discussions regarding the access along the lane by the church. Cemex indicated that they were aware of the dangers of fly-tipping and traveller trespass and David Hargreaves agreed that, as far as YWT was concerned the gates would remain locked. The residents were also told that YWT's plans were to build a small hide and provide better public access to the existing site otherwise the land would be preserved as it was. Believing this was the case, a number of residents went ahead and purchased land.

During the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May, David Hargreaves proposed that the parking area currently identified for 3 disabled cars (access along the lane by the church), could be expanded to take 12 cars. This proposal would also eliminate access problems for disabled drivers as the gates would be left unlocked.

After discussion, Jenny confirmed that it is not YWT's intention to expand the disabled parking area or to have un-supervised parking in this area, and that the gates will remain locked. However, Jenny and Carl said that YWT recognised the problems lack of car parking has on the village and they have tried to estimate when car parking is going to be increased, with overflow car parking being identified as necessary on event days and practical workdays.

A proposal brought for discussion was that when YWT have event days or workdays, they open up one of the two fields adjacent to the disabled car parking area, entrance via access lane by the church. These are planned and pre-booked events and Carl would unlock and lock the gates to allow the participants to park on this land. This would leave the car park on the Minskip Road free to other visitors of the nature reserve. Although it is not possible to know exactly how many events will take place within a year, the maximum "overflow" parking which could be allowed on these two fields is 56 days per year (28 days per field). All present thought this was a good proposal and worth considering.

For information, Jenny and Carl will provide a copy of their target of planned number of agreed events.

Jenny and Carl were asked if YWT would consider providing a small gate for pedestrian access at the entrance by the church. This was thought a good idea and would be considered.

Discussions then took place regarding the number and sizes of the proposed hides and their use. Jenny and Carl confirmed that YWT do wish to build two hides but that they would not be educational centres. They would have posters/information and seating in but would have no other facilities.

There were also queries with regards to the width of the proposed footpaths. Carl confirmed that in parts of the reserve, corridors 10 metres wide are intended for visitors to walk along and the path would be 1.2 metres wide within these. The path would be made of suitable material to allow for wheelchair access.

Carl and Jenny were also asked about the proposed bunding alongside parts of the footpath to screen visitors from the wildlife, and in particular the breeding waders. This bunding would be approximately 4' high where necessary. There will also be viewing screens across and adjacent to the bridges.

Mr. Thornton left the meeting at this point.

#### **4. Queries from the Notes of Meeting Held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.**

- 4.1. All agreed that the Notes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May and Minutes of this meeting should be displayed on the village notice board together. This was because clarification has been given on a number of points with a positive way forward.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council be asked to include all Minutes on the Staveley Village website.

The Village Hall Committee would also be requested to display copies of all minutes on their notice board.

- 4.2. Following the early information provided by Jenny and Carl, the gates to the access lane by the church will not be left open.
- 4.3. It was noted in the notes of the last meeting that there could possibly be up to 3 school visits per month. This is not a definite figure and cannot be easily estimated.

**5. YWT's Proposals Relating to Appeal or Resubmission of Planning Application.**

Before the recent meeting between the CEO of YWT and HBC Planning Officer, the professional advice was to appeal. However, YWT is being encouraged by HBC to re-submit their application and to include further contextual background information. Full reasoning behind all their decisions will be provided. The timescale for submission is that YWT's internal deadline for completion of draft paperwork is Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June. Submission to HBC is the end of June in time for the planning meeting being held on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

YWT's response to the issues outlined during the March planning meeting will be as follows:-

- a). As mentioned previously, YWT have looked at how to address the car parking issue within the village and identified that on event days for instance, an overflow car park could be required. To address this, YWT would open up one of the two fields adjacent to the disabled car parking area - entrance via access lane by the church. This car parking would be controlled by Carl who would unlock and lock the gates to allow the participants to park on this land. This would leave the car park on the Minskip Road free to other visitors of the nature reserve. These two fields would be used up to a total of 56 days per year (28 days per field). It was also noted that there is the possibility of extra car parking at the village hall (plus facilities) and the school.
- b). Further discussions took place as to the number and size of the proposed bird hides. Bird Hide 1 (BH1) is to be on the side of the lagoon and Bird Hide 2 (BH2) at the edge of the peninsular on the opposite bank. BH1 would have a viewing angle of 180° whereas BH2 would have a viewing angle of 270°. They would like both hides to be large enough to accommodate 30 children, plus 10 adults as education is a big part of their remit. When asked if YWT would consider only having one bird hide, Jenny and Carl said that having both would enable visitors to see the full extent of the lagoon and would enable viewing whatever the angle of the sun. The principal benefit would be that visitors could get to see more of the reserve's wildlife. Also, as the planning application says two bird hides then they would have to be built within the allowed timescale. Jenny and Carl were very conscious of the concerns of number and size of the hides and said they would investigate as to whether it would be possible to reduce the size of BH2. A sketch of a possible alternative design, reducing the size of BH2 without significantly reducing the functionality of the building for school groups was circulated by YWT, but was rejected by the group.
- c). Please see Point 6.1. of the Notes of Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, e.g. the provision of toilets was not required on site, due to group visits and planned events being no longer than 3 hours duration.
- d). Jenny confirmed that every YWT site has a risk assessment carried out, and Staveley Reserve is her responsibility. This site risk assessment covers infrastructure, people using paths and trees, amongst other site hazards. A separate task risk assessment designed to be read in conjunction with the annually updated site risk assessment, is prepared for each task carried out on site by the leader of that task (people who lead groups or events). Task risk assessments have been carried out for every event that has been held so far.

The subject of anti-social behaviour was discussed. Jenny reported that they have had very little problems of anti-social behaviour on her 30 sites and certainly none on sites the size of Staveley, in this type of location. Anti-social behaviour has mainly been seen on sites around the edges of major towns, i.e. Scarborough.

YWT hopes that the actions they take to manage the site would minimise this risk but that they would take responsibility for any problems which may arise in the future.

Jenny suggested that the village display the revised plans which would show what is going into the re-submission. This would also include a habitat map. All agreed this is a very good idea and will ask the PC to display this information on the village green notice board.

## **6. Any Other Business.**

### **6.1. Car Parking in the Village.**

Concerns were brought up relating to where and how visitors are currently parking in the village, e.g. around the green and on the bus stop, the slip road in front of the Royal Oak blocking residents from gaining access to their properties and in the Royal Oak car park. Jenny suggested that the YWT website would be changed taking on board these issues.

### **6.2. YWT will also be resurfacing the footpaths in the existing nature reserve.**

## **7. Date of Next Meeting.**

The suggested dates for the next meeting are either the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Robin to check with David Child and Bernard Atkinson for their availability and preferred date will be confirmed to all.

All agreed this was an extremely worthwhile meeting and were very positive for the future. Jenny and Carl said at the beginning and at the end of the meeting that they wish to be regarded as members of the Staveley Working Group, rather than visitors or guests.