

Friends of Speckled Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Planning Inspector is sent the unchanged plan

Editorial: Chairman Mr Martin Newbold



The Trust learned that on the 31st of July 2014 the Hastings Borough Council passed an unchanged Development Management Plan against the wishes of the community to the inspectors office . We also learned that there has been two appointments a Mrs Lynette Duncan as Program Officer and Mr Richard Hollux as the Public Inspector. The Trust is disappointed that at the time of writing this newsletter , this information is still not public and on the Council websites. The

Trust raised 3560 objections to the land in Speckled Wood being used for Housing a huge quantity of these asking for the Woodland to be removed from the Development Management Plan. The Trust had believed that this process was genuine up until recently . The full submission of this information and the information which has come to light regarding the Council Forward Planning Department meeting with all the land owners last year. has shed doubt on this process. A person working for the land owners has told a member of the Trust that the Council stated at this meeting that they had no problem with development on the whole site.

The Trust will continue regardless of the disappointment to fight for the entire Woodland. There has been planning on this site for 30 years none of which has come to fruition. The Trust is hoping it is not too late for the Council to recognise the folly in this Plan and Process.

The Trust demonstrate their ability to maintain the Village Greens.



The Trust finally brought their leased vehicle in to use. The Tractor has been leased by the Trust to allow it to be used in Speckled Wood. The tractor was able to cut the grass far more successfully than had been done by contractors only using strimmers. There had been complaints to the Trust from the Community that this area was not being managed correctly and the grass was looking rough and unkempt.

The Tractor will also be used in the Woodland to place wood chip on the paths making the process much more easier. The Tractor is Road legal and has been registered properly with DVLA.

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**We urge you to
WRITE TO YOUR
COUNCILLOR
and complain.**



Friends of Speckled Wood
Management Trust

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The 3rd Come and Play in the Woodland



The Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust with the help of Ore Church Mice and In2Play held their third come play in the Woodland. The activities were run by Ore Church Mice Pre school and In2play who kept the children happily playing with their parents in the Woodland. A mixed range of activities were available as

well as face painting and refreshments and cakes from Mrs Kelly Pelaou.

Update on the BRC Species Lists.

The Friends of Speckled Wood have been working with the Speckled Wood site to add more taxon and species to its database on iRecord. The iRecord site is run as part of the Sussex Wildlife Trust and feeds information direct into their own data resources. The Species now on this database now stand at 185 and the Trust is due to break 200 soon. The Trust Chairman has said that this is a major accomplishment for a small group of Volunteers. The Trust want the people to Rise up and demand their woodland is not turned into another useless housing project. The Public has been aware of the Rocklands Caravan site and have been asked why Speckled Wood. The fact is that the Speckled Wood site is just as important sharing much of the same wildlife and potential.



UPDATE ON VILLAGE GREEN

The Friends of Speckled Wood Trust Chairman has been working with a leading historian to obtain the correct provenance of the Village Green in Ore. On the 6 July 1923 Hastings Council considered an "Offer of Land at Old London Road as an Open Space". The offer was made through Thorpe Meadows and Pearson, Havelock Road Hastings. It said that the owner of the piece of land on the north side of Old London Road adjoining the building formerly known as the Princess Cinema (Now the Salvation Army) was prepared to offer the land as a free gift. It was conditional on paying a fair and reasonable proportion for making up and maintaining the 10ft roadway; to leave a passage or space not less than 3 feet wide as a means of communication of adjacent properties and the council was required to 'preserve the land for ever as an open space' and not do, or suffer to be done, anything thereon which might become a nuisance or annoyance to the neighbourhood. The best thanks of the Council was tendered to the owner for his gift. The following year the Committee, at their meeting held on the 7th March 1924 considered a second offer again made through Thorpe Meadows and Pearson who intimated that their client, who gave the piece of land at Old London Road Ore to be used as an open space, is prepared to offer a further portion of land at the rear of the before mentioned piece, also to be used as an open space for the benefit of the inhabitants of the District, and otherwise similar terms which appertained to the previous gift. The Town Clerk accidentally revealed his name in a later report to the council that the benefactor was Thomas Mason. Both he and later his daughter gave similar gifts anonymously to other towns in the southeast. He was born 13 Jan 1859 in Southwark as Thomas Alexander Bear and inherited Bear and Sons an international tobacco company, which later became part of the British American Tobacco Co. He was an extremely wealthy and generous man.

Brian Lawes July 2014

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