

BWAG Monthly Reports to Bredhurst Parish Council

November 2007

KCC has confirmed the gates for both the Bredhurst and Detling ends of the byway have been measured and will be installed late November/ early December.

£18K has been secured to fund the path restoration to be carried out by the Royal Engineers, work commencing 12 November. KCC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) will be invoiced directly to the value of £8k. BWAG will be invoiced for the balance. The funding for this has been secured as follows:

- £5k - Paul Carter Devolved Budget
- £2.5k - BWAG
- £1k - Sustainable Development Fund
- £500 - MBC
- £1k - KCC, Small Community Capital Fund.

Contractors have completed the coppicing on the initial compartments (as detailed in the KWT management plan/schedule of works) and will now commence coppicing the area adjacent to the byway up to the boundary of Monkdown Wood. The scrub clearance work on the area of land adjacent to bridlepath KH56 commenced on Monday 5 November.

A site visit by members of MBC was held to ascertain which CCTV equipment would be best suited for the area. There are 2 types, overt which costs approx £20,000 and covert which is slightly cheaper. A report will be presented at the Bredhurst Summit to be held on 12th November.

Ian Hayes, PRoW and BWAG volunteers have installed 45 steps on footpath KH9 leading to Monkdown Wood.

BWAG Previous Events /Meeting Attended

Fungi Foray, 6 October.

This was under attended (probably due to the fact that the event clashed with the screening of the Rugby World Cup Semi-Final) and resulted in a £12 loss for BWAG. The guide charged £60 and, at the time of booking, we were confident that we would attract a minimum of 20 people at £3 per person.

Adult Education, Natural History Group – Tour of the Woodland. 9 October

A successful day, led by Lynne Flower. The group hopes to return shortly to conduct a survey of ancient / notable trees.

Meeting with Paul Carter, 11 October

Update to discuss the further support available from KCC.

Meeting with Paul Fisher, 11 October

Paul advised BWAG to investigate Charitable Trust status, but agreed that there was no urgency. He felt that, due to our success, we had 'outgrown' our Advisory Committee function and that it would be beneficial to BWAG to become a separate entity to BPC. This is something that BWAG has been looking into for some time, but it is likely that this will now proceed.

Supper at Green Court. 20 October

This was deferred until New Year as the date of the event clashed with the Rugby World Cup Final.

Berengrave Local Nature Reserve - Guided Walk. 27 October

This was well attended and very informative. Both BWAG and the Friends of Berengrave (FoB) have agreed to promote each other's project to our respective members and reciprocal links now appear on our websites.

BWAG Forthcoming Events / Meetings Scheduled

The Bredhurst Summit, 12 November

This meeting has been called by Steve Goulette, Assistant Director of Regulatory & Environmental Services, MBC and will be chaired by Cllr Tony Harwood, Cabinet Member for Environment. It will draw together key players from many agencies including MBC; KCC; Kent Wildlife Trust; Kent Downs AONB Unit; Natural England and major landowners. The aim of the meeting is to establish a plan to further enhance the protection of Bredhurst Hurst and neighbouring areas of woodland. It will also examine the relationship between individual pockets of land within the Kent Downs AONB and the wider impact these areas have on one another and on conservation issues. BWAG will be giving a presentation to update attendees on the progress and aims of our group.

Kent Wildlife Trust, Trustees Event, 15 November

Vanessa Jones has been invited to this event and will be attending to represent both BWAG and BPC.

Winter Bird Walk at 9.30am, 24 November

This walk will be led by Owen Sweeney of the Kent Ornithological Society (KOS). Meet at Hurstwood Road by the allotments. New members always welcome.

Carols, Minced Pies & Mulled Wine at Green Court, The Street, 7.30pm on 6 December

Tickets now on sale at £5 per person to BWAG members and their guests. The event will be opened by the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Richard Ash.

Full details of all events can be found at www.bwag.org.uk or contact Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 /postmaster@vanessaajones.plus.com