**Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting - 10 February 2016, 7:00 – 8:30pm**

**Present:**NeerajKhanduja, Scott Ashdown, Bob & RitaTarron,Charulata Patel, Trevor Tween, Judith Batson, James & Margaret Hetherington, Paul Hammond, David &Abi Coupe.

John Mardle, John Ward and Jan Martin from Friends of Bramingham Park.

**Apologies:** Kathryn Knights, Lyn Bliss & Louise Purser.

**Minutes of 13 January 2016**

**Potential Funding Sources (Neeraj)**

* We are now a member of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). Membership offers discounts on insurance and the opportunity to bid for start up funding.
* Neeraj circulated his summary of 5 ranked potential funding options (attached). Neeraj’s suggested preference is the Conservation Volunteers Community Network(CVCN), which we have now joined. CVCN offers a start up and support grants. TheirChesnut Fund Committee meets every 6 weeks to discuss applications.
* Agreed that the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) and the Biffa Award are also worth exploring as options.
* Trevor suggested keeping airport funding on the backburner, as they are keen to be linked with environmental projects.
* **Action:**Neeraj and Paul to give some further consideration to which funding options to pursue.
* John Mardle advised that we will need to have a solid business case including aims, evidence of need and a clear proposed outcome, useful also have to have a plan of the area, census and rights of way etc. as background material. Key aspect is sustainability and how we will communicate to the community. Keywords: Measure, Monitor & Manage. Also worth obtaining letters of support from local organisations and the council etc. to enhance your credibility and help from outside where possible.

**Update on Calendar of 2016 Events (Charulata)**

* 28 February – Litter pick at 10am, meeting at the Community Centre (We are no longer joining up with Clean for the Queen due to Mothers Day)
* March Meeting – Steve Colman speaking on local ancient monuments
* April Meeting –Greg Herbert speaking about butterfly surveys
* May Meeting - Andy Grimshaw - speaking on Birds of BradgersHil and our Dawn Chorus Walk
* July –Wildlife Weekend- Friday 15th July 2016 - Moth Event

Sunday 17th July 2016 - Litter Pick&Evening Astronomy Event

* Trevor has been diligently contacting farmer Lionel Shaw but no response yet
* Richard Wilson – Now based in Leeds and unable to join us. Richard was involved with a lot of surveys and left some slides with Trevor, which he will try and dig out.
* **Action**: Charulata to contact the Wildlife Trust, Trevor suggested Esther Clarke based at Griffin Park in Toddington.

**Website Update (Scott)**

* Our website:[www.bradgershill.org](http://www.bradgershill.org)is now live with a full events calendar and a contacts page etc.

**Old Bedford Road Estates (Paul)**

* Contact made with their solicitor which is a step forward (the only thing they are obligated to do is keep the right of way open).

**Butterfly Survey (Dave)**

* Surveys run for 6 months over a set transect route, between 2-4km. Greg Herbert of UKBMS will join us for our April Meeting.
* All data can be added online to the Beds Natural History site and that will automatically be added to the County records.

**Parks & Green Spaces subgroup meeting on Right of Ways (James)**

* James has made contact with regards to joining the subgroup and plans to attend their February Meeting.

**Educational Links (Paul)**

* Paul has heard back from Bushmead Primary, StopsleyHigh and Luton Sixth Form College, who are all interested in linking with us.

**John Mardle Hints & Tips for Success**

* Get your name out there, build credibility and use jargon well
* Aim at all audiences, engagingother parts of the community into your projects todevelop relationships
* Always record your progress with pictures and publish on social media
* Spread the workload out amongst the group, you will need strength and depth in the skills and experience of the group and get the right people to do the job
* Go along to meetings of interest where there may be a threat in the area, public meetings, rights of way etc.

**AOB**

* Nothing raised.