

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2018 AGM Chairman's report

Membership:

2017 ended with 84 members subscribed, the same as last year.

Hedge project

In January the Friends planted 250 saplings in the hedge along the Wayfarers Walk, thus completing the planting phase of the hedge. I would like to thank TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) for their help in chainsawing the old hedge and supplying the saplings.

Environment

A new Management Plan for the woods has been prepared by an ex Forestry Commission person. This gives a 10 year felling licence, and has been approved by HBC.

Maintenance

The support from Norse has not improved over the last year. Although they have repaired the picnic table and one bench, it has been reluctantly. And we even had to bring in our councillors when Norse removed the litter bin at the end of Warblington Road. Luckily CHC have been more supportive with a new Information board.

England Coast path

The Friends are monitoring this project from Natural England, which may involve enhancements to the bridge and footpath. In parallel with this project, Bird Aware Solent have sponsored an Access Management Survey to look at footpaths in the area, and the Friends have submitted views on this

Neighbourhood Plan

The Friends have submitted views on this, which was produced by the Emsworth Forum.

GDPR

We have improved our procedures to comply with GDPR, and have a new policy on the website.

Website:

We thank David Linington for his continued maintenance of the website.

Committee:

Thanks are also due to all the Committee, and particularly to Dee Townsend and Doug Outram who are stepping down after 5 and 7 years' service respectively. Thanks also to Pam Ewing for providing workday refreshments.

Workdays:

But the most thanks must go our regular band of over a dozen volunteers who turn up in all weathers to keep the woods in fine shape. To support this work I have been on a Leadership course (run by TCV) and a Hedge training course (run by the Tree Council).

Summary:

In summary, I am pleased to report that the Friends have had another successful year, and we look forward to new conservation challenges in 2019.