



MEMBERS MEETING - NOTES

16th November 2021 – Friends Meeting House, Brighton – From 5pm

Attendees (42 - presenters in bold):

Cliff Munn – BHGSF Chair/St Peters Churchyard Volunteers/CityParks Ranger Volunteers

Michael Blencowe – Sussex Wildlife Trust – Head of Community Action for Wildlife

Huw Morgan – Sussex Wildlife Trust

Paul Campbell – B&H CityParks - Park Projects & Strategy Manager

Mark Syrett – B&H CityParks – Projects Officer

Sarah Dobson – Programme Manager – Living Coast / UNESCO Biosphere

Dan Danahar – Living Coast / UNESCO Biosphere

Vivienne Barton - BHGSF Treasurer & CityParks Tree Forum

Michael Creedy - Brighton Peace Environment

Dave Bell – Benfield Wildlife & Conservation

Gerry White – Benfield Wildlife & Conservation

Sally Wadsworth – Benfield Wildlife & Conservation

James Newmarch – BHGSF Committee/ B&H Wildlife Forum/Brighton Greenway

Alan Cooke – Craven Wood

Carol Springgay – Eastbrook Community Garden Fishersgate

Steph Brown – Happy Mountain

Josh – Happy Mountain

Tom Stear – Hove Lagoon

Alan Moon – BHGSF Committee & Hove Park

Kerry Slater – B&H Organic Gardening Group (BHOGG)

Jackie Beecham – Hove Park

Roz Reyburn – The Level Communities Forum

Jim Gavons – Montpelier & Clifton Hill Association

Julia Da Silva - Norfolk Square Garden Project

Judith Taylor – Palmeira & Adelaide Garden Fund

Stewart Granger – Palmeira & Adelaide Garden Fund

Emma Houldsworth – Plot 22

Caroline Burnard – Queens Park

Geoffrey Bowden – Queens Park

Gill Wales – Regency Square Area Society Gardening Group

Helen Clark – Rottingdean in Bloom

Roger Levy – Rottingdean in Bloom

Jane Power – Roundhill Green Spaces

Chris Perry – Special Branch Tree Nursery

Debbie Pryer – BHGSF Committee & Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden

Melanie Davis – BHGSF Committee & St Ann’s Well Gardens
Amanda Ogilvie – St Nicholas Green Spaces Gardening Group
Sue Batey – Three Cornered Copse
Kim Greaves – Waterhall/B&H Wildlife Forum
Mike Letton – TWEAK & Westdene Green
Clare Millet-Hopkins – Woodingdean Wilderness
Amanda Grimshaw – B&H City Councillor (Moulsecombe & Bevendean)

Groups represented (35):

St Peters Churchyard Volunteers
CityParks Ranger Volunteers
Regency Square Area Society Gardening Group
B&H Organic Gardening Group (BHOGG)
Palmeira & Adelaide Garden Fund
Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden
B&H Wildlife Forum
B&H Food Partnership
FO Craven Woods
Roundhill Green Spaces
FO Norfolk Square
Brighton Peace Environment
Brighton Greenway
Sussex Wildlife Trust
Living Coast UNSECO Biosphere
Benfield Wildlife & Conservation
Eastbrook Community Garden
Happy Mountain
FO Hove Lagoon
FO Hove Park
The Level Communities Forum
Montpelier & Clifton Hill Association
Norfolk Square Garden Project
Plot 22
FO Queens Park
Rottingdean in Bloom
Roundhill Green Spaces
Special Branch Tree Nursery
Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden
FO St Ann’s Well Gardens
St Nicholas Green Spaces Gardening Group
Three Cornered Copse
TWEAK
FO Waterhall
FO Westdene Green
Woodingdean Wilderness

Apologies:

Fiona Bower – Brunswick Square
Andy Jeavons – CityParks Preston Park
Maureen Bynton – Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden
Kim Howlett – Westdene Green
Maureen Winder – The Level Communities Forum
Bernadette Skinner – Ovingdean Residents & Preservation Society

Non attendees (no apologies): Twenty members/guests who had confirmed they were going to attend did not arrive.

Agenda:

- Cliff Munn – BHGSF Chair - Welcome and Introductions
- Michael Blencowe – Sussex Wildlife Trust - Head of Community Action for Wildlife
- Paul Campbell – B&H CityParks - Park Projects & Strategy Manager
- BREAK
- Mark Syrett – B&H CityParks – Projects Officer
- Sarah Dobson – Programme Manager – Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere
- Cliff Munn – Close & Thanks

Michael Blencowe – Sussex Wildlife Trust – Head of Community Action for Wildlife

Michael's role is to support community action for wildlife across Sussex, including Brighton and Hove. He introduced his colleague Huw Morgan who provides Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) support in Brighton & Hove. SWT support over 150 groups across the county, their website can be found at <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/> and they are expanding this to promote the myriad of different groups they work with. Michael and Huw can provide groups with help and advice on the encouragement and surveying of wildlife. Michael's presentation went on to overview examples of where habitat maps had been created, experts had been engaged and guided walks/talks delivered. He also outlined work they hope to do with B&H on road verges, in the same way they already do with West Sussex County Council. Summing up he offered the services of the SWT Community Action Team asking – 'how can we help you to help wildlife?'. Michael's slides can be seen at the following link <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MichaelBlencowe16thNov2021.pdf>

Paul Campbell – B&H CityParks - Park Projects & Strategy Manager

The meeting welcomed Paul Campbell who talked about the City's Open Spaces strategy around which all the plans for our parks and green spaces are built. This strategy is based on one of the biggest public consultations in the City's history, which had over 3500 responses. Paul talked about the challenges associated with the steady decline in the available budget for parks and stressed the importance of finding new funding sources. Paul wants to make himself more accessible to local green spaces volunteer groups and is keen to ensure volunteers are kept more closely informed on the activities of CityParks and his team. Paul took a number of questions from members. Paul's can be found at the following link.

<http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PaulCampbell16thNov2021.pdf>

Mark Syrett – B&H CityParks – Projects Officer

Mark overviewed the work he is doing in partnership with volunteer groups to access funds for tree planting. The funds include Nature for Climate (£500m between 2020 & 2025), Treescape bids (contractors offering cash matched funds), Plant a Tree for the Jubilee, Council Zero Carbon Fund and the Urban Tree Challenge Fund – where he has worked with 11 volunteer groups so far, 9 of which have been successful in planting a total of 134 trees (worth £123k). Mark went on to explain that identifying good sites for new planting was a challenge. He asked volunteer groups to engage in this for both their green spaces and even private gardens. Mark's key objective is maximising available tree planting funds for Brighton & Hove, he will be writing soon to all Forum members laying out the process and inviting them to get involved. Mark's slides can be seen at the following link

<http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MarkSyrett16thNov2021.pdf>

Sarah Dobson – Programme Manager – Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere

Sarah spoke about the Changing Chalk Programme which is a new 'Greening our Cities' project which has just received National Lottery funding. The programme is being run by a number of partners including the National Trust and Southdowns National Park. In Brighton & Hove it involves the construction of new 'bee banks' around the city onto which locally propagated chalk downland wildflowers will be planted. Sarah is looking for sites around the city and for help from volunteer groups in bring the project alive. Training will be given on how to propagate and nurture after wild flowers. Sarah's Powerpoint slides and detailed notes can be seen at the following link <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SarahDobson16thNov2021.pptx>

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm. All present were thanked for attending.