

Friends of Hopwas Wood



Issue Number 16

September 2015

Membership & Subscriptions

The membership and setting subscriptions for 2015-16 was discussed at the AGM and it was agreed that an annual subscription of £5 should be paid by each Member.

The following is the current conditions as per the constitution regarding subscriptions:

"Subscriptions shall be payable to give a true representation of the Membership. The Annual General Meeting shall determine the level of subscriptions and the date for payment for the next year. Notification of the subscription amount and the due date agreed at the AGM will be sent to each member. Any Member falling more than three months in arrears shall be excluded from membership subject to adjudication by the Executive Committee and notice of such action being given in advance to the defaulting Member. A Committee Member falling in default under this rule shall forfeit Committee status forthwith."

Subscription payments are now due and payment can be made using any of the following methods:

1. **CHEQUE:** Cheques should be made out to 'Friends of Hopwas Wood' and sent to the Treasurer, Martin Handley, at 8 Newlyn Close, Lichfield, WS14 9SH. If you want a receipt please let Martin know. Cheques can also be given to Ray Vanstone.
2. **INTERNET BANKING:** Payment can be made via internet banking to the Friends Nat West bank account number **73530662** sort code **53-70-15**. If you are making payment in this way please ensure that you identify the payment with your membership number and name. Please notify Martin by e-mail at mhandley1@aol.com to say that you are making payment this way.
3. **CASH:** Cash should be given to Ray Vanstone. **However methods of payment 1. and 2.**

are preferred as they provide a clear audit trail of payments made.

Some Members have already paid their subscription for this year and this is acknowledged on this Newsletter as appropriate. We are bound by our constitution so if you do not pay your subscription by 31 December 2015 we will have to assume that you no longer wish to be a member. We do value your support and hope that you consider it worthwhile to remain a member.

If you would prefer to receive communication from the Friends via email and you have not already supplied your e-mail address, then please send your email address to Martin Handley.



Neighbourhood Plan

As you may know Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council have been developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, which will give local people more say on planning decisions and will have statutory weight if it is adopted. Importantly the Plan includes a policy for the protection of Hopwas Wood as follows:

POLICY H1

Hopwas Wood is an important visual and ecological asset within the District of Lichfield as ancient woodland and shall be retained in perpetuity. A long-term management plan shall be established for the wood together with ensuring that public access is maintained through the retention of existing public rights of way.

The Plan has been out for consultation prior to submission to Lichfield District Council and examination. If the Plan is found to be sound, it will be voted on through a referendum and if more than 50% of voters vote yes for it to be adopted, it will become a statutory document for consideration when development is proposed within the parish.

Minerals Core Strategy

It has been a year since the successful campaign to remove the proposed inclusion of part of Hopwas Wood in the Staffordshire County Council new Minerals Local Plan. The final draft of the new Plan was consulted on this summer based on the following timetable:

Minerals Local Plan programme - August 2015

Published final draft Plan for formal consultation	10 June to 31 July 2015
Present the Plan with/without modifications to Full Council	December 2015
Submit the Plan to the Secretary of State for examination	January 2016
Examination by Inspector	Spring 2016
Inspector's Report	Autumn 2016
Present the Plan to Full Council for adoption	Autumn/Winter 2016
Adopt the Plan	Autumn/Winter 2016

The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Local Plan.

Lafarge Holcim Merger

As you may be aware Lafarge and Holcim have now joined to form the LafargeHolcim group. Prior to completion of the merger the Lafarge Tarmac part of the company was sold to the Irish building company CRH. As we understand the situation CRH have now rebranded Lafarge Tarmac as Tarmac. This has a number of implications as we do not know what view CRH will have over the future of Hopwas Wood. We will be endeavoring to make contact with the company in due course.

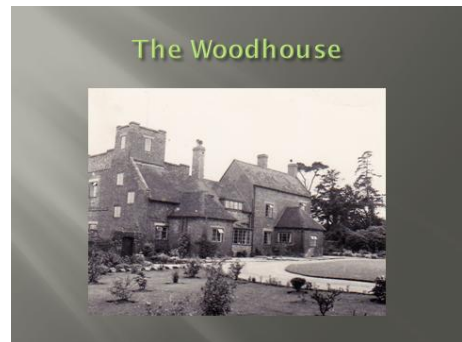
Web Site

As you are aware we have a web site with a domain name of friendsofhopwaswood.co.uk. The site has a number of pages as follows: Home, About Us, History, News, Newsletters, Photos, Apply for Membership, and

Constitution. The News page is a key part of the site as it provides details of activities as they occur. Please visit the site if you have not already done so.

History of the Wood

As you may have seen from the web site we have updated the history section as much as we can. We continue to try and find interesting historical facts about the Wood and in this respect we would be very grateful if anyone has interesting facts that we could include in the site. If so please contact the Chairman via e-mail.



Feedback

It is hoped that this newsletter has been informative and a further newsletter will be published prior to the 2016 AGM. The Committee would welcome any comments and views from Members and these can be forwarded to any Committee Member.

Current Committee Members

Chairman: Ray Vanstone(rayvanstone@btinternet.com)
 Vice Chairman: Lorna Bushell
 Secretary: Barbara Stubbs
 Treasurer: Martin Handley
 Tom Jackson
 Keith Anderton

