

Friends of Hopwas Wood



Issue Number 18

September 2016

Membership & Subscriptions

The membership and setting subscriptions for 2016-17 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 2016** 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 (mhandley1@aol.com).



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. The Plan was found to be sound, and was voted on through a referendum on 29th. September 2016. There was a 26% turnout, of which 86% voted "Yes" in favour of the Plan. It can now be adopted as a statutory document for consideration when development is proposed within the parish. The adoption has to be ratified by Lichfield District Council's Planning Committee.

Minerals Core Strategy

The Minerals Local Plan is progressing based on the following timetable:

Minerals Local Plan programme - August 2016	
Inspector's Report	Autumn 2016
Present the Plan to Full Council for adoption	Autumn/Winter 2016
Adopt the Plan	Autumn/Winter 2016

It is likely that the Plan will not be adopted until the New Year. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Local Plan.

Tarmac

As you may be aware Tarmac is now part of the Irish building company CRH. We made contact with the company and received the following response:

"As reported in the last edition, Tarmac is now owned by CRH and continues to operate under the Tarmac name. Whilst this is the start of a new chapter in the life of the company, the control and management of our land assets will remain with the Tarmac regional management team.

Subject to legal agreements, planning permission has been granted for an extension to the existing Hints Quarry which will see operations continue at Hints for at least the next eight years. In the meantime, we continue to manage our Hopwas woods landholding as commercial woodland although with the exception of general maintenance, there are no plans for any thinning or clear felling works this year. The bridlepath running along the western boundary of the woods has recently been strimmed and it is proposed to undertake some sympathetic strimming in and around the pet cemetery in the near future.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the amount of vandalism on the land, with not only fences, but some trees and shrubs being removed without authority. We have increased our monitoring regime and endeavour to repair damaged fences as soon as possible, but if anyone should see any unusual activity in the woods please do let the company know. If anyone has any further queries I am very happy to be contacted via email.

Nick Atkins - Estates Manager"
nick.atkins@tarmac.com

Whittington Ranges Update

We have received notification from Major Salisbury at the MoD regarding the current situation with respect to access to the Wood:

"The works that were planned to be undertaken within Hopwas Wood have in the main been completed. Some minor works are still in progress but these will be able to be completed without any impact upon Public access. This is good news as it means I am able now to open the area of Hopwas Wood to full Public access. Any future closure will be when the ranges will be in use and will be notified by firing times and local media outlets. That was the good news, unfortunately our review of the main ranges has shown we still have some corrective works to complete. This will ensure we are able to carry out Military firing safely with no risk to the Public or ourselves. The area of the main ranges will continue to remain closed until we are able to complete the corrective works and has been closed via the County Council until the 1st October 2016. This will include the Bridleway that crosses the ranges meaning there will be no access what so ever via the ranges to where the bridleway enters Hopwas Hay Lane track into the Hopwas Woods area. Areas within the range complex continue to be worked upon and are marked out of bounds as we continue to carry out the necessary works. Be aware please of the notices in place and adhere to the information given to ensure we keep everybody safe. The bridleway from the White house will remain open for Public access at all times. I will continue to keep you fully up to speed on any developments as they arise."

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 2017 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 and Keith Anderton

