

Friends of Hopwas Wood



Issue Number 22

March 2020

Annual General Meeting

THERE WILL BE NO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The existing committee will continue to keep a watching brief over the woods.

Subscription payments for the year 2020/21 have been suspended. For those of you with standing orders you can change the payment to next year if you wish.

Current Activities

The Committee has not been very active over the last year as pleasingly there have been no major issues for consideration that directly affect the Wood and long may that continue. That said they do monitor the activities of the landowners when aware of such activities particularly along the public rights of way.

If any member have concerns over activities in the Wood please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman.

Tarmac and MoD

Tarmac and the MoD were asked for comments on current activities in the area and the following has been received from Major Jim Salisbury:

As to an update on the woods obviously we continue to carry out shooting activities on the Whittington range which when taking place do close off our section of the woods

You may feel we have had an increase to the shooting which there is a slight one this is mainly due to the time of year as Reserve Soldiers come to the end of their training year if they have not reached the required shooting standard they have to do so by the 31 Mar each year.

We also see Regulars having to reach the required standard to be in a position to support the Police for any UK Ops if required and again to be fully qualified to be deployed for Operations if required abroad.

The next couple of months are the traditional time of the year where all the Armed Forces prepare for the Summer inter Unit and Inter Service shooting competitions.

So all round a fairly busy time for all.

We have seen some use of the woods for what we would class as dry training which would involve training without live firing but would see the use of blank rounds and possibly pyrotechnics as they practise their tactics

Major Salisbury has been thanked for his update.

Minerals Local Plan

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) are required to monitor the Local Plan generally on an annual basis which can help inform whether there is a need to undertake a partial or full update of the local plan. The last report published by SCC was for the period 2018-19.

Based on the findings of this report, there is no current indication to suggest that there is a need to update either the Waste Local Plan or the Minerals Local Plan.

An extract from the report: *M1. Does the Plan make sufficient provision for Sand and Gravel? – Yes. Discussion: The 10-year average sales of sand and gravel from Staffordshire sites is 4.836 million tonnes. This is less than the level of provision used as part of Policy 1 of the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) i.e. 5 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum, to assess the allocation of additional sand and gravel resources to meet needs up to the end of 2030. Using the latest 10 year sales average would also mean the landbank of*

permitted reserves as of 1 January 2019 would last for 16 years. This comfortably exceeds the target of maintaining a 7-year landbank.

E-mail

One of the easiest ways of communicating with members is via e-mail therefore if you are on e-mail and have not already given us your address, then please send your email address to Martin Handley at mhandley@aol.com .

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.

On the Home page there is a list of Recent Posts which importantly include details of the Wood closures on the MoD site.

Please visit the site if you have not already done so.

Current Committee Members

Chairman: Ray Vanstone (rayvanstone@btinternet.com)

Vice Chairman: Lorna Bushell

Secretary: Barbara Stubbs

Treasurer: Martin Handley

Tom Jackson



STAY SAFE