

# *Annual General Meeting and Update*

The AGM will be held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. May 2024** commencing at **7.30 p.m.** at the Coton and Hopwas Social Club, School Lane, Hopwas. The date of the AGM is later than normal due to the Club having had refurbishment work. The meeting will elect the committee for the coming year and reports will be presented for the past year including an update of current activities affecting the Wood.

**It is important that there is a good attendance by Members so that views can be aired and the current working of the Friends discussed to ensure that the elected committee has a clear mandate for action.**

In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Members of the Committee should be submitted to the Chairman 72 hours before the meeting and supported by at least two Members and bear the signature of the person nominated indicating their willingness to stand.

## **Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes of previous AGM**
4. Chairman`s Report
5. Treasurer`s Report
6. Election of Committee
7. Subscriptions
8. Any other business

## *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 particularly along the public rights of way.

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

## *MoD and Tarmac*

The MoD and Tarmac have been asked for updates on their activities and the following has been received from Major Jim Salisbury:

*"The ranges at Whittington which includes the area of Hopwas Woods that falls within the MoD boundaries continue to be well used. Alongside the ranges being used for live firing activities an area of the woods is designated by us as a Field Training Area where non range activities low level skills training can take place.*

*These activities do include the use of blank rounds and pyro technics which precludes any approach within 100mtrs. The only legal right of access when non range activities take place remains as the Hopwas hey Lane Bridleway all other areas remain out of bounds at all times*

*The intrusions by non-permitted parties continue to cause us issues and we are carrying out actions to reduce them whilst at the same time gathering intelligence for further actions including Police assistance.*

*The support from you all is always welcomed and does assist us in keeping all safe and the woods intact and we fully recognise how important the Woods are for all the Good people out there"*

Major Salisbury has been thanked for his update.

The following are the comments from Fisher German who act on behalf of Tarmac:

- 1. Tarmac are currently reviewing tree safety works on the southern boundary, this is following a H&S report. As and when any work is taking place, signage will be put on the site denoting where the work is taking place, together with stringent Health and Safety measures applied by any selected contractor.*
- 2. Signage is likely to be refreshed across the site to direct people to use the Public Rights of way across the land.*
- 3. Periodic inspections are taking place as part of a monitoring programme across the site.*

They have been thanked for their 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 2020-21.

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 (MLP).

An extract from the report reads:

### ***Minerals M1. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for Sand and Gravel? – Yes***

***Discussion:*** *The 10-year average sales of sand and gravel from Staffordshire sites is 4.722 million tonnes. This is less than the level of provision made under Policy 1 of the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) i.e., 5 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum, used to assess the allocation of additional sand and gravel resources to meet needs up to the end of 2030. Using the MLP level of provision of 5 million tonnes per annum would mean the landbank of permitted reserves as of 1 January 2023 would last for 12.3 years. This 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 [mhandley1@aol.com](mailto:mhandley1@aol.com).

## *Web Site*

As you are aware we have a web site with a domain name of [friendsofhopwaswood.co.uk](http://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