

# Friends of Hopwas Wood

Issue Number 12

September 2013

## Committee Activities

The Committee has met on one occasion since the AGM to discuss matters relating to the Wood. The main matters discussed have been membership, the web site, the notice board and the thinning works both on Tarmacs land and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) land. With respect to the MoD land the thinning programme is still on hold until the Head Forester is satisfied that it would be in the long term interest of the wood as part of an agreed long term management plan which has yet to be prepared. The condition of the tracks through the wood as a result of the heavy vehicles on what was very wet ground has been raised with Tarmac and the site manager has been informed of the need to level out the ruts in the wood floor following on from the thinning works. Work was started in September and is now complete. In addition consideration is being given to the installation of more robust barriers to prevent quad and motors bikes accessing the wood from Tarmacs land as this continues to be a problem.

The matter of providing a notice board at the entrance to the wood off A51 was raised with Tarmac and they consider that it is a good idea but until there is an agreed network of footpaths through the site it is a little premature and they have not had time to deal with such a non-operational matter. However, it still remains on their `to do` list. With respect to the reference to a network of footpaths this relates to discussion the Committee have had with Tarmac regarding the provision of an informal route through the wood in the hope that this would reduce trespass and damage.

If anyone has any concerns or queries, they should contact Nick Atkins, Estates Manager. Telephone:01902382083; Mobile:07702635323; or nick.atkins@lafargetarmac.com

As reported in the last Newsletter the Committee had raised concern over the fact that the work that has been carried out by Tarmac does not comply with the licence issued by the Forestry Commission (FC). This matter has been taken up with FC.



## Membership & Subscriptions

The membership and setting subscriptions for 2013-14 was discussed at the AGM. Following consideration of an amendment to the constitution, to clarify the situation regarding members who have not paid, the constitution has been amended as follows:

*"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."*

It was agreed that an annual subscription of £5 should be paid by each Member.

**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.
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](mailto: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 2013 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 then please send your email address to Martin or if there are changes to your name or address. If you want a receipt please let Martin know.



## *Minerals Core Strategy*

As previously reported Staffordshire County Council has now commenced the preparation of a new Minerals Local Plan. The new Plan, when adopted, will replace their current plan. The new Plan will set out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for future mineral related development within Staffordshire over the next 15 years.

The current timetable is as follows:

Prepare the Local Aggregate Assessment, the Statement of Community Involvement and the Scoping Report	March to June 2013
Notify key participants on commencement of Plan (Reg. 18)	July 2013
Consult on Draft Plan (Reg. 18)	November 2013
Consult on Proposed Submission Draft Plan (Reg.19)	September 2014
Submit Plan for examination to the Secretary of State	January 2015
Adopt the Plan (Reg.26)	January 2016

This will be a key area that the Committee will be involved with and if you want to keep up-to-date with the situation please visit:

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/mineralscorestrategy/home.aspx>

## *Neighbourhood Plan*

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council have decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, which will give local people more say on planning decisions and carries statutory weight. Lichfield District Council has now designated the Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area. Neighbourhood Plans can be used to protect local amenities such as Hopwas Woods, can decide where housing and community buildings should be developed, and can provide for traffic management, recreation and other facilities for local people. For more information on Neighbourhood Plans a useful website is:

<http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/> and details of neighbourhood plans locally can be found on the District Council's website at

[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk)

A Steering group has now been established and Ray Vanstone the Friends Chairman is a member of the Group.

## *Wild about Tamworth*

Wild about Tamworth is a joint initiative between Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Tamworth Borough Council, involving local people in improving the wild spaces of Tamworth for both people and wildlife. This years event was the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The Friends had a stall to promote our activities but the attendance at the whole event was a little disappointing primarily due to the events location. That said there were people who showed interest in what the Friends are about so it was still worth it even taking account of the number of times we were nearly blown away. More robust displays needed for the future!



## *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. 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.

## **Friends of Hopwas Wood**



## *Feedback*

It is hoped that this newsletter has been informative and a further newsletter will be published the prior to the 2014 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](mailto:rayvanstone@btinternet.com))  
 Vice Chairman: Lorna Bushell  
 Secretary: Barbara Stubbs  
 Treasurer: Martin Handley  
 Tom Jackson  
 Keith Anderton