



# **BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

**www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk**

*Darren Tilley – Executive Officer & Town Clerk*

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## **FRANKLIN PARK COMMUNITY ORCHARD/MEADOW PROJECT**

### **WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

**6.30pm meet in Franklin Park Car Park for a walk through the Community Orchard**

**7.15pm Tea/Coffee and biscuits available in the Fosse Room, Braunstone Civic Centre**

**7.30pm Meeting of the Working Group, Fosse Room, Braunstone Civic Centre**

### **AGENDA**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Report of the Last Meeting**  
To receive a report of the last meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (Enclosed)
3. **Activities 2015**
  - a) To consider any formats and dates for open days during 2013
4. **Arrangements for permanently opening the Orchard**
  - a) To receive an update on progress with the Action Plan (Enclosed)
  - b) To consider any further or additional items of work.
5. **Any Other Business**



**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

**FRANKLIN PARK WORKING GROUP**

**REPORT OF MEETING HELD 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Mr N Brown (In the Chair), Mr R Berrington, Mrs I Day, Mr J Dodd, Mr J Johnson, Mrs J Storer.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-** Mrs P Hurd, Community Development Officer, Mr I Kennett, Senior Groundsperson, Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs J Dodd and Mrs J Nickson

**2. Report of the Last Meeting**

The Report of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 was taken as read and signed by the Chairperson.

**3. Activities for 2014**

a) To receive feedback on activities since the last meeting

Blackberry picking

The Community Orchard was opened on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> for Blackberry picking. John Dodd reported that he opened up the orchard on both days with 15 residents attending on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. It was agreed that Fruit Picking days needed to be publicised more widely using posters, website, Facebook and Twitter.

Members debated the when the Orchard was opened for fruit picking as it was noted that the date for the plum picking was too late and fruit had already started to drop from the trees. It was suggested that dates for this should be decided nearer the time depending on the fruit available, weather conditions etc.

b) To receive a progress report on activities arranged for Apple Day, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Mrs Hurd reported that the following items had been confirmed:

Bouncy Castle  
Hawkwise Falconry  
Highway Spinney Group  
Coles Nurseries  
Tree Faces – Braunstone Wildlife Group  
Apple Produce Competition  
Cake Samples  
Refreshments

It was noted that there were no volunteers to run the apple crushing, longest apple peel, apple juice samples and information stall. Mr N Brown confirmed that Councillors would organise the apple crushing. Mrs Hurd agreed to contact Mr & Mrs Selvidge to see if they are able to organise the Longest Apple Peel. The apple juice samples and information stalls would be unmanned if no volunteers were available.

- c) To consider additional activities / working days for 2014/2015  
It was agreed that pruning would need to take place before the next meeting of the Committee in February 2015 and would need to be arranged during the winter months.

Dates for other activities would be considered at the February 2015 meeting.

4. **Arrangements for permanently opening the Orchard**

- a) To receive correspondence  
A letter was received and noted by members from Mr John Dodd regarding the opening of the Community Orchard
- b) To receive the resolution of the Policy & Resources Committee (21<sup>st</sup> August 2014)  
The resolution from the Policy & Resources Committee was received and noted. Members discussed the option of opening the Community Orchard to the public. Concerns were raised about glass, rubbish etc. in the undergrowth that had no yet been removed and concern over the pond. Committee members were assured that the Town Council were committed to opening the Community Orchard on a permanent basis once any concerns over health and safety had been addressed, entrances cleared and an Action Plan agreed for the ongoing maintenance of the Orchard area. Mr N Brown recommended that the site is opened permanently in the Autumn/Winter months when evenings were dark which may discourage damage to the site.

It was suggested that the brambles running along the side of Franklin Park be cleared back and the rubbish removed and the entrances cleared in preparation for the site being opened permanently. It was agreed that this site was likely to grow back quickly before the site is open to the public. Mr Kennett suggested that this would need to be done in the Spring or Summer months as the ground tended to be very wet in winter months.

- c) To receive risk assessments for the Community Orchard  
Risk Assessments were received and noted
- d) To develop an appropriate Action Plan  
The following initial Action Plan was agreed:
1. To assess the risks
  2. Develop an Action Plan to remove or reduce the risks
  3. Develop an Management Plan to carry our maintenance of the site, pruning and fruit picking etc.

5. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.


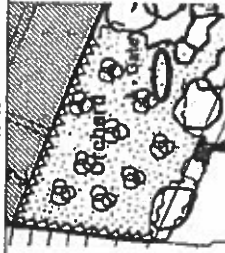
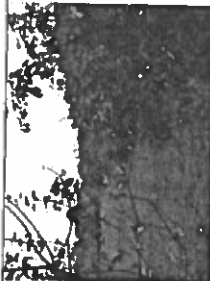
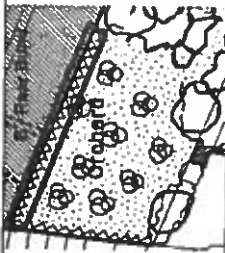




6. **Termination of the Meeting**


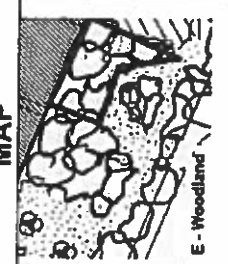

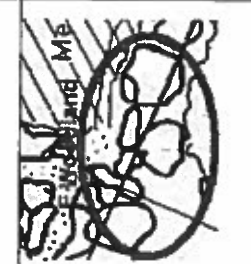
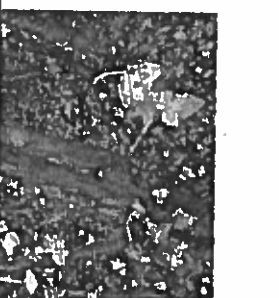

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

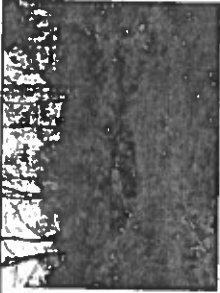

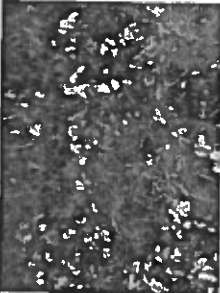
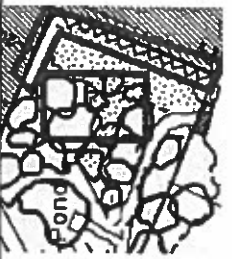

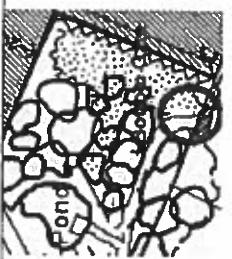
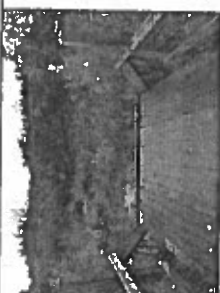

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ (CHAIR)

DATED \_\_\_\_\_

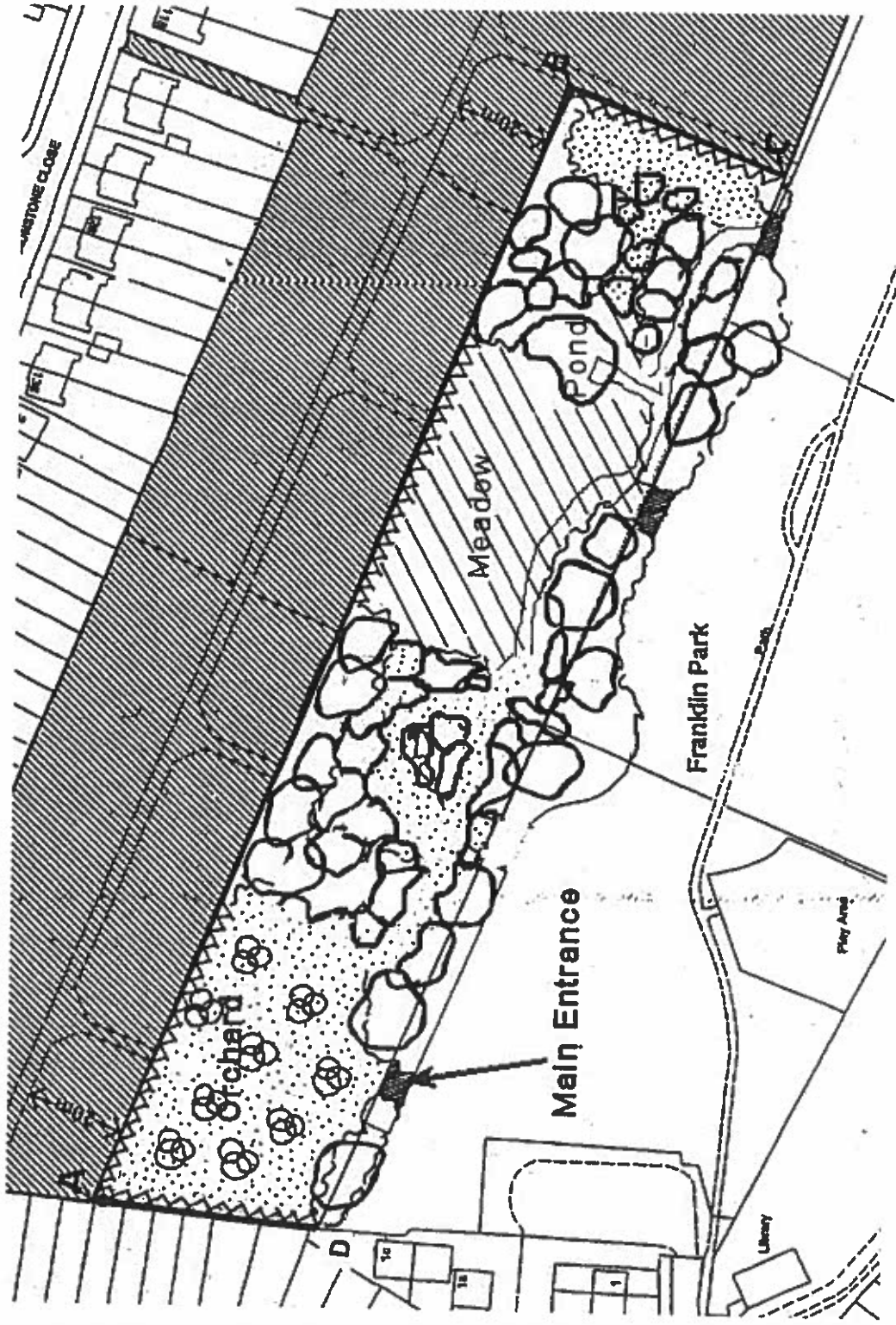
**FRANKLIN PARK COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND MEADOW AREA PROJECT – ACTION PLAN FOR OPENING**

SECTION	PICTURE	ACTION / REASON	DATE	MAP
(a) Orchard Machine Access Gate and Railings		<p>Extend Machine Access gate to 8ft by removing part or all of the section of fence to the right. Retain pedestrian gate to the left. Ensure that new gate and posts are in keeping with existing fence and gates.</p> <p><i>To enable access with the tractor in order to maintain bunds, hedges and trees with flail arm.</i></p>	December 2014 – February 2015	
(b) Orchard Maintenance of Rear Bunds		<p>Cut back trees, shrubs, brambles and hedge growth on rear bund.</p> <p><i>To prevent overgrowth, ensure sustainable maintenance and to stop encroachment on the Orchard Trees</i></p>	February 2015 – April 2015	
(c) Orchard Maintenance of adjacent Woodland		<p>Clear asbestos from Woodland area adjacent to Orchard and Allotments. Remove self-setting Ash. Retain all other existing trees.</p> <p><i>Access to Woodland is easy in winter months and asbestos poses a danger. To prevent Ash Trees taking over woodland.</i></p>	January 2015 – March 2015	
(d) Main Pathway Maintenance of hedgerows		<p>Cut overhanging branches and brambles along the right hand side of the main pathway from the Orchard towards the Meadow prior to Blackberries growing.</p> <p><i>To ensure that the growth of brambles and bushes do not encroach upon the Main Pathway during the Spring and Summer Season.</i></p>	January 2015 – March 2015	

SECTION	PICTURE	ACTION / REASON	DATE	MAP
(e) Meadow Remove waste items from Woodland		Remove waste items, cutting into bushes, brambles etc. where necessary, from Woodland adjacent to Allotments and the Meadow, items include metal growing frames, old tyres, remains of asbestos sheds.  <i>Access to Woodland is easy in winter months and asbestos and other items pose a danger.</i>	January 2015 – March 2015	
(f) Woodland adjacent to Franklin Park  Remove waste items from Woodland		Remove waste items, cutting into bushes, brambles etc. where necessary, from Woodland adjacent to Franklin Park, items include metal, wood, metal and wooden growing frames, broken glass, general waste.  Some trees will need to be removed in order to remove old metal growing frames and a watering can.  Equipment needed includes chainsaws and loppers. Potential volunteer action day with paths cleared into area and removed items collected on the main path prior to being transported in bulk to a skip at the entrance/car park.  <i>Access to Woodland is easy from both the Orchard/Meadow and Franklin Park and these waste items pose a danger.</i>	January 2015 – March 2015	
(g) Meadow Maintenance of Rear Bunds		Cut back trees, shrubs, brambles and hedge growth on rear bund.  <i>To prevent overgrowth, ensure sustainable maintenance and to stop encroachment on the Meadow.</i>	February 2015 – April 2015	

SECTION	PICTURE	ACTION / REASON	DATE	MAP
(h) Middle Entrance Open Entrance		Open Middle Entrance: cut back trees, branches, hedges shrubs and brambles. Ensure level surface and clear pathway from Park to Meadow through the gate.  <i>To allow easy public access to and from all parts of the site, ensuring that there are no dead ends where people can get trapped.</i>	September 2015	
(i) Lower Orchard Area Remove Waste and Maintenance of Bunds		Remove waste items, cutting into bushes, brambles etc. where necessary, from Woodland adjacent to Pond and Lower Orchard, items include metal and glass. Cut back trees, shrubs, brambles and hedge growth on bunds.  <i>Metal and glass in wooded area poses a danger. To prevent overgrowth, ensure sustainable maintenance and to stop encroachment.</i>	January 2015 – March 2015	
(j) Bottom Entrance Open Entrance		Open Bottom Entrance: cut back trees, branches, hedges shrubs and brambles. Ensure level surface and clear pathway from Park to Lower Orchard through the gate.  <i>To allow easy public access to and from all parts of the site, ensuring that there are no dead ends where people can get trapped.</i>	September 2015	
(k) Pond Walkway and Signage		Ensure risk of slip hazard on boardwalk is removed by attaching suitable non slip surface, e.g. chicken wire. Ensure end of boardwalk is stable – slight movement currently, undertake works to ensure stability. Secure Gate and ensure fencing around the pond is secure. Put up suitable safety/warning signs in appropriate locations.  <i>Pond is deep with steep edges and contains reeds; there is a risk of drowning if someone falls/slips into the pond.</i>	July – August 2015	
Information Boards/Signs		Installation of Information Boards and Signage throughout the site.	April – August 2015	

MAP OF WHOLE SITE



Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014



