THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Environmental Forum** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 20 July 2016.

Present: Councillors Martin Brooks (Chairman), Chris Lloyd, Reena Ranger and one representative from the following organisations:-

 Parish Councillor Liz Burns Abbots Langley Parish Council

 Parish Councillor Yessica Gould Watford Rural Parish Council

 Graham Everett Watford Friends of the Earth and Friends of Croxley Common Moor

 Peter Loader Spokes (South West Herts Cycling

 Group)

 Daniel Cooper Affinity Water

 Keith Pursall Maple Lodge Conservation Society

 Dudley Edmunds Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

Officers: Kay FitzGerald, Biodiversity Projects Officer.

Also in attendance: Sandy Belloni (Groundwork South) and Bob Sherran (Ricky Green Social).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angela Killick, Stephen King and Kate Turner as well as from Larsen Rivers, Sally Findlay and Tony Bradford.

**EF03/16 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM HELD ON 20 JULY 2016**

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|  | **ACTION** | **LEAD ORGANISATION** |
|  | To note that the action table summarising the meeting of the Environmental Forum held on 23 March 2016 was confirmed as a correct record. | ALL |
|  | Matters arising:To note that Cllr. Scarth had written to the Highways Operations Manager, at Hertfordshire County Council, in April to request that the three grass verges in the Three Rivers district which had been designated as Wildlife Sites were:1. Cut no later than March and no earlier than August; except for road safety reasons.
2. Had all of the arisings removed.

Cllr. Scarth also requested that selected verges within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as any sloping verges, followed the same management technique.As Cllr. Scarth had not received a response Cllr. Brooks said he would contact Hertfordshire County Council again. | Cllr. Brooks |
|  | Matters arising:To note that since the last meeting of the Environmental Forum Keith Pursall had discovered that a company called Shannon, rather than Thames Water as he first thought, owned the area of land he mentioned at the last meeting. | ALL |
|  | To note that the Environmental Forum thanked Sandy Belloni, from Groundwork South, for his insightful and interesting presentation on the work with which he is involved.Sandy.Belloni@groundwork.org.uk | ALL |
|  | To note that Cllr. Brooks suggested Sandy could make a presentation, relating to his work on rivers, to local schools. | ALL |
|  | To note the report from the Biodiversity Projects Officer. | ALL |
|  | To note the information exchange that took place between the member organisations present at the meeting including: | ALL |
|  | Cllr. Brooks asked if the Oak Processionary Moth was present in the Three Rivers district.KF said that, at present, there are no confirmed populations of the moth in the district. | ALL |
|  | Peter Loader informed the Forum that SPOKES had recently celebrated their 20th year with a picnic and bike ride. | ALL |
|  | Dudley Edmunds said that the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England has no specific concerns at the moment. However, there was always concern over pressure on the Green Belt and general development proposals in the area. | ALL |
|  | Cllr. Gould commented that she had noticed less bees in her garden this year and that she has recently seen deer on Moor Park Golf Course. | ALL |
|  | Keith Pursall notified the Forum that the Maple Lodge Conservation Society will be holding their last open day of the season on Sunday 14 August. | ALL |
|  | Cllr. Burns told the Forum that their Garden Society had three bee hives, one of which was currently empty so they were on the look out for a swarm.Cllr. Burns also said that they had just launched their Neighbourhood Plan.Cllr. Burns informed the Environmental Forum that TRDC had recently been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Part of the money was used to put on a Heritage Day at Leavesden Country Park on 9 July. The whole event was “stonkingly good!”. | ALL |
|  | Cllr. Lloyd stated that Croxley Green Parish Council had recently published their Neighbourhood Plan for consultation. | ALL |
|  | Cllr. Ranger asked about the culling of grey squirrels.KF said that grey squirrels were only killed in areas where there were good numbers of red squirrels so that the population was protected.Cllr. Ranger said that she had also seen deer on Moor Park Golf Course.Cllr. Ranger informed the Forum that she was now a member of the Herts Sustainability Forum and would feed back any relevant information to the Environment Forum. | ALL |
|  | Cllr. Brooks said that he was concerned about the MUGA in Leavesden Country Park. The YMCA has recently made some changes to the MUGA and he is concerned about the impact it will have on wildlife. | ALL |
|  | Speaker for the next meeting of the Forum:Cllr. Brooks suggested that someone involved in the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan came along to the next Environmental Forum. The Forum agreed that this would be suitable. | TRDC |

**EF04/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

 The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 9 November 2016.

**CHAIRMAN**