

4 Facilities and Surveys

There have been no new facilities funded by Friends of Hob Moor on the Moor in the last year. Elizabeth Smith is still in consultation with Dr Helen Goodchild of York University's Dept of Archaeology about the possibility of doing a project with some students and members of the community on the south west end of the main track on the Moor to see whether its age can be determined and to see what sort of foundations there might be.

5 Practical Work

Members continue to be involved with litter clearing and tree monitoring. Information notices about various aspects of life and events on the Moor are placed in the notice boards throughout the year. We also keep a keen eye out for any threats to the Moor (see end). We are pleased to report than in the last three years that there has been very little motor bike usage on the Moor.

6 Liaison

We have continued to work with various officers of City of York. Jenny Cairns has attended some of our committee meetings and continues to respond quickly to any concerns we have despite the extra pressures now on her in her new role. We continue to liaise with the Police, Planning [over proposed new developments including the Our Lady school site] Cycle officers [over the cycle track and cycle barriers] the farmer [over the summer grazing of cattle] the Environmental Agency [over beck clearance] and many others.

7 The Newsletter

The Newsletter has been produced twice annually as before, with Madeline Evans continuing in the editorial role. Members' feedback indicates that this continues to be one of the most valued activities of the organisation. The newsletter was sent to 61 members by post and some 85 by email and the respective numbers for households was 45 and 68, and it is available on the website. It would be much appreciated if any members presently receiving the newsletter by post and who would be prepared to receive it by email could let us know.

8 Stall at Local Events

We attended events at Foxwood Country Park and West Bank Park Summer Fairs. We also put a table with leaflets and display on the Moor on 17th May allowing us to meet walkers and cyclists on the Moor. New members have joined at these events, as well as existing members keeping in touch with us. Presently there are no thoughts to conduct our own fair on Hob Moor because of lack of helpers, safety issues and the cost.

9 Topical Issues

The issues and concerns around the development on the site of the Our Lady's RC Primary School with its impact on the Moor has dominated the work of committee members meaning that other work on other issues or possible developments for the future of Hob Moor and the Friends of Hob Moor have been severely reduced. The development was approved by the Council at the December 2013 Planning Meeting (after a deferral at the November meeting) to allow 55 houses to be built on the site instead of the 29 originally approved by the Council's Local Plan. Numerous letters from the committee, Friends of Hob Moor and other members of the public, about concerns around the development's impact on the Moor including water drainage, were sent to the Council Planning Department and published on the Council Planning website. Work on the site started in March this year with controversy immediately round the felling of trees and a fire at the old school where bats were still nesting. There are concerns as well about the drainage problems which have prompted a variation in the originally passed plan to raise the height of houses at floor and roof level. There will also be a three metre buffer zone with hedge around the perimeter meaning this land will be lost from Higher Level Stewardship.

We are concerned for the future of the Friends of Hob Moor. We need more members, and from all stages of life, even though the number of members has increased slightly since last year; the situation might be far worse without the large proportion of life members, six year members and standing order members. In addition it is very difficult to get people to help with events or to join the committee

We hope next year will be a more positive one for Hob Moor and the Friends.

The Management Committee - October 2014