

Lady Bay Community Association Public Meeting and AGM Minutes Saturday 19th November 2022 2pm

Apologies: Committee member John Osborne; Monica Pallis of Plastic Free Lady Bay; Lady Bay Scout Leader.

Present: 58, including County Councillor Penny Gowland (PG) & Rushcliffe Borough Councillors Richard & Sue Mallender, Reverend Jonathan Mole, Vicar, Lady Bay Church (JM)

Election of Officers: Secretary & Treasurer, Sue Mallender (SM) & James Strawbridge (JS) respectively, proposed by Sian Trafford, seconded by Celia Easteal & Gill Stephenson respectively. A vote was taken & both were elected.

Election of Committee: Richard Arblaster (RA), Celia Easteal (CE), Richard Mallender (RM), Maureen Mitchell (MM), John Osborne, Gill Stephenson (GS), Chris Trafford (CT), Sian Trafford (ST), Tim Woods (TW). Proposed by SM seconded by Steve Charters (SC). A vote was taken & all were elected.

Treasurer's Report: JS presented the accounts which were displayed on the screen. The balance is £4,090.73, significantly down on last year. The printing for the newsletter in the spring was £816, last autumn's was £428. The new format newsletter printing cost was £206. We have paid for the website costs including the renewal of the domain name. Money spent by FIELDS for expenses will be transferred into to LBCA account. There should be some interest coming on the account.

Questions & Comments:

Does LBCA have any income?

SM: No

CT: The newsletter ads used to pay for the printing of the newsletter, sometimes with a profit. Recently we have had fewer adverts & greater printing costs & have been making a loss.

What about the Lady Bay Community Fund?

The Community Fund money comes from funds raised at the Open Gardens event & is for groups or individuals who need funding for a cause, event or purchase. Applications can be made to the trustees in October & March. As there hasn't been an open gardens event since 2019 the money in the Community Fund is also much reduced.

ST: The Community Fund is not LBCA's money. If you have adopted a planter you can apply for £30 for compost, plants, bulbs, seeds.

The bank used, Santander, invests in fossil fuels, LBCA should be using an ethical bank.

JS: We will look into doing this.

The above suggestion received a round of applause.

Update on the Grantham Canal:

Tony Osbond, General Manager (TO), Rob Cook, Head Ranger (RC), Grantham Canal Society (GCS). There are display boards with information in the room. A presentation was given which included the history of the canal & the GCS & plans for the future.

History of the Grantham Canal: It took 5 years to build the canal which was opened in 1797. It was closed in 1936 & was designated as remaindered in 1969. There was a plan to fill it in! Restoration began in 1970s. 3 locks were restored in the 1990s in Woolsthorpe at the Grantham end. A slipway was restored to allow boats to be repaired. At the eastern end there is a navigable section. The Hickling Basin has been renovated by the E. Midlands Development Agency. There is a dry section at Cropwell Bishop where the puddled clay lining has been damaged due to the presence of gypsum. The canal passes through 3 counties: Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Notts.

History of the GCS: The GCS has been a registered charity for 53 years & has about 800 members, 125 are active volunteers. 14,000 volunteer hours were recorded in 2020-1. This is equivalent to £3/4 of a million paid labour. Locks have been constructed.

Opportunities & proposals: The GCS would like to take over one of Adbolton cottages to provide a depot & visitor centre. The GCS has links with the Friends of Cotgrave Country Park & the Grantham Canal Restoration Group based in Hickling & Kinoulton.

The Strategic Road infrastructure constrains the canal. 5 miles are navigable. The GCS has a trip boat - the 3 Shires - which runs in the summer & provides an income stream from paying passengers.

There has been increased use of the canal towpath by walkers during Covid lockdowns. It is a very picturesque canal.

The A6011 & Gamston Lings Bar roads are major blockages. National Highways have funding to make major structural changes & have done so in other places, e.g. in the Cotswolds. The GCS wants to establish a link with the Trent & therefore the country's canal infrastructure. This can be done with cooperation from Notts County Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) & National Highways. There are housing developments planned in the Gamston area & the canal is an important "blue" & "green" route for wildlife & leisure. GCS wants to safeguard the route & ensure there is no building development on it. The section through Lady Bay could be designated as a local nature reserve. This section should be prevented from running dry. There will be more important walking & cycling routes once the new foot & cycle bridge is built over the Trent.

The GCS wants to help Lady Bay people with the section of the Canal through Lady Bay. The GCS needs new members.

Lock 2 & the canal & towpath under Gamston Bridge have been cleaned; 2 eels were found.

At Kinoulton leaks have been found in the offside bank, 60 tonnes of puddled clay are needed to prevent the leaks.

New Route Proposal: The proposal is to make a new cut from Gamston Bridge to the Trent to the rear of Seymour Road, across Adbolton Lane, 10 Acre Field (Adbolton Lane Playing Fields for Lady Bay Primary School) and Trent Fields. A new lock will be needed in the flood plain. The provisional plan will need to be agreed with Notts County Council, RBC & the Environment Agency. GCS are waiting for a response from the Environment Agency. There would need to be a swing or lift bridge over Adbolton Lane. There is a strategy document available on the GCS website. The proposal will give a lot of health benefits, giving greener transport links from the villages to the city.

Funding: National Highways will fund the lifting of Lings Bar and Gamston Bridges. Looking for funding from local businesses, section 106 money, Severn Trent, BIFFA, Notts Levelling up Fund.

GCS is passionate about the canal being restored to a navigable waterway from Grantham to Nottingham. Denton & Nipton reservoirs serve the canal at the Eastern end.

Questions & Comments:

CE: How will the proposal be affected by housing & school developments?

TO: Don't know where or if developments are taking place.

CE: Building has been proposed on the land East of Lady Bay on flood plain & greenbelt.

TO: Not hearing much from Notts County Council.

PG: No news about the proposed schools. Still under review. Nothing about engineering solutions for the site or funding.

Is it correct that there is guaranteed funding for the lift bridge if the proposal is accepted? Are there plans for a marina north of Adbolton Lane?

TO: No funding is in place as yet. National Highways will fund bridges if the GCS proposal is accepted, GCS are meeting with them soon. National Highways have already funded a similar, but more expensive bridge lifting on the A38.

The plan is not for a commercial marina, it is a basin to store boats, a slipway & a dry dock. Location not necessarily on 10 Acre Field, possibly the fields to the east of Seymour Road. When the canal connects to the Trent private boats will use it.

So the GCS has no interest in the Lady Bay section of the canal or the section near the Environment Agency buildings.

RC: The aim is to keep the existing sections fed with water. There will be a new lock in the flood barrier at Adbolton Lane.

CE: Please could you supply a visual representation of how the water will flow?

I have the canal at the bottom of my garden. Will it be in water?

RC: Yes.

Will there be dredging of the canal at Gamston Bridge?

RA: Will the dredging extend as far as Gertrude Road?

RC: Yes, as far as Gertrude Road.

Will there be provision for horse riders?

RC: Yes, there will be a multi-user path for the full length, especially at Bassingfield where there are a lot of horse riders.

JS: The barriers along the towpath are a problem for cyclists & horse riders.

RC: The barriers are the responsibility of the Canal & Rivers Trust.

PG: Could the current route be restored?

RC: No, because of Radcliffe Road at the top of Trent Boulevard.

Jeff Mackintosh (JM): What about the land owned by Mr Knibbs?

RC: Mr Knibbs hasn't expressed any view but discussions with him seem quite positive.

Why has GCS moved the proposed route from the previous one near Polser Brook?

RC: That route is too costly because of the work that would be needed at Lings Bar.

How much of the canal is navigable?

RC: Aim to increase the amount but will depend on funding for the dry section. Hoping to use solar powered pumping technology.

TW: How will people walking/cycling/riding along the river bank cross the proposed new route of the canal where it enters the Trent, from the Hook or Mr. Knibb's field?

RC: There will be a bridge, or bridges if we have the funding.

CE: Timescale?

TO: 10-20 years.

Reports from Local Groups:

Lady Bay Litter Pickers: ST - Relaunch - have had funding from Veolia for equipment, need volunteers.

Questions & Comments:

What arrangements are in place for disposal of litter collected?

ST: Streetwise collect - informed in advance.

Friends of the Hook (FrOTH): JM: Presentation shown. The Hook is a nature reserve, not a park. FrOTH is looking for volunteers & applying for grants specifically for the Wildflower Walk. The 1st slide showed the Hook in 2010 - it looks very different now, there are more trees & this includes the avenue of poplars which were ready for 2018 to commemorate the end of WWI. FrOTH intends to have an informative map on a noticeboard to include the Jubilee Woodland, the "sensitive" area reserved for wildlife, the pond.

FrOTH has a grant from Severn Trent to improve biodiversity. In the summer the pond completely dried up. FrOTH received a £1,200 grant from County & Borough Councillors in Feb '22 to remove reeds & refill the pond. Reed removal had to be done very carefully so as not to damage the Bentonite liner. The pond has now refilled. FrOTH intend to buy a pump for £600 & have raised £245 from the Morris Convertible gig in Feb '22 & £365 from the one on 18 Nov '22. FrOTH intends to pump water from the Dyke to the pond keeping within the limits for abstraction.

A harrower has been used to disturb the roots of coarse grasses & £1,000 worth of wildflower seeds have been planted. We won't know until next year whether this has been successful. There has also been harrowing through the orchard & beyond along Marlene's Meadow Wildflower Walk, named after Marlene Cassidy, a member of FrOTH who died of breast cancer.

Native trees have been planted along the Riverside path.

Next conservation working group sessions are 4 Dec '22 & 8 Jan '23. These are usually on 1st Sunday of the month, 2-4pm but due to there being less light in the winter these 2 are 1.30-3.30pm & the Jan one is later as the 1st Sunday is New Year's Day.

The resurfacing of the Riverside path by Notts County Council has been delayed until the new foot/cycle bridge is in place.

If anyone would like to join the list of people invited to the Morris Convertible gigs please sign up on JM's list.

Questions & Comments:

Concerned about taking water from the Dyke, there are birds depending on it & it needs to be kept in a healthy state.

JM: Agree, the water will only be taken to top up the pond when there is enough water in the Dyke to keep it well in water. The pond won't be allowed to go dry so it would need a lot of water to fill it when there may be low amounts in the Dyke.

Is there a no mow policy?

JM: The main field is only cut once per year, it used to be cut more frequently.

RC: How often will water need to be put in the pond?

JM: Possibly 3-4 times per year.

RC: Can borrow GCS's pump.

JM: Did look into buying an agricultural solar powered pump but it was £8,000

PG: County council are suggesting lighting along Riverside path for when the new foot/cycle bridge is built. What do people think?

JM: RBC Sustainability & Environment Officer, Paul Phillips, & FrOTH do not want any lighting as it would disturb wildlife.

RM: Lighting has a particularly detrimental effect on insects & there will be enough light from the north side of the river & the foot/cycle bridge itself.

Cyclists should have Lights so don't need lighting

A vote was taken & the unanimous result was that we don't want lighting.

1st Lady Bay Guides: Cat: The group has 4 leaders. It started in 1941 but closed a few years ago due to lack of volunteers. Started again last year. Very successful. Guides is for girls aged 10-14 with the aim to empower them. The programmes are designed to inspire & challenge; group work is led by the girls themselves & is inclusive. The girls make the Guides Promise "I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the King and my community, to help other people and to keep the Guide Law."

There are 30 girls in the group & a waiting list. A 2nd unit is not possible due to lack of leaders.

The group has been to the Guide Camp in Sherwood Forest, to the Wipe Out lagoon at Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre & to a bonfire with other Guide units. The Lady Bay group is joining with other units to complete the Jo Jordan challenge

Lady Bay Guides complete badges & are working towards their "Making change" badge this term and completed "Exploring Identities" last term. The group are working with a professional arboriculturist & permaculturalist to care for a piece of land either side of the Gertrude Road to Radcliffe Road twitchell. The garden is twinned with a similar place in Scotland. There is one diseased tree will be partially felled and left as standing deadwood. RBC have given the land to the group. The Guides will be fundraising for the project over the year.

Lady Bay Scouts, Cubs & Beavers: RA: The cub leader has left because of illness. New volunteers are being supported by Beaver and Scout leaders.

The group needs executive Committee members & volunteers for support. The committee is in charge of the running of the Scout Hall. The Scout Hall has been repainted.

Plastic Free Lady Bay: RA: Surfers Against Sewage administer the Plastic Free Community scheme & the group is working with them & taking advice from the already accredited Plastic Free Cotgrave To become an accredited Plastic Free Community both Allies & Champions are needed. Groups in Lady Bay are asked to

make 3 pledges to reduce the use of single use plastics in order to become Plastic Free Community Allies. Also businesses become Community Champions by making 3 similar pledges. Any schools in the Plastic Free Community area need to sign up to Plastic Free Schools & Lady Bay Primary School has done this. Councils also need to make a commitment to reduce single use plastic & RBC has done so some time ago. To be an accredited Plastic Free Community there need be 2 events per year. The 1st was the Rubbish Fashion Show on Saturday 15 Oct at Lady Bay Pub where people collected the single use plastic they had used for a month & made costumes from it. There were prizes, a stall with items to show ways to reduce waste, pledges from Community Allies were read out & there was singing from the Lady Bay Community Choir & the Tuneless Choir. The next event will take place in 2023. Please see RA at the end of the meeting for information.

Lengthsman Scheme: ST: The scheme, from Notts County Council, provides parish & town councils & communities with a worker to carry out jobs such as grass cutting, bus shelter cleaning, trimming of overhanging vegetation, sign cleaning, minor repairs, reporting of highway faults. Should LBCA apply for funding? A vote was taken & it was agreed that we should apply.

Lady Bay Community Fund: ST: Needs 2 replacement trustees. Meetings are twice a year to discuss applications. If you would like to become a trustee see MM at the end of the meeting.

Lady Bay Church: JM: Been here for a year. It is amazing to be the Vicar in this community. There has been a lot of growth in numbers of the congregation & greater diversity across generations with more families & young children.

The Warm Hub scheme offers all people a warm place to be during the winter when many are unable to afford to heat their homes as part of this scheme all are welcome in the church at the coffee morning every Tues 10:00-12:00 & the Knitting Group on 1st, 3rd & 5th Thurs at 2pm.

Lady Bay Church runs a Youth Night fortnightly 7.30-9pm on Fridays, for 7-13 year olds. The next is on Friday 2nd Dec at All Hallows' Church.

Regular events for families with small children are run in the vicarage (the garden in summer), 121, Holme Road, the next is on Saturday 3 Dec at 10:00 -11:30.

Lady Bay Church has joined in with Halloween activities & will be taking part in the Christmas Mingle on Sunday 27 Nov. There are various Christmas events:

- Christingle 4pm Sunday 4 Dec
- Carol Service 5pm Saturday 17 Dec
- Nativity Service 4pm Christmas Eve Saturday 24 Dec
- Midnight communion, 11.15 pm Christmas Eve Saturday 24 Dec
- Communion Service, 09:00 Christmas Day Sunday 25 Dec
- Family Service 10:30 Christmas Day Sunday 25 Dec.

You should be receiving a postcard with dates & times soon.

4 choirs meet in the church & both church & halls can be booked for events.

See: <https://www.ladybaychurch.org/>

The "Devo Deal":RM: The proposal is for an organisation to include Derby City, Derbyshire, Nottingham City & Notts " D2N2". There is consultation going on at the moment. There has been low investment in the East Midlands over the years so that the total amount of investment is equivalent to the increase in investment into London & the S.E. The proposed solution is to have an elected mayor. The installation of such a mayor will not result in the removal of County, City, District/Borough or Parish/Town councils. The D2N2 deal is expected to raise £1.14 billion of investment over 30 years.

Questions & comments:

What happens about housing targets?

This question has been asked by RBC but there is no information as yet.

The 1st election will be in May '24, it will be run using first past the post, not with a 2nd choice as in the mayoral elections in London & Manchester.

Changes to voting: RM: Voter ID is being introduced to remove the risk of non-existent fraud. Postal votes are unaffected. RM will supply a full list of the forms of ID that may be used if you don't have a passport or driving licence.

Due to the increase in size of Lady Bay ward, you may be going to vote at a different polling station at the next RBC election on 4 May '23.

Fire Authority: PG: Reminded people that there is a consultation of the proposed cuts to West Bridgford's Fire service cover, please fill in the online survey & also write to Ruth Edwards MP with your views.

<https://online.ors.org.uk/questionnaire/1414B7B>

Meeting closed at 4.02pm