

**Meeting of the Parish Environmental Action Group on Saturday 14 January, 2023
at 10.15am
at The Skies Cafe, Old Sarum Airfield**

PEAG.23.001 **Apologies:** Trudi Deane, Parish Clerk, Laverstock & Ford, Nigel Tanner, Steve McCarthy

PEAG.23.002 **Present:** Councillor Lainey Barker LB - Chair, Guy Mason GM (resident Longhedge) Stuart Brown SB (resident Old Sarum), Jean Youngs JY (resident Old Sarum) Juliet Brain JLB, Communications and Community Engagement Officer (Laverstock & Ford Parish Council).

PEAG.23.003 Introduction by Cllr Lainey Barker: Ford, Old Sarum & Longhedge Ward

PEAG.23.004 Introduction to session led by Guy Mason, members introduced themselves.

PEAG.23.005 **Group discussed a draft mission for the group, involving achievable and actionable aims and objectives.**

- Encourage active travel
- Improve and encourage alternative options and routes for getting into local towns such as Salisbury and Amesbury other than motorised vehicles, to help reduce carbon footprint.
- Improve functionality of Longhedge Swale (currently flooded and an increasing health and safety issue)
- Work with litter picking groups to keep parish looking attractive and lessen harm to wildlife
- Look at reducing light pollution, such as motion sensor lights on pathways
- Encourage use of and development of Allotments/Community Gardens
- Monitor and report fly-tipping
- Footpath Wardens to monitor and keep footpaths clear and operational

PEAG.23.006 Discussed how group could use the Parish Council bi-monthly newsletter to amplify the group, invite residents to join and publicise its actions and any potential campaigns or events. The next deadline is Jan 27th for the March/April issue. Also mentioned were the Facebook groups across the Parish although it was agreed that these are not all reliable as some moderators had very narrow agendas about when and what was suitable for broadcast.

PEAG.23.007 **Actions decided for the Laverstock & Ford Parish Newsletter (LFPN).**

1. Summary of meeting (GM)
2. Focus on a favourite walking route around the parish (LB)
3. Set up a walking/cycle route template for use by EAG to record routes and for use on doc med, parish website and in LFPN (SB)
4. Distribute group emails (JLB)
5. Create a Womble Group/s QR code (JLB)

PEAG.23.008 **Other actions were discussed.**

- SB offered to email the Parish Clerk to express concern regarding the Swales in Longhedge currently over a metre deep, littered with debris and shopping trolley and fenced by Harris fencing but easy to break through.
- Parish Council will be making contact with

PEAG.23.009 A rough audit was held of groups & organisations within the parish relevant to PEAG activity:

River Bourne Community Farm (educational bias) Devenish Bradshaw Trust (own and manage water meadows in Laverstock and elsewhere), Plantlife, The Land Trust (leases and manages the Castle Hill Country Park (CHCP) on behalf of the Parish Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT - works on the CHCP and at the farm as well as WWT managed sites elsewhere). Laverstock, Bishopdown, Ford & Old Sarum Wombles Litter Picking Group, Laverstock & Ford History Group, Longhedge Walking Group, Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury Repair cafe, Share Salisbury.

JLB mentioned the suggestion of setting up a group of volunteer footpath wardens as part of the PEAG, several residents have come forward who are interested in this

PEAG.23.010 Future PEAG Meetings

1. It was agreed that PEAG would meet monthly
2. Meetings could involve walking areas of the Parish, with or without a guest from an environment or relevant group.
3. JY to contact Wessex Archaeology to see if they might lead a walk to explain the archaeology found across Old Sarum & Longhedge
4. JLB mentioned that Jane Wright temporarily at Wiltshire Council and formerly from Natural England might be worth speaking to for useful environmental oversight.

NEXT MEETING:

LB to circulate three date options for February

Suggested venue: River Bourne Community Farm Café

Draft Minutes taken by JLB