

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FORUM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11TH AUGUST 2008 AT 3.30PM

Present: Graham Ash – Castle Point Wildlife Group
Ian Burchill – Castle Point Borough Council (from 4.15pm)
Marc Outten – RSPB
Jenny Price – Groundworks South Essex
John Rostron – Essex Wildlife Trust
Cllr. Rod Bishop – CITC
Cllr. Dave Blackwell – CITC (Chairman)

Julie Abel – Town Clerk, CITC

Apologies for absence were received from Jackie Humberstone (Groundworks SE) and Jamie Roberts (Buglife).

Canvey Wick

Discussion took place about access to the site for the public and problems with unauthorised motorbikes using the area. It was reported that the soil disturbance caused by the motorbikes had previously been seen as not a bad thing as it helped to support more invertebrates. It was agreed that the use of motorbikes was not compatible in the long term with the public use of the site or its SSSI status.

AGREED that Jonathon Ducker (Land Restoration Trust) is invited to attend the next meeting to give an update on the plans for the area. If possible, he should be given the opportunity to visit the site beforehand.

Terms of Reference

AGREED that the Forum would look at Environment and Conservation issues on Canvey Island, identify local sites for conservation which would include the public and promote awareness of sites of local interest.

Events to promote conservation

The group discussed holding a Conservation/Wildlife week with a programme of nature events following on shortly after the promotion. Venues discussed as being suitable for this were Furtherwick Park School and the Rugby Club at Tewkes Creek.

Member groups of the Forum were asked to give some thought to how this might be organized and what their organizations could offer in terms of visitor attractions at the initial promotion and as a programmed event.

The Clerk was asked to contact Buglife to see whether they would like to be involved.

AGREED that:

- member organizations would present ideas at the next meeting;
- the Clerk would establish costs for hiring possible venues.

Biodiversity Action Plan

Cllr. Blackwell outlined his thoughts on the Town Council's possible involvement in an Action Plan for the Island.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th October 2008 at 3pm.

Venue: Groundworks South Essex.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm