

Outside Bodies - Friends of Forest Front

Report by Cllr Eric Davey – April 2016

I attended their 102nd meeting on 24 March where I was made most welcome. There has been a resurgence of vandalism in that the notice board at the entrance has had roof damage and a Parish Council advisory notice had been torn from its post (and showed pellet gun damage) it was agreed that before the Parish Council notice is reinstalled it should be checked for accuracy. It was noted that there was no mention of Drones and it was felt this should be included. I undertook to approach Marcus on the subject. (Marcus was on holiday so I asked Sean if he could look into the matter and I also queried whether there should be mention of Chinese Lanterns). There is a need for replacement of the wooden retaining revetment adjacent to the pond and this would incur cost. I said that I would approach a District Councillor in the new financial year to see if one might assist with a grant.

Gold fish abandoned in the pond were growing to enormous sizes and were depleting dragonflies and other essential pond wildlife. There were separate smaller ponds and the link to the main pond was being kept sufficiently shallow to deter fish from entering and thus encourage wildlife in those ponds.

The Forestry Commission policy of introducing Goshawks into the forest to deplete the pigeon population is, sadly, threatening the Kingfisher population and other song birds.

It was felt that there was a need to publicise the park to local schools to encourage school visits that had dropped off lately.

Like the Waterside Woodland Trust group I was impressed by the dedication and energy of this small group of volunteers who work so hard for our enjoyment and I applaud them.