

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

After the meeting, we started to walk around the site, measuring up and thinking about locations for new features. We will continue with this, especially when absent people are present.

1. **Present:** Becki P, Bob B, Charles M, Jane K, Julian H, Justin G, Kate C, Keith B (part), Lois C (part), Peter D, Rebecca J;
2. **Apologies:** Barbara, Judit, Izabela
3. **Minutes from the last meeting:** agreed.
4. **Finances:**
 - a. **Treasurers report:** we have about £500 (after the insurance payment) between the QECF and NG account, some will be needed for the shed fit-out and woodstore roof.
 - b. **Insurance:** 12/9/18: purchased from Zurich (with Aviva donation): £220.83 for a year from 14/9/18; covers events up to 500 people.
5. **Membership:** Emma G to join.
6. **Things/activities that need a decision soon-ish – including new suggestions:**
 - a. **Apple trees:** agreed in principle to plant at least one apple tree in the informal orchard area, could be late Autumn/winter. The diggers might like to start on a hole or we could ask Community Payback to come. Think about other places for stepovers etc.
Action and update: Rebecca J talk with volunteer diggers and City Ranger. Guy is happy with this.
 - b. **Bulbs:** we probably have enough bulbs planted but will accept any donations gratefully!
Action: Review this time next year.
 - c. **'Decorating with paint' etc:** very happy that we have so many talented volunteers who enjoy being artistic in the garden. No strong views expressed about what to decorate and no urgency. Jane K had some nice ideas after the meeting, including for the veranda area and blue chairs.
Action: keep under review ideas for things to paint, especially in the veranda design.
 - d. **Hazel coppicing:** like the idea but not sure where to plant them. Vinery Rd allotments have hazel area.
Action and update: Guy thinks we might struggle to grow them under the whitebeam tree shade and we'd need to be careful not to disturb their roots. Justin and others could visit Vinery sometime – or could just source sticks from them (or Rock Allotments sell bundles from local coppicers).
 - e. **Lean-to polycarb greenhouse:** this is 198 cm high at back, 130 cm wide and 70 cm deep. It is too high for the side of the metal lean-to, too deep to fit under the windows of the new shed; it could fit on the back (short) wall of the new shed but would block off access to the back of the club hut, which could be fine or good.
Action: think more about it, source base slabs (Rebecca J asked Guy on 17 Sept and also mentioned it to Ed the City Ranger); construct in 2019;

- f. **Little library:** U3A have one. Enthusiasm for it.
Action: to build into the design for the veranda. To construct when we have the resources and time.
- g. **More perennial fruit:** enthusiasm! Might be fun to have different fruit to the ones we have already. Julian suggested a **Jostaberry**: we have one on the allotment, which is easy and gives tasty fruit – you tie canes in like a blackberry but it has no thorns.
On the walk around, we thought we could put at least two more **large apple trees** in the informal orchard area; two smaller fruit trees near the horse – perhaps a **cherry** and a **plum/greengage**, which could have fruit bushes below them (like a forest garden) – would need a lot of digging out of clinker and soil replacement.
Action: Justin and Kate to research **blueberry** bushes for UK climate – probably in planters/raised beds (needs ericaceous/acid compost, which can be bought). Think about sourcing pine-needles too (maybe from Trinity via Becky/Karen).
Action: Rebecca try to layer-propagate from the Jostaberry plant;
Action and update: think about the area by the horse further. Perhaps a winter 2020 project. Guy is happy with more fruit trees.
- h. **Three annual meadow beds:** not much enthusiasm for laying ready-grown turf (expensive and difficult to deliver). The triangle bed could have a small transparent tree (like willow) at the centre or tall plants like fennel, enthusiasm for sensory grasses, sedums, knifofia etc (reflect plants that do well in other parts of the green area). Will get re-growth of annuals for some years anyway. People like cosmos.
Action and update: Guy will buy any meadow seed we want - aim to clear by digging or weedkilling.
Action: think more about gardeners clearing the triangle bed over the winter, sourcing plants in Spring;
- i. **Polytunnel:** lots of enthusiasm, and some optimism that we might be able to water it – it could increase the ‘offer’ of the garden, including all year around. Probably, a modest sized one (not everyone likes the look of them and they are quite expensive). A 12 x 15ft one is about £900 (+ construction service) and we can get a 10% discount from one supplier as a member of Social Farms and Gardens. It could go in the area in front of the trees between the water butts and the mini-beast mansion. We could plant a row of sunflowers (or willow) to part-screen it (for aesthetics). Aim to have the suppliers construct it.
Action and update: visit Empty Common. Guy suggests we think about it after we have finished the veranda and are sure that local residents and park users are happy with the idea of another structure. Measure up for size and apply for a grant for one, maybe in 2020.
- j. **Potato order:** enthusiasm for growing spuds in planters again, can share nets of seed potatoes with the school garden and there should be enough for volunteers to take a few away to try in their own spaces.
Action: on 23 or 30 Sept, Rebecca J to buy a net of Arran Pilot (first early, June), Maris Peer (second early, July), Pink Fir (late maincrop, August).
- k. **Scarecrow:** enthusiasm. Would be good to do when we have received the donation of tree stakes – Julian has offered to donate some of his gardening clothes so it looks like he is there ALL of the time (and not just most of it) – that is a joke, by the way.
Action: review when we have the stakes; Rebecca has contacted Paul.

- I. **Storage shed:** we have fitted the padlocks and started hooks for tools. A split in enthusiasm for keeping the shed wood-coloured or painting it colours including black. The location by the waterbutts will need wood preservation first and black satin BEDEC MSP (or Barn) paint worked well and would disguise the new shed a bit for neighbours – we could also paint the side of the metal-lean to.

Think about a varnish/light stain on the front (with the door) – Bob and Peter are keen. Could have similar black or woodstain, or a colour like blue-grey, on the short back wall, behind the greenhouse, which could be done later.

Action: continue to revisit/discuss the choice of preservative/paint treatment;

Action: reserve the short back for lean-to greenhouse (see above);

Action: reserve the back half of the long wall without windows for three water butts (more space here than by the woodstore);

Action: Julian and others to start to make waterbutt stands (will need some slabs first);

17/9/18: Rebecca J requested three wheelie bins from Amey, which might take a while to be delivered.

7. Forthcoming events for 2018:

- a. **Tuesday 23 October 2018** time TBD: St James church are planning a **pumpkin picnic** – for info.
- b. **Sunday 28 October 2018** (end of half term holiday and close to Halloween). **‘Go wild for worms’**, (RHS/Wildlife Trust annual festival), with Garden Organic. Decided to have a bring and share lunch from 1pm. Becky make roast squash; Justin make pumpkin pie; Rebecca J make soup and encourage ‘special’ cake (Emma G has offered to make one).

Action: we have several ideas for activities – to discuss on 23/30 September in garden session. RJ re-drafted poster. Promote to QE school and via QECF web events.

- c. **Sunday 2 December 2018** – for info. QECF are planning a **Tree Dressing Day at Wulfstan Way**. We could get involved there and/or do something in the garden.

Action: think about at the November meeting.

8. Any other business:

- a. **Compost toilet:** wondering if this is such a good idea...

Action: take off the list for the foreseeable future.

- b. **Networking with other community gardens (and allotments):** enthusiasm for keeping and making good contacts and especially visiting them and inviting them – good for ideas and sharing resources; Sandie Cain at Botanic Garden is working on ways to support local community gardens.

Action and update: encourage all NGs to visit other community gardens. 18/9/18: Rebecca spoke with Sandie who is coming to the garden on 24 Sept to chat to volunteers and see what they'd like. For example, we could have meetings and training sessions at the Botanic gardens (weekdays to 6pm or some Saturdays) but could also meet in community gardens themselves. Sandie has capacity to administer a group, which would be great.

Burnside and Vinery Rd allotments: very good links via Justin and Kate;

Clay Farm: good links via Peter; Headway are about to move their garden there;

Empty Common: very good links via Peter and Becky. Insured via Transition Cambridge and

have much closer links than we do;

Fulbourn hospital gardens: links via Rebecca to Paul Herrington and Bob has done a little volunteering;

Mill Rd cemetery: good links via Bob (seasonal volunteering);

Ninewells allotments: slow to get going but potential for sharing resources and people;

Queen Edith primary school gardens: very good links via Rebecca J and Emma G. Have weekly sessions on Thursdays from 2 to 4ish. Ask Rebecca J.

Rock Allotments: very good links via Bob, Josephine, Rebecca J; they are interested in setting up 'easy gardening' raised beds;

Rock Rd Library garden: very good links via Bob and Rebecca J; Anne Davenport leads the volunteers (mainly Friday or Monday mornings);

Trumpington community orchard: including for trees;

Trumpington allotments: always worth a visit – great polytunnel and bees;

West Raven Community Garden in Peterborough: Rebecca J and Julian H visited on 15 Sept. (met via Eden Project, 4 of them have been to Nightingale a couple of times). Have lots of photos and ideas; Also have links with other Eden Project-linked community gardens including Green Backyard in Peterborough, large community garden in Ipswich and estate gardens in London.

Wulfstan Way raingardens and back gardens: good links via Bob, Rebecca. Very informal - meet in evenings usually, when have plants or the weeds need attention. Ask Rebecca.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Sunday 18 November 1pm. To avoid Remembrance Day on 11th. See some suggestions below for the agenda.

Just for information at September meeting (see agenda for details):

1. **Donations received since last meeting or expected soon:**
 - a. **Social gardens survey 'mystery' prize;**
2. **Potential partnerships and enquiries coming in to garden e-mail/secretary:**
 - a. **Maggie's;**
 - b. **Botanic Garden (see above)**
3. **Recent events in the garden or park:**
4. **Social media;**
5. **Things/activities agreed and to do or to finish:**
 - a. **Bike racks;**
 - b. **Cob oven etc;**
 - c. **Green-roofed veranda;**
 - d. **New black noticeboard;**
 - e. **Pole lathe;**
 - f. **Signs;**
 - g. **Water supply.**
 - h. **Woodstore.**
6. **Workshops;**
7. **Park pavilion;**

Suggested agenda items for November meeting:

1. **Planning ahead for events in 2019** - Some uncertainty still over pavilion re-build timings (and therefore toilet access). Don't yet know when the veranda work will happen.
 - a. Do we want to do anything special around Xmas, new year? Last year, the weather wasn't very friendly.
 - b. Pencilled-in collaborations:
 - i. We have expressed an interest in working with Cambridge Sustainable Food on a Veg Festival in 2019.
 - ii. We might collaborate with the Botanic Garden (see above) and Maggie's on events.
 - iii. The 28th Cambridge cubs, and other groups of young people, might like to use the garden.

RJ likes the Common Ground calendar of events:

- c. **May Day** (1 May – but a Weds in 2019) – maybe just a bring-and-share tea for one of the bank holidays?
- d. **Arbor Day and Oak Apple Day** (29 May – but a Weds in 2019) – although we don't have oak in the park or garden...
- e. **Midsummer Day** (June 21 – Friday in 2019) – could be a bring-and-share 'little lunch' or 'little get together' on Sunday 23 June [weekend of the Jo Cox Great Get Togethers]?
- f. **Apple Day** (21 October – Monday in 2019) but there are so many apple days in Cambridge now – maybe we have 'bring and share apple cakes' on Sunday the 20 October;
- g. **Tree Dressing day** (first weekend in December) – 1 Dec is Sunday in 2019 – would be fun to dress the whitebeam trees, could also coppice the living willow and make things with it?

2. Fundraising applications and ideas:

- a. **WH Smith**: early Sept 2018: RJ applied online for £500 for insurance and running costs; find out in March 2019.
- b. **BEDEC**: September, e-mailed requesting paint donation.
- c. **Cambridge area grants**: could apply in Spring 2019 for insurance and maybe one-off community projects – any ideas? Quite a bit of paperwork associated with it...
- d. **Cambridgeshire Community Reach Fund** – small grants up to £1K for projects that benefit children, young people, their families and communities.
- e. **Vegware Community Fund**: could apply for funding after our first annual report and finances (post June 2019).
- f. Polytunnel funding...

3. **Policies, first aid etc.** It would be good to review our first aid kit and make sure it is up to date, easy to access and use. We should draft some paperwork on health and safety too including risk assessments for insurance purposes. Some grant applications require policies on safeguarding, equal opportunities etc and it would be a good idea anyway.