



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST



President: Mrs Janie Martin

MEETING WITH BRADGATE PARK DIRECTOR 1 July 2021, 10:30

For FOCF: Marilyn Palmer, Toby Manning

For Bradgate Park: James Dymond, Director.

The meeting lasted for 1 hour. Issues of interest mentioned were as follows:

Trustees: The National Trust, who appoint three Trustees, had replaced Andrew Beer with Louise Ransberry, and would replace Stuart Alcock in the Autumn. Sam Lattaway was to remain.

Funding: The Park had appointed Amy Chambers to be responsible for fundraising and obtaining grants.

Visitor Centre: This was to be open at weekends and school holidays, and would be manned by Park staff. It might be open at other times on an ad-hoc basis, perhaps manned by volunteers.

Ruins: these would be open with guided tours on Wednesdays, and free-flow entry at weekends.

Accessibility: The Park had a grant of £85k from the Charnwood Forest Partnership (to be topped up to £100k by the Park itself) to improve accessibility: purchase of another "Tramper", and perhaps creating another all-weather track as an alternative to the carriageway.



Natural England: NE has a locus because the Park is a SSSI. Relations were not good; NE required a lot of trivial applications, for example permission for ranger-led walks, which seemed to create work without any obvious benefit. It was hoped that a “Management Plan” could be developed which would reduce the bureaucracy.

Bracken: This was being rolled during the meeting. James stressed that they had searched for ground-nesting birds before undertaking the rolling.

Events: These were to take place on the “deer field” to the right of the carriageway as one approaches the Deer Barn from Newtown Linford, and not in the ruins.

Publicity: We gave James a copy of the NL Village Magazine and suggested that he write a regular column for it.

ANPR: It was hoped this would be in operation “within days, if not weeks”.

Conservatory (tea rooms at the NL entrance): a lease had been agreed in principle.

Commentary

We felt that the meeting was generally positive. James had come from Nottingham (so had no Leicester/Leicestershire baggage) and was amenable to suggestions; we did not feel that anything he said was inimical to FOCF objectives.

We will probably ask James to come and talk to us at an evening event in the not-too-distant future.

Toby Manning
Marilyn Upstone
1 July 2021.

