

## Friends of Horfield Common: Volunteer Meeting 22/07/23

Attendance: 8 (and 3 dogs)

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### **Presentation:**

#### **Questions:**

Does everybody have to be trained to do anything?

- Don't need to be trained to take part/help on the day
- Need to be trained to organise/liase with Council. Trained volunteers needed to help run events! Next volunteer training is the 8th September.

Does the council have a 'parks' person? (Yes, Caroline Ennion)

Can we draw on parks funds? (Yes, Council can advise)

Do we need to let the council know about public events? (Yes, for health and safety/risk assessment)

Can you go to outside bodies to apply for funding?

- Yes but you need permission from the council
- We can raise money privately

What constitutes a person being a commoner? (Possibly asking: Can any one person have the power to make a decision on behalf of everyone)

- Anyone who uses the common is a 'commoner'
- If you have an issue, you can raise and then make a collective decision – friends group can help oppose or put pressure. Power in numbers!

Litter Pick: Do you decide on a specific area to focus on each time?

- Depends on the day and mobility of the group
- Need to keep everyone visible for health and safety.
- People clock in and clock out

#### **Other Notes:**

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- Green council really reliable and stood up for us in the past
  - The point of the friends group is to organise and make sure to protect our space. Keeping an eye on third parties who might want to chip away the Common, such as before with Wellington Hill playing field
  - Stronger to have a lot of people in the friends group, more people to notice when things go wrong.
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### **Open Discussion:**

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- How do you get the word out? Could there be better or more ways to communicate?
- Bishopston Matters – if there are things in advance (e.g 4 months ahead), can you add something on there? Can we advertise for volunteers? How much does it cost – can we have a regular slot?
- Other ideas for promotion: Online newsletters, word of mouth, whatsapp groups?
- Posting photos of events so people get an idea of what's on/what's to expect? – e.g Photo of litter pick (available on [www.fohorfieldcommon.weebly.com](http://www.fohorfieldcommon.weebly.com))
- Add to 'History of the Ardagh/the Common' on website
- Moving forward: Have more volunteers meetings first before organise events. Refreshments next time? August meeting to be arranged
- Saturday mornings are convenient
- Make the meeting more 'obvious' and invite people in while the session is underway (look into A-board)
- NEXT EVENT: Litter pick, 10am, 29th July