

# Friends of Harebreaks Wood

## Meeting on 14 July at St Mark's Church Hall

Present: Richard Ahrons, Keith Cheyney, Maria Green, Steve Harvey, Ian Mather, David Wallis.

### 1. Notice Board

Ian Mather said the Community Notice Board has now been put up in the Recreation area and is available for publicising events and promoting the work of the Friends. He will supply a poster for the Fungus Foray. A more general notice describing our activities and how to contact us is needed. Steve undertook to prepare one incorporating the letter-head and web-site logo. Keys to the notice-board will be held by Steve and Ian as well as by the Council.

### 2. Signage and Interpretation Boards

The Council have put out to tender the supply of signs for all the sites in their care. Ian will draft a sample to show at our next meeting.

We should choose suitable pictures of features in the woods and state why they are significant. We hold funds intended for providing signs and it was agreed that this should be used to ensure that a sufficient number of interpretation boards are provided around the site.

### 3. Collaboration with other local organisations

The Friends of Alban Wood have merged their organisation with other local groups with the objective of becoming more widely known and of generating more support in caring for the neighbourhood. Since the demise of the North Watford Show, this sort of collaboration has been lacking in the Harebreaks area. However the Friends were represented at the Callowland Fun Day on July 10 and will also be part of the Harebreaks Happening on September 18. This will be a good opportunity to promote the Fungus Foray and Ian will supply A5 handbills for distribution.

Our events are publicised in "Wild about Watford" but although this is sent to the Watford Observer, they do not always publish the information.

### 4. Damage to Rail-bars within the Woods

Ian suggested the use of surplus chestnut palings to offer temporary protection to vulnerable areas, but repairs to the actual rails are to be preferred. Whatever method is used, repairs need to be made promptly.

### 5. Damage to Fence along Playing Field Boundary

To restrict access to their pitch, Everett Rovers have blocked off one of the kissing gates, resulting in dog-walkers breaking down the adjoining fence. Ian's legal colleagues have approached Taylor-Wimpey but they do have a right to prevent open access to their property. The situation runs counter to the Mayor's declaration that public access to the playing fields will be retained. Hence further clarification is needed. Ian will speak to the council Parks and Legal departments again, stressing the conservation aspects of the problem and Steve will point out to the Mayor that the obstruction of the kissing gate violates her expressed commitment to public access.

### 6. Dates of Meetings

September 18	Promotion of Friends' Activities at Harebreaks Happening		
September 25	Fungus Foray	1.30pm	Meet at St Mark's Car Park
October 13	Annual General Meeting	7.30pm	St Mark's church hall
October 16	Litter Pick	1.30pm	Meet at St Mark's car park
December 4	Tree Planting	1.30pm	Meet at St Mark's car park