

Advisory Meeting with Andy Smallshaw of Wigan Environment Agency

We would like to thank Andy for his advice and his clear communication on our walk.
Thanks to all of you who were present on the day.

It was a pleasant day but boggy underfoot.

Present : Janet Brown, Eileen Longmore, Andrew Moakes, Krystyna Pilkington, Ira Whiteley. Andy Smallshaw
(Wigan Council Woodlands Officer.)

Andy Smallshaw's in-put was primarily directed to the planting of species best suited to the area and advice re planting.

1. Suggestion re the triangle of PC land between the car park and the Allotments.....

Along the line of existing old trees on West side bordering the car park....intersperse with more native species and wild hedging. For protection from the wind .

Extend this to the whole triangular area to create a copse with smaller trees on the allotment side taking care re the height of trees and allowing a distance of 5 metres from the allotments .. So as not to block sunlight but protect from winds.

Woodland planting of mixed British native species in between the existing old oak trees .. Hawthorn , blackthorn, hazel., alder, guelder rose, sessile oak and London Plane.... yew..... holly ...

Planting guide of 1 Metre centres .

Over plant and when established discard the weaker or unsuccessful ones. plant all saplings in bare earth.....wood chip topping if poss. (Shevington in Bloom have some stored at Bowling Green) .

Protection should be high enough to keep rabbits away from the sweet small new buds !

2. Meadow

Within the copse of trees he suggested an *Open glade With wild flower meadow* .

Planting suggestions

Wild Meadow flowersRemoval of top soil...for greater success .. top layer too fertile for successful wild flower meadow(We would want a path through this area)

3. Bird and Bat boxes.... Wigan in Bloom have a bird and bat box programme... This is a possible extra... Contact ?

4.Path South of the Field _ suburban planting of Cherry ?? along the line of the fence on Vicarage Lane is strongly discouraged by Wigan . Neat and tidy but not a native species , invasive and encourages spread of honey fungus... Suggestion of planting inside this boundary with our native species see above and possible eventual discarding of the non native species?

5. Hedge Layering

Suggestion of hedge layering to encourage healthy growth of ancient hedgerow trees along the line of the hedge further eastGroundwork Volunteers ? Steve Nichols ?

6.Orchard planting at South of allotments!.. Encourage planting of older English Apple and Pear varieties. Orchard Society offer advice.

7.Woodland area.. Looks healthy.. Is maintaining its growth from below ..strong Possibility of nature trail with info boards.

Ponds can be opened up and can add to Wigan's plan for a woodland / wet land corridor all around the borough...

Ponds can be made accessible but not too accessible... Crested newts etc!

Care to be taken re nitrate deposits on playing fields in case of pollution of ponds

Possible planting of native white and grey willow to help with drainage

8.Completion of drainage programme important.

9. Pathway North and West of field

Shrub and tree growth North and West of field mostly thought adequate for boundary protection and for wildlife to flourish though some areas of dried grass could be cut back and cleared (with the help of S106 money?)

Ira Whiteley