

Leechwell Pool Meeting 29.4.2011

Present: Roma Church, Dave Mitchell, Shirley Prendergast, Di Reeves, Jill Tomalin, Liz Warnes
Apologies: Pruw Boswell Harper

1 Archaeology

The presence of crested newts means we will need to delay draining the pool. Jill to establish with Alex who a suitable wildlife expert would be to advise on when and how to undertake this. John C believes that any plan which includes some form of stone surround for the pool edge should protect it and is likely to be acceptable to EH.

Action: Jill

2 AGM

Dave confirmed the minutes of the last meeting etc are now up on the website. He does not have suitable pictures of the pool area. Shirley to check the archive records.

Action: Shirley

The AGM is at the Seven Stars on Wednesday 18th May at 7.00pm, room for 50 plus table. Dave to check facility for projector, capacity to put up notices/a map (from Sue?)/A3 pictures. Shirley to find summary poster re history.

Action: Dave, Shirley

A short explanation c10-12 minutes is needed to whet the appetites for people to come to the proposed pool garden design event. This will comprise:

- Intro (3-4 minutes) from Jill covering the project scope, archaeological constraints, our approach, and introducing the team
- History (3-4 minutes) from Shirley
- Garden design event introduction (3-4 minutes) from Roma covering previous community feedback, possible options and constraints e.g. to pose the sorts of questions to be asked at the event.

Dave to prepare slides if appropriate. Each speaker to develop outline for each element, and visuals with Dave and circulate. Liz to produce flyer for event to be available at AGM.

Action: Jill, Shirley Roma, Dave, Liz

3. Pool Garden Design Event

Preferred venue Birdwood House, preferred date Saturday 18th June, or 25th June fallback, open to public 10.00am – 3.00pm. Jill to book and confirm.

Action: Jill

Event to be an “interactive exhibition” with stimulus material, opportunities to provide feedback, draw on maps of the area etc. Liz, Di and Roma to prepare garden design material for event. Shirley to provide info/prompt material on history and holy wells elsewhere. **Action: Liz, Di, Roma, Shirley**

Shirley shared information she had researched on pools/holy wells, and the group swapped its own preliminary ideas on what might be desirable. These included:

- softening the boundary outline with curves, removing current fence
- extending path down to lower side of pool, with end on slate approach near pool
- planting tall grasses particularly on lower banks to deter approaching pool from other ways.
- dogwood roses, honeysuckle in hedge area, and additional trees.
- additional seating, possibly rustic seating above, and in shade for comfort, and/or a deeper curve to the boundary to facilitate a second seat.
- plenty of ground cover.
- moving plants such as grasses, drawing on fashions of 1860s.
- putting plants actually in the pool, as possible deterrent for climbing in!

- capacity to hear the water splashing as it enters the pool.
- the need for balance between “quiet separateness” and integration with the rest of the garden
- wild flowers to be planted along the rear bank shortly, and position of artwork inside bend of the path and adjacent bulbs just outside the area should provide a good transition to a more natural/“wild” planting in the pool area itself.

Next meeting: 2.00pm, Wednesday 25th May, 5.30pm, at Jill’s house, to prepare for the pool garden design event.