

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
5th July 2022 in the Leechwell Garden

**PRESENT:** Sue Holmes (Chair), David Mitchell (Secretary), Lu Overy, Robert Vint,

**1. APOLOGIES:** Paul Church, Roma Church, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast

**2. PREVIOUS MINUTES:** the minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

A shortened version of the Community Questionnaire (see attached) was distributed at the very successful MidSummer's Night Dream performance. The longer version will be distributed online.

**4. PROJECTS**

Noticeboard:

Dave has almost completed an updated plan of the garden (showing the sandpit and new picnic table for example). He will work with Shirley and Jeannette on the noticeboard text.

**Action** DM, SP and JW to progress the work.

New Picnic Table and Seating:

We sat at the new Carpenter Oak table for this meeting and all agreed it is a big improvement. Lu will produce an article (with photos and credits for those involved) for the Totnes Times (also to go on the LGA Facebook and Instagram accounts). Carpenter Oak also repaired the pergola.

**Action** Lu to draft an article.

Wildlife Garden:

Sue had distributed Keith's proposal (a copy of her email to Keith is attached). All agreed that (a) it was perhaps too ambitious and expensive and (b) the pool area plans could not go ahead until the (very expensive) archaeological work had been done to English Heritage's satisfaction. It was agreed we needed to have a face-to-face meeting with Keith to discuss the proposal.

Website and Donation Button:

It was agreed we should have a future meeting about promoting the LGA and seeking new volunteers (Sue mentioned that there is one guy who comes on Thursday mornings but the others have fallen away).

**6. Totnes Festival**

Sue outlined the problems in having sculpture exhibits in the garden (insurance, security etc.). NPD Circus are still planning events in August which will include the garden – they will be responsible for promotion and licensing but it is hoped that we can piggy-back on this to have a gazebo in the garden serving cakes and refreshment

**7. AOB**

After the meeting the group spent some time walking around the proposed wildlife areas. It was agreed that the gap in the hedge in the area outside the fenced-off pool area needed to be widened (as Paul had suggested) so it was easier to keep an eye on activities there from within the garden.

**8. NEXT MEETING:** We don't usually hold meetings in August so the next meeting will be on Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup> (the Rec0nomy Centre room is already booked).

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
5th July 2022 in the Leechwell Garden

Email from Sue to Keith about the Wildlife Garden on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022-07-10

Dear Keith

The LGA has given broad approval for the plans for the wildlife garden in the large section of Leechwell Garden that is currently unused/underused/misused, recognising that linking the different areas together into one project makes funding and practical sense. However, there was not enough time for your costs to be considered in detail before or at the meeting, so we propose a meeting between LGA and ParkLife to discuss further.

We do not usually meet in August, but the Reconomy Centre is booked for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 5.30pm , or alternatively our next official meeting is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

The main comments made included:

1. The area around the immersion pool and the pool itself are going to require extensive work by several organisations before work can proceed (I raised this earlier with you but Shirley has more information) so may be best seen as a separate project?
2. Questionnaires were an important feature at all stages of the Garden's development, to ensure we met the community's wishes, so are pleased to see them for this project too. We found that the shorter the questionnaire (such as the one I am now using with Garden visitors) the more responses we obtained. Also, the design, layout and funding of the wildlife garden may need to be changed as a result of the responses received. Can you confirm that all costs relating to the questionnaires will be covered by SHDC councillor funding?
3. Education and wildlife were key community requirements from those earlier questionnaires, so LGA will be fulfilling its brief in these areas in the proposed dual use facilities of seating/log circles/information board.
4. However, there was general concern about the cost and construction of the information boards. This will need to be clarified. And also the size of the bughouse was queried.
5. Were project development/management and site clearance costs included in your schedule?
6. Who are the potential funders for the project?

In the meantime, I will be working with Ross, the gardener, and one of the volunteers to clear the area as much as possible, scythe the very overgrown areas, and cut back the hedges.

The good news is that the new table by Carpenter Oak has been installed (is fantastic) and the pergola has been repaired.

Best wishes

Sue

## Leechwell Garden Community Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in the 2022 questionnaire survey for Leechwell Garden. The Leechwell Garden Association (LGA), working in partnership with ParkLife South West, is seeking the views of the Totnes community to help shape improvements for the future management of the garden.

There are nine short questions below which should hopefully take you no more than five to ten minutes to complete. All answers are anonymous and will be treated confidentially by the LGA and ParkLife SW. The closing date for responses is x, y, z.

On completion of the community survey, the LGA and ParkLife SW will analyse responses and these will be used to create a plan for the garden. This will be used in support of a National Lottery community fund bid to improve features in the garden, with a focus on natural elements - biodiversity, wildlife habitats, environmental education, as well as general layout and the use of the natural spaces by garden visitors.

### 1. What do you particularly appreciate about Leechwell Garden? (please tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	The location close to Totnes
<input type="checkbox"/>	That there is parking nearby
<input type="checkbox"/>	The facilities and amenities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accessible pathways
<input type="checkbox"/>	A place to meet others outside
<input type="checkbox"/>	The space to play
<input type="checkbox"/>	A place to relax or exercise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural areas managed for wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/>	The formal gardens

### 2. How do you travel to Leechwell Garden? (Tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	On foot
<input type="checkbox"/>	By car or motorbike
<input type="checkbox"/>	By bicycle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
5th July 2022 in the Leechwell Garden

3. Please indicate how often you spend time at Leechwell Garden and for what interests (please tick).

	Every day	A few times a week	Several times a month	A few times a year	Never
Play					
Social					
Garden					
Nature					
Picnicking					
Any other activity not listed above					

If you do not use the garden at all, please expand on why here.

4. How happy are you with the following? (Please tick)

	Satisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Dissatisfied
Direction signs leading to Leechwell Garden			
Information signs within Leechwell Garden			
The way the garden is maintained			
Number and location of benches			
Accessibility of pathways			
Play and recreation on offer			
Areas managed for wildlife			

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
5th July 2022 in the Leechwell Garden

5. The Leechwell Garden Association is working with ParkLife SW to create and enhance habitats for wildlife, as well as improve opportunities for visitors to enjoy nature in the garden.

Would you be interested in attending any of the following workshop events at Leechwell Garden? (tick all that apply)

Creating a bug hotel	Making bird/bat boxes	Planting shrubs and wildflowers

6. Do you have any other ideas for improving the garden for wildlife and people?

--

7. Would you be interested in helping to manage and maintain Leechwell Garden? (Please tick)

As an LGA committee member	Leechwell Garden volunteer	ParkLife SW volunteer	Other

ParkLife SW offers practical conservation volunteer opportunities in Totnes and further afield. Local work sites include Longmarsh, Follaton Arboretum and Totnes Cemetery. If you would like to find out more about any of these opportunities please email [parklifesw@gmail.com](mailto:parklifesw@gmail.com)

8. Please indicate the age range(s) for those for whom you are responding.

Under 12	35-49
12-18	50-65
19-24	Over 65
25-34	

9. Please enter your postal code so that we can identify how far you travel to get to Leechwell Garden.

Postal code	
-------------	--

Thank you for taking part in the survey. Your response will help us improve the garden for visitors and wildlife.

