

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER WEY

REPORT to ATC Open Spaces Committee, June 2022

The Friends met on 25 May and discussed the following issues :

- **Management Plan for Will Hall Meadow.** Three matters directly arose from this consideration :
 - An alternative exit at the West end of the site. A plan was approved, which has been sent to the Town Clerk, suggesting a new exit onto Brick Kiln Lane, adjacent to the existing vehicle gate. A design for the new gate has also been suggested. The existing exit onto the Basingstoke Road should be stopped up and footpaths removed.
 - Protection of the marshland (NE corner). A delineation of the area to be protected and the suggestion of a surrounding 'fedge', a living willow hedge, has been sent to the Town Clerk.
 - Joint maintenance with Hop Field Estate. Strongly supported - the Chair agreed to seek a meeting with Redrow (who had been sent a copy of the Plan) as soon as possible to pursue this recommendation.
- **Tree felling on Flood Meadows.** Necessity accepted but the need stressed for full publicity for reasons (mainly ash die-back); to be arranged to avoid public misunderstanding. Could FRW be involved in replanting proposals?
- **South East Water** : their proposals with regard to alterations to the river course and reduction/cessation of abstraction from Lasham Pumping Station were considered. Concern was expressed about several features, particularly increased flood risk downstream. It was hoped a site meeting could be arranged to discuss the plans in more detail.
- **Rivermead (Brewery site)** : a report was received, with enthusiasm, on plans to install a Brewery Heritage Trail along the river as it flowed through the site. Early stages but promising.
- **Flood Meadows** : it was reported that there had been a significant increase in riverfly life recorded compared to previous years. A recent phosphate reading was 0.06, an excellent result.

Charles Kaye
Chair