

Bradwell Committee Meeting Report

Held at Bradwell on 3rd May 2008

General

The committee were delighted to welcome the newly co-opted members, Clare Guillot and Sandra Hodgson-Brown, and also Sheila Leys to her first meeting. The meeting was fully attended with no apologies for absence. Some time was spent working on an organisation chart to clarify the structure of the committee and various standing and special groups that report to it. This will be posted on the Bradwell website in due course.

Centre Manager

David presented a breakdown of the visitor numbers for April, which amount to 153 overnight stays and 144 day visits. The non-coincidence of the school holidays with Easter resulted in a lower turnout than normal, but the general picture is encouraging.

The centre has recently been offered to small groups and families staying on a self catering basis. David explained that this facility is also open to Community members and subject to several conditions. Details of the scheme will be publicised via the Bradwell e-zine and full circle.

David confirmed that arrangements for VAP (formerly YAP) camps have been made. It has been agreed that two two-week camps will be run this year in the hope that this will prove more attractive to volunteers. It was also agreed that no limit would be imposed by this committee on the number of visits that an individual can make via the VAP scheme.

Trustees

Tim Fox reported that Sally Clarke has resigned due to poor health and that Bob Whorton has been appointed as a new trustee. He also elaborated on the plans to sell the farm, further details of which can be found in the Trustees Web Report.

Programme Planning

It was decided that a programme planning meeting should be held in June or early July to kick start the process of preparing the 2009 programme. Robert Ricks is coordinating the planning effort and asked that ideas for themes and speakers be passed on to him.

Volunteering

The helpers teams table is filling up well with most weeks having a warden and cook, though there is still a shortage of chaplains and maintenance and entertainments officers. Kate Mulkern and Sandra Hodgson-Brown are to revise the Bradwell Handbook with an electronic copy being available in time for the summer season. The training weekend 6-8th June will be cancelled due to lack of bookings. Kate is to look at new ways of training volunteers.

Maintenance

Several jobs are currently ongoing including the reed beds and pond clearing. David expressed his gratitude for the effort made by Jonney and Matthew to overhaul the generator. The committee resolved to appoint a warden for future working weekends and to take a more organised and disciplined approach.

Fundraising

Ann Frogatt was pleased to report that the Victorian Evening had raised the amazing sum of £400 and that the Bach Choir Concert, organised by Rosie Sinden-Evans is on course to raise around £500. Grant submissions totalling £48,000 to EON and the Augustine Courtauld Trust are currently in progress with further applications in the pipeline. Rosie reported that the Cascade's public side had been completed and all members contacted by phone or letter she will follow this up with a report and analysis of replies and comments.

Cut Your Carbon

Clare Stone presented details of the draft application to the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) funding competition. The first round is under way with grants of up to £250,000. Building projects are excluded from the competition this year, but may be included next year. The application must be submitted by early June and will be followed by a "Dragons' Den" style presentation. 100% funding is possible, but 50% and 75% is more likely. The application proposes a package of improvements to our existing facilities and a major proposal for connection to the grid coupled with renewable energy generation, by solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and / or a micro wind turbine. The committee resolved unanimously to give the application its full backing and expressed their gratitude to Clare and the CYC group for their effort and commitment to this undertaking. It was agreed that an information board will be prepared for the pilgrimage to inform the local community of the proposals and to address any concerns.

Sunday Collection Charities

Following the appeal to the wider community for proposals via the e-zine, the following five proposals were received and presented to the committee for consideration:

International: PENHA Care International Viva a Vida

National: Dialog Centre UK St Cedd's Pre-School

The proposals were reviewed and a vote held resulting in the selection of the following charities:

PENHA (Pastoral & Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa¹) works in Eritrea, Somaliland, Sudan and Uganda and helps nomadic peoples whose livelihood is based on rearing animals in the drylands of Africa. It does this by working with partner organisations run by local people helping them to manage change by ensuring that their voice is heard by policy makers.

St Cedd's is the local pre-school in Bradwell Village. The committee felt that this proposal gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our concern and care for the local community and was warmly endorsed by the centre manager.

The donations made to the Sunday Collection will be shared equally between these two charities. The committee resolved to make every effort to maintain the profile of our community giving throughout the year.

Chris Jones (Bradwell Committee Chair)

¹ Pastoral in this context refers to the agricultural rather than ecclesiastical meaning.