

The Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust

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Notes from the meeting of the Blaxhall Commons and Open Spaces Charitable Trust
Saturday August 6th 2016 5pm

Present:

Andrew Derrick
Joy Shaw
Steve Smedley
Yvonne Smedley
Mark Oakley
Sophie Martin
Mike Cowling (for 15 mins)
Eve Rossor
Jeff Hume (from 6pm)
Rosy Thornton (from 6pm)
Mike Gross (from 6pm)

What would membership look like?

Joining is a vote of support for the function of the charity, even though a member may not be 'active'.

A nominal membership fee should be charged- suggested £3 for single, £5 for family membership.

Membership fee to cover admin. Costs and go towards activities.

Email reminders of things to do each month e.g. clearance of brambles/bracken on commonly used paths, events such as a 'nightjar' walk or fungus foray.

Membership would be as wide as possible- not limited to Blaxhall residents as so many people use the commons and value the spaces who are visitors or live in nearby villages.

A high level of support should demonstrate how the commons and open spaces are valued and must not be destroyed e.g. by building

Publicity

Articles in Ebb and Flow- need repeated entries to get people to become members, emphasising the use of the Great Common, common yards and 'dispersed settlements'.

Leaflet about the Commons with maps, historical information walks and how to join- available in the Ship, Youth Hostel. Church.



Village notice board with all the commons shown.

Put maps of the commons in the pub, village hall, church and youth hostel.

Joy to remind SWT of the charitable trust, and suggest organised visits to the commons.

Village fete-13 August- Jeff to put together leaflets to go on stalls and in the parish hall

Involvement

Have a wide invitation to the open meeting- extend to other villages.

Easier to get involved if specific tasks identified

Trustees meetings need to be open and advertised, with relevant agenda item for general discussion

Conservation area?

Possibly too late to apply for this, but need a document on why there can be no building on Mill Common. An Open Spaces Plan was suggested- in line with a village plan- and would be a good agenda item for the next Trustees meeting.

Fund raising

General feeling that the trust needs to wait for specific fund raising issues with and then make a concerted effort- more effective than asking for money with no tangible objective.

Donations continue to be received -with gratitude!

Grants rarely available for capital projects such as buying land

Suggestion of 'share holders' of those living by purchased common land with others having lower value shares, sold along with the dwelling.