



Friends of Essington

Friends of Essington Meeting 9th September 2026

Present: Pete Ward (PWa), Paul Woolley (PWo), Angie Whittle, Neil Wheeldon, Wilson Taylor, Paul Bosworth (Regular Attendee & Volunteer) Tracey Taylor, Steve Jones, Clem Whittle, James Parker (EPC councillor)

Apologies: Fred Homer, Jon Hanson

Record of last meeting:

Approved by WT Seconded by PWa

1. Matters arising from the record of the last meeting.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

- Ongoing-PWo explained that discussion was had during the visit about cutting back the overhead canopy and reducing the height of the hedge to make it more accessible and welcoming. PWo has made initial contact with a contractor to discuss.
- PWo presented 3 proposals for the new orchard sign. It was agreed that the third version was the favourite but maybe the FoE logo could be made larger.
- PWo explained that some trees have a good level of fruit but unfortunately one of the new trees has not survived due to the extreme weather.



Wombles Litter Picks

- Next Litter Pick will be confirmed by JH via the usual 'WhatsApp' group.
- JH has purchased a new trolley and it was utilised at the recent litter pick

Brownshore Triangle

- Ongoing-NW and PWo met with Belvoir to discuss their sponsorship of the island. They seem keen and both parties agreed next steps and NW documented and circulated them. Further updates will be shared as progress develops. NW will ask for updates when he contacts them regarding calendar sponsorship.

Brownshore Lane Pavement

- PWo has obtained a sample support and it will be installed as a feasibility test shortly.

Committee Social Events

- Nothing to report

Broad Lane Planter

- PWo has new plants which will be planted next week now the weather is more favourable.

Strimming/Hedge cutting

- Windmill Hill Bench. JH plans to do in the near future. Ongoing.
- Adrians Wall needs attention. Date set for Saturday 19th September at 9am. PWo will publicise on WhatsApp beforehand.
- The path from Wolverhampton Road to Church Crescent is extremely overgrown. This has been reported to SSDC and Housing Plus with no success so we will attend to it ourselves in the near future.
- The emergency entrance to the pools needs clearing. EPC have been contacted but JP will try and organise a working party to action.

2027 Calendar

- NW presented the design work that Emma Whittle has done.
- Some small changes were proposed and these will be communicated to Emma
- NW has written to the regular sponsors for confirmation of ongoing support. So far 7 have confirmed but unfortunately 1 declined.
- NW will chase outstanding requests next week.
- Potential new sponsors were discussed and will be contacted.

2. Environmental Activities

- Nothing to report

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

- Next quiz night is on Wednesday 30th September at the Working Men's Club.

Fundraising night

- Both the band and the venue are now confirmed for February 27th 2027.

4. Correspondence

- Cherry Tree Court got in touch to see if FoE would be interested in doing a presentation about their activities and about the village history. NW & PWo will have informal chat with their contact to see if we can help.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

- Latest Bank Statement and recent transactions were shared with the committee by NW.

Expenditure

- RBL wreath
- Bags of daffodils (see any other business)
- NW explained that he had renewed the Public Liability Insurance as nothing had been heard from Hilton Main.

6. Any other business

- CW mentioned the poor condition of the flag on Bryns mound. JP explained he has a new flag and will organise its fitting.
- CW mentioned that the Birdboxes are done around about now. A date was set for Oct 2nd at 1.30pm.
- PWa suggested we purchase a bag of daffodil bulbs to plant around the village. This was discussed and agreed and PWO will circulate price options for feedback.
- PWa asked if we could contact the Highways dept to see if there was a timescale for the road improvements at the junction of Bursnips Road and Hobnock Road. If nothing is imminent then we could investigate tidying the area up.

Date of next meeting - 14th October at 7.00pm in Council Chambers