Sylvania Environment and Community Project

Annual General Meeting
24th September 2013

19 people were in attendance

Apologies from: Chris Roscoe, Linnet Close

Gareth Thomas – Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members present.
He explained that we are required under the Constitution to hold an AGM.

Gareth introduced the committee to those present.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated & accepted.

Sylvania Environment and Community Project Annual Report 2012-2013
Our group was formed in January 2012 and represents the residents of Sheppard Road, Mayflower Avenue, Plassey Close, Linnet Close and Falkland Close in Sylvania, Exeter.
Our objective is to safeguard and promote the interests of residents on matters concerning the maintenance and improvement of the environment, specifically the unadopted open spaces in our area.

Our Committee Members for 2012-2013 are:
Gareth Thomas - Chair
Susanne McLoughlin - Vice Chair (Grants Officer)
Sue Jackson - Secretary
Paul Kennard - Treasurer
Suzie Tosh - Assistant Grant Officer and Publicity
Pat Fantarrow - Assistant Secretary
Thelma Otton - Assistant Treasurer
Terry Monk - Committee Member

Contact Details
Website: “sylvaniaecp”
Facebook page: “Sylvania Environment and Community Project”,
e-mail: https://sites.google.com/site/sylvaniaecp/home

Achievements to Date
This is the second year of our project. We feel we have made good progress implementing our maintenance and development plan. We successfully applied for a range of grants and held a number of events throughout the year including very successful planting and clean up weekends, as well as bird box and bat box making workshops. We have also held regular committee and public meetings.

https://sites.google.com/site/sylvaniaecp/home
The Future
We have applied for a number of grants for this year and are hopeful of receiving approximately £3000. These will allow us to proceed with what has become phase three of our maintenance and development plan which among other work will involve further clearing of invasive plants and extensive replanting with greater emphasis on underplanting. So far we have been successful in obtaining £1500 towards the cost of tree surgery work and new trees for Plassey Close. We intend to run a series of events throughout the year and build on the community involvement that we have begun to establish.

Thank You
Once again I would like to thank the committee members who have worked so hard in many ways to make this a very successful year for the project. Thanks are also due to the residents who have given their time so generously. We have reason to be very grateful to Paul Faulkner Officer from Exeter City Parks and Open Spaces for the advice that he has generously and freely given. Our thanks are also due to Joe Lawrence who made up excellent bat box kits and led the bat box making session. David Charles has also provided an invaluable contribution in not only developing our website but conscientiously keeping it up to date. Over the year we have also benefited from the support of our local councillors Tim Payne, Percy Prowse and Jake Donavan. We are also very grateful to Emily Stallworthy and Paul Martin from The Devon Wildlife Trust who have provided excellent advice on the management and planting of the unadopted land. We are also very appreciative of the support from our local Waitrose supermarket who generously sponsored us throughout 2012/13 and will continue to do so for the current 2013/14 year. For a number of years Londis our local shop has supported our project. We are grateful for their past and ongoing support.

Note
Full minutes of meetings, the constitution and development and maintenance plan, together with photographs of events and background to the open land problem can be found on our web site as above.

Gareth Thomas - Chair
15th September 2013

Finance Report 01.09.12 - 31.08.13
Business Reserve Account
Carried over from 2011 - 2012 £1200.05
Paid In £2800.69 Paid Out £2950.00
Business Current Account
Carried over from 2011 - 2012 £101.01
Paid in £6302.99 Paid Out £6239.30
Current Financial Position
Reserve £1050.74 Current £171.00 Cash £56.31 Total £1278.05

https://sites.google.com/site/sylvaniaecp/home
**Agree Constitution**
The constitution which is on the website, was informally adopted last year, to be finalised this year. Unfortunately there are only 19 people present and a quorum is 20 therefore this will have to be deferred again.

**Election of Committee**
All committee members, except Terry Monk who was not present at the last meeting, have agreed to stand again

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposer</th>
<th>Seconder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gareth Thomas, Chair</td>
<td>Paul Kennard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanne McLoughlin, V. Chair (Grants)</td>
<td>Paul Kennard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Jackson, Secretary</td>
<td>Pat Fantarrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Kennard, Treasurer</td>
<td>Thelma Otton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzie Tosh, Asst. Grant Officer/Publicity</td>
<td>Paul Kennard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Fantarrow, Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>Thelma Otton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thelma Otton, Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Paul Kennard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gareth asked if anyone else was willing to stand on the committee particularly from Plassey Close, no one responded!

**Ways Forward**
Susanne informed the meeting about work carried out over the last 12 months and for the future. Since our formation we have been fortunate to coincide with national funding and focus around the Queen’s Jubilee. Our application to Defra’s Big Tree Plant wasn’t successful but Devon Wildlife Trust application was and we have directly benefited from free whips (very small trees for planting) and Emily Stallworthy’s time and advice, this is now coming to an end. See Devon Wildlife Trust’s [Big Tree Plant Management Plan - Sylvania Environment and Community Project](https://sites.google.com/site/sylvaniaecp/home) report on our website. Also Woodland Trust have provided us with free whips which we have planted, as part of their Plant 4 Million Trees, this has now ended. We have also been able to use locality funding from our Devon County councillor Percy Prowse who allocated us monies to do expensive health & safety tree clearing and tree surgeons work. ECC have also provided us with £300 grants towards our work. Waitrose through their Corporate Social Responsibility scheme provided and planted some larger trees around the area; this is being done in partnership with the Woodland Trust. They have also sent some of their partners to our clearing/planting days. We have been able to make great changes to the area using the Development Plan for tree management and by replanting different levels of canopy and bulbs and wildflowers. There has been a large amount of tree work carried out in Linnet close recently. There is a Planting Day on the 9th November when more substantial trees will be planted in Plassey Close and Linnet Close. There will also be
bulb planting in the woodland areas and wildflowers along the side of the stream.
In the future apart from monitoring trees and their condition, especially the Ash, all major work is complete. We now look forward to a different kind of care for the area and hopefully different Community involvement. Paul Faulkner, ECC, will help us to monitor this work.

Matters Arising
1. Suzie Tosh asked if there were any more trees for health & safety work, the answer was no.

2. There was a question from the floor regarding the involvement of the Open Spaces Charitable Trust who own the land, Gareth explained that we had eventually received £500 from the Trust towards the health & safety work but he wasn't hopeful that we would receive any more although we would keep asking. The Open Spaces Charitable Trust would like us to take over full responsibility for the area but we are not willing to do so mainly because of liability issues.

3. Suzie asked about the tree work that had been carried out in Mayflower Avenue, it was explained that this was carried out by a separate group. Some people think we were involved but Gareth explained that we weren't and that he had written this to the Express & Echo but people still thought it was us!

4. Thelma asked if the DCC Highways department could be asked to repair the path along the stream. Susanne wrote to Percy Prowse about this and he replied that someone was coming to have a look at it. Any problems of this nature should be passed to either ECC or DCC depending on the nature of the problem.

5. If anyone has any ideas or feels strongly about what is being done they can write/email to the committee or come along to a meeting.

Date of the next Annual General Meeting 23rd September 2014 @ 7.30pm

Thelma gave a formal vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work.