**Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting –9 March 2016, 7:00 – 8:30pm**

**Present:** Bob & Rita Tarron, Charulata Patel, Judith Batson, James & Margaret Hetherington, Paul Hammond, David & Abi Coupe, Kathryn Knights, Judy Entwistle, Alan Mason, Mark & Magda Lysons, Barbara Ellis, Paul Murray, Miranda & Natalie Lander.

**Apologies:** Trevor Tween – An email update was provided advising that the grass in the main glade is due to be cut shortly and there is to be a final practical task this season on 31 March to clear some more scrub.

**Minutes of 10 February 2016**

**January Litter Pick**

* Margaret reported that the first litter pick of 2016 was a success with a good turnout and many bags filled, including some fly tipped items. The next litter pick is scheduled for 17 April and more volunteers are needed.

**Butterfly Survey**

* Dave has planned a route and would welcome support from others to test the terminology used to describe the vegetation. The surveying will begin on 1 April and run for 26 weeks.
* All data can be added online to the Beds Natural History site and that will automatically be added to the County records.

**Calendar of 2016 Events**

* 9 April Meeting –Greg Herbert speaking about butterfly surveys
* May Meeting - Andy Grimshaw - speaking on Birds of Bradgers Hill and our Dawn Chorus Walk
* July –Wildlife Weekend- Friday 15th July 2016 - Moth Event

Sunday 17th July 2016 - Litter Pick&Evening Astronomy Event

* Trevor has been diligently contacting farmer Lionel Shaw but no response yet.

**Old Bedford Road Estates (Paul)**

* Contact made with their solicitor which is a step forward (the only thing they are obligated to do is keep the right of way open).

**Friends of Luton Parks & Green Spaces subgroup meeting on Right of Ways (James)**

* James attended the meeting on 23 February along withTrevor Tween, David Oakley-Hill (Chair - Friends of Parks & Green Spaces -FOP&GS) and Jane Conway (LBC Parks liaison officer). Current Definitive Map shows the Bradgers Hill ROW plus the Hexton Highway trail, so is OK from our perspective. Group response drafted at meeting supports LBC work to remove the anomaly of the large excluded area (70% of LBC area) by marking existing ROWs together with the collation of the required evidence/paperwork. Draft to be finalised and agreed by FOP&GS and sent to LBC before 16 March. Draft previously sent to Paul.
* James circulated a copy of a map which shows the existing definitive map and the Excluded area in yellow.
* James also attended the Joint Local Access Forum - Central Beds & Luton meeting. This is a formal meeting as required by Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Members of the Forum are appointed by the local authorities and represent various stakeholders interested in access to the countryside e.g. walkers, cyclists, horse riders, land owners etc. plus the relevant local authority officers. Representatives of groups such as ours can attend as observers but can only speak by prior notice to the JLAF secretary at least 3 weeks before scheduled meeting. Several items of interest to us were discussed including the policy on nuisance motorcycles (including quad bikes), using rights of way, bridal ways etc., land north of Luton proposed for development by CBC along the path of the proposed M1 to A6 link road, Linkage of Theed Way and John Bunyon trail in Bramingham Park, LBC and CBC Definitive ROW mapping consultation. James will keep in contact with the JLAF secretary and attend meetings deemed to have items of interest to us. Next meeting is scheduled for 8th June at the Forest Centre, Marston Mortaine.

**Educational Links (Paul)**

* Paul has heard back from Bushmead Primary, Stopsley High and Luton Sixth Form College, who are all interested in linking with us in June/July 2016.

**Steve Colman**

* Steve gave a fascinating talk on the ancient history of Bradgers Hill and the surrounding areas, including the Tithe Map. Slides can be obtained via Abi.

**AOB**

* Nothing raised.