**Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting – Wednesday 8 June, 7-8pm**

**Present:** Paul Hammond, Abigail Coupe, David Coupe, Scott Ashdown, Judy Entwistle, Bob Tarron, Rita Tarron, Kathryn Knights, Judith Batson, Margaret Hetherington, James Hetherington, Trevor Tween, Frances Jeffrey, Charulata Patel

Additional background information and updates on the following subjects can also be found on Annex A: Slowworm Surveys, Astronomy Evening, Noticeboards, Natural England, Luton and Dunstable Conservation Volunteers, Funding Opportunities.

**Litter Pick** (Margaret) – The next event will take place during our Annual Wildlife Weekend on Sunday 17 July, meeting at 10am at the Community Centre.

**Slow Worm Surveys** (Trevor) – The spring survey has now completed (total of 11 slowworms seen over 8 visits) and this will continue in the autumn. Measurements and weigh-ins will be completed. There is another potential site for surveying behind and to the left of Bennington Close.

Beds Natural History website (www.bnhs.co.uk) can be used to record all sightings of reptiles, butterflies etc. on their ‘Adnoto’ recording system. This data is then automatically sent to the county recorder.

**Orchid Walk (Trevor)** – Trevor will lead us on an evening orchid walk. We will meet at 7:30pm at the Community Centre and walk till dusk on 22 June. Luton & Dunstable Conservation Volunteers (LDCV) is also invited.

LDCV are walking on 19 June, 10am to visit the new Suncote Pit Site and possibly out to Totternhoe. Meet at the Dunstable end of the cuttings in French’s Avenue.

**Friends of Bradgers Hill – Upcoming Events**

Wildlife Weekend

* Friday 15 July – Gordon Redford will lead a moth evening, starting at 9pm (to be confirmed). Possibility of having a bat event beforehand and devising a combined Creatures of the Night Event.
* Saturday 16 July – Walk – Meet at the Bird & Bush for a drink, and then walk over to the Lily Arms. Meet at 11am with the aim of being back by 3pm.
* Sunday 17 July – Astronomy Evening – Confirmed, clear skies permitting.

**Autumn Programme of Meetings**

14 September – Business Meeting

25 September (am) – Foraging walk led by Trevor

12 October - Possible talk from farmer Lionel Shaw, still waiting to hear back from him on a date.

9 November – Local resident John Young will give a talk about his farmhouse and the history of the estate

20 November – Litter pick

10 December – Christmas walk with refreshments at Wardown Park Museum

14 December – social at Pizza Il Forno.

**Anti Social Bikers on Bradgers Hill -** Agreed Dave Coupe would write to our Police & Crime Commissioner. All sightings should be reported to Operation meteor (opmeteorinbox@bedforshire.pnn.police.uk). Scott will add the information to our website too.

**Signage (Paul) -** We agreed that Paul would bid for Halycon to do the design work and for 2 Metrosigns boards. We would also put in another bid to replace existing damaged signs.

**Butterfly Surveying (Dave) -** 10 transects completed so far, we have only missed one due to the weather. Thanks to those that have assisted. Dave has conducted some comparison analysis figures and the current figures are a lot lower than the 2005 survey.

**SSSI Status (Trevor)** - Bradgers Hill is on a pipeline for further consideration, there is no realistic timeline from Natural England as the process for the award of SSSI sites is under review. Paul agreed to write to Kelvin Hopkins MP to see if this could get things moving.

**Save the Community Centre Campaign (Paul & Dave)** – The Centre was previously used as a base for educational activities and a forum for education conservation. The group agreed that the future plans for the Centre should consider whether these functions could be reinstated. We would need to engage with more deprived parts of the town and aim to attract schools.

**AOB** – Nothing raised.