

**PENDLE LOCAL NATURE RESERVES**  
**STEERING GROUP MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 – VIRTUAL MEETING**

**PRESENT**

Lee Johnson	Borough of Pendle
Malcolm Linford	Lomeshaye Local Nature Reserve
Simon Reed	Alkincoates Local Nature Reserve
Alison Plackett	Gibhill
Louise Cooper	Borough of Pendle

MIN NO		ACTION
	<p style="text-align: center;">A minutes silence was held in memory of Dave McQuillan.            He was a valued and well-loved member of the Local Nature Reserves.            He will be deeply missed by us all.</p>	
1.	<p><b><u>Alkincoates LNR</u></b></p> <p>The following update was provided by Simon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon updated the group on the LEF grant to re-surface footpaths for mobility and wheelchair access. Gates will also need modifying.</li> <li>• The reserve has seen a big rise in footfall, it is being well used and well received, which is very good, but on the other hand it could be a double edged sword!</li> <li>• Received donated trees from XLCR and West Street School, and the group do have a few spare saplings.</li> <li>• Contractors have scrapped out the ponds but they now need landscaping and planting.</li> <li>• There has been lots of volunteer interest.</li> <li>• Carol Riley stood down as Chair in August 2020, she will be missed as Chair, but she will always be a valued member of Local Nature Reserves.</li> <li>• Wildlife sightings include Kestral, Barnowls, plenty of birds. Alison pointed out in summer last year there were plenty of Bats at Alkincoates, it might be worthwhile checking the bat boxes and possibly installing some additional ones.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b><u>Gibhill</u></b></p> <p>The following update was provided by Alison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported problems on the official footpaths, which need to be addressed.</li> <li>• The streams are becoming silted up.</li> <li>• PBC have included 150 homes to be built on Gibhill except for the BHS fields. Gibhill includes a hedges that are of significant importance to biodiversity.</li> <li>• It was agreed it would be a travesty if the fields of Gibhill were built on.</li> <li>• 2020 was a fantastic year for butterflies on Gibhill and it is a dominant area for pollinators.</li> <li>• Lee stated that all this should be stated in the consultation.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The amount of wildlife on these fields is outstanding and it should be recognised for it. For example it is an important temporary feeding ground migrating birds.</li> <li>• Gibhill is a stepping stone habitat and is a network of green belt.</li> <li>• The ecological net worth of Gibhill is one of the best in the borough.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b><u>Lomeshaye Marsh LNR</u></b></p> <p>The following update was provided by Malcolm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the pandemic all the work carried out by the young people has stopped.</li> <li>• The New Zealand Pigmy Weed has devastated the reserve and it looks really unloved at the moment.</li> <li>• Lee has been looking at funding to strip the reserve of the pigmy weed.</li> <li>• The pigmy weed must be addressed as it cannot be allowed to get into the river.</li> <li>• The concrete slabs in the river are being removed, to prevent flooding.</li> <li>• A wall is being put across one of the footpaths. Lee will look into this with Tom Partridge.</li> <li>• Lee wants an arboriculture survey conducted on the Marsh as it is such an important area for insects.</li> <li>• Lee is hoping to get funding to remove the dead chestnut trees.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b><u>Ball Grove LNR</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers have started some litter picking and doing bits in the reserve.</li> <li>• Lee has a little bit left to do on the management plan and will send for comments, then it will be passed to the committee and then Natural England.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee has identified 35 hectares of PBC land that is suitable for tree planting. He is aiming for 3,000 tree per year and wants 1,000 by the end of March.</li> <li>• Working with Ribble Rivers Trust.</li> <li>• Alison asked if some areas could be dedicated to Grasslands as these are very important for insects.</li> <li>• The sites Lee is looking at are the ‘Green Deserts’</li> <li>• There is one meadow next to Alkincoates above the allotments that is suitable for a glade, woodland and hay meadow. The common blue butterfly has been spotted there.</li> <li>• The NHS are claiming that climate change is a public health crisis.</li> <li>• PEN Funding. Louise updated the group that there was money still left that is dedicated to Quarry Hill and Gibhill. <b>UPDATE:</b> Louise has emailed finance and the groups involved to let them know how much money needs to be transferred to 2021/2022.</li> <li>• As the group is already aware the Council decided that EAG was no longer viable. Louise has been transferred to Waste Services and Matt has now left. Alison stated that with Matt and Robert gone the council have lost an expertise it needed and getting work done in the reserves is going to be even tougher.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>To be decided.</p>	