



Newsletter: October 2020

News Flash

Work parties

Work parties will be held on the last Sunday morning every month from 10.30 am finishing by 12.30 pm. Each session begins with a health and safety talk and a briefing on what's to be done that day but don't feel you have to be there for the whole time. You can come later and finish earlier if you have other commitments.

Please let us know if you're coming as we need to plan the work and keep to the Government regulations.

We always need someone to stay by the welcome table to keep an eye on things and sign-in volunteers, so if you're not feeling energetic there's still a role for you. Let us know if you'll need a chair.

We may have other sessions to complete specific tasks as part of the initial renovations.



Work Parties hard at work



Contents:

- The site
- Contact Details
- Tools
- Friends AGM
- Public Consultation
- September Work Party
- Ecology Surveys
- Fund Raising
- Social Media

The Site

The site is owned by Barnet Council and is free to enjoy. The main entrance is in Finchley Way, London, N3 1AH (opposite No.6).

Contact details

The website has been launched. Friends and others can now see our plans, the various policies and procedures, up-coming events and more. Go to www.fofwos.org

We also now have a phone number, although it is unlikely that it will be answered immediately, please leave a message and we will get back to you.

The number is 07496 471 658

Unwanted tools

We still need more tools as not all the volunteers are able to bring their own. So if you have unwanted garden hand tools it's not too late to donate them to FoFWOS. We can't accept anything that is powered.

If you know where we can get loppers, secateurs, etc. sharpened please let us know.

The Friends AGM

We plan to hold Annual General Meeting of the Friends on Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 7.30 pm using Zoom. It will be free to join the meeting.

We will be in touch with Friends separately about this nearer the time.



Even in these dark days there is light

Consultation

Will be launched on Monday 26 October. You can see the plans on the website at www.fofwos.org/plans

The last date for receipt of comments will be Sunday 22 November.

You can also access the consultation questionnaire from the website or

email fofwos@gmail.com and we'll send you the link or you can just email your comments. Please get in touch if you need a paper copy.

September work party

The work party on the last Sunday of September went well with some children coming along. We now have 86 Friends.

The new path into the Copse was tidied-up, although there's still more to do on this. Another new path was cut through a different part of the Copse, an area we're now calling the Glade. There was also some exploration of the far side of the Copse which established that it's possible for the ecologist to have full access without cutting more access routes and the contractors have confirmed that this works for them.



A new path into The Glade

The main entrance in Finchley Way and the entrance opposite 28 Hamilton Way were cleared to make them more obvious to passers-by.

'Windows' were cut in the area between The Drive and the main entrance to open-up the Green to passers-by. This helps to deter anti-social behaviour and, we've been told, enhances the view for those living opposite. We intend to continue this along The Drive.

Litter picking helps keep the Green tidy and is now being extended into the Copse. We need help to move some of the larger items to the gate in The Drive for the Barnet team to collect.

It's amazing what can be achieved in a relatively short time.



New "windows" into The Green Field

Ecology surveys

Work is moving forward on getting the ecology survey completed by a professional company.

Thanks to Phil who has written-up the findings on his tree survey so far. He has found that the site includes 27 species of woody perennials.

The site is characterised by mature woodland, field edge, various stages of succession, and he feels it has considerable biodiversity with scope for enhancement.

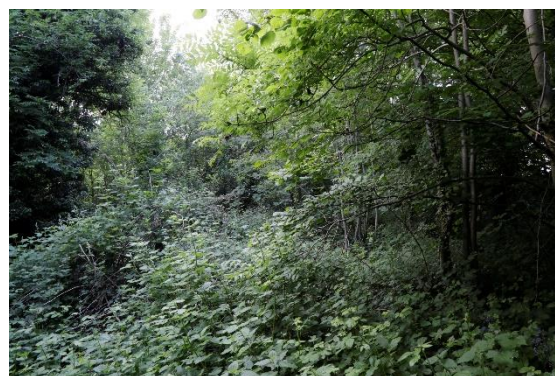
The green field is an open play and sitting area that is surrounded by a narrow strip of woodland on all four sides. This woodland is dominated by Sycamore, Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Cherry Laurel, but it includes major Lime, English Elm and Turkey Oak

trees, with Holly, Yew, Elder, Hawthorn and four other woody species present.

The overgrown parts of the site contain signs that it is inhabited by bats, Tawny and Little Owls, hedgehogs, foxes and possibly rare ivy bees and tree bumble bees and firecrests.

One of the currently overgrown areas is mature mixed deciduous woodland again dominated by Sycamore, Ash, Pedunculate Oak and Lime, although it also has major Horse Chestnut and Yew trees, along with smaller examples of Holly, Elder, English Elm, Wild Cherry, Hazel, Hawthorn and White Willow.

The other part of the overgrown area was allotments until about 2005/6 and signs of the allotments and probably of an earlier orchard can be seen as there are Apple and Plum trees present. This area though is currently dominated by Ash, Sycamore and Lime with substantial Horse Chestnut, Elder, Holly and Hawthorn trees, smaller examples of Willow, English Elm, Pedunculate Oak, Hazel and Alder.



There is a lot of work to do

Fund raising

Thanks to those of you who have donated time and money over the past few months (and in some cases both).

Small donations help to cover incidental costs such as tree

protectors and labels, tools and printing.

Even though all the administration and organisations is done by volunteers we need small sums of money to cover running costs, especially as we move to become a charity.

We will need to have indemnity insurance. The website has to pay for the hosting and to ensure that viewers are not bothered by adverts. At present committee members are covering these costs.

You can donate either by contacting us at fofwos@gmail.com or by bank transfer to Sort Code: 01-06-28, Account Name: Friends of Finchley Way open Space, Account number:

44189184. If you donate, please let us know by email.

We will soon be looking for funding for other projects within the overall plan.

To contact the Committee, some of whom live within sight of the site, just email fofwos@gmail.com

You can **unsubscribe** from this list at any time by emailing fofwos@gmail.com. You can request that all your details and email history be deleted at any time.

Thank you for your support

Contributors - Suzanne King, Alan Douglas and Philip West

Social media

Don't forget to look at and post on the Facebook open to all FoFWOS members at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1385689341590473/>

You can also access the Facebook page and our Instagram account and You Tube channel from our website: www.fofwos.org



A reminder of summer