

## Trafford Wildlife AGM held 31.01.24 at 7pm.

Present were J. Wood (Chair), G. Densham (Secretary), D. Reeves (Treasurer), C. Dudley, D. Densham, J. Croft, M. Baker, P. Miners & S. Leicester.  
Apologies: C. Petts, J. Banwell, J. Turnbull & Y. Martinez

1. No matters arising from previous AGM.

### 2 CHAIR REPORT

Last year I noted some difficulties including having to suspend activities on some National Trust Sites, problems with recruitment and publicity and the threat posed by urban development plans. This year it is my very pleasant duty to report that numbers are up, hours worked have increased and we have expanded into some interesting new sites.

Our community presence continues. The weekly litter picking group has increased in numbers and we have a quarterly presence at Sale Makers Market.

We continue to work alongside and liaise with other environmental groups locally. On 29.9.23, Geoff and I attended a Trafford Parks and Green Spaces meeting. As well as the opportunity for networking, I was pleased that feedback from the day called for more emphasis on green space other than parks and more wild planting.

The threat from urban development remains. On 4.12.23 David and I attended a Trafford led meeting for interested parties which addressed the strategy and timescale of the Places for Everyone plan. Information for this is on the GMCA website where you can also submit comments. However the future remains uncertain.

It is my belief that this makes the work of Trafford Wildlife even more vital in striving to conserve and improve what we have in an expanding urban environment.

However, I have no real concerns at this point as our organisation continues to go from strength to strength.

This is wholly down to our dedicated members, so a big thank you goes out to you all who turn up in all weathers and contribute your knowledge, skills and sometimes brute strength to our endeavours.

I can't mention you all individually but a special thanks to Geoff for his tireless efforts in organising work parties, liaison with our partners, keeping records, keeping us all informed on the website, facebook and WhatsApp and actually doing the manual work on site - and a whole lot more.

Thanks too to David, not only for his work as treasurer but also coordinating the Sunday work groups, planning future developments and ordering and purchasing new stock.

I must also thank Maura for liaison with the Sale marketeers and her work with the litter picking group and thanks too to Julie for organising the Timperley Tidiers. I will pick out Janet for her great photography along with the rest of you who contribute to social media. Well done on those who cycled (walked or ran) to tasks through what has been some pretty challenging weather particularly in the latter part of the year. Thanks to Chelsea for keeping Instagram updated.

We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic and hard working group of volunteers- so once again, thanks to all who took part in 2023 and I look forward to building further on our success in 2024.

### 3 SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### 3.1 RESOURCE

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of tasks	76	115	141	157
Number of people	448	534	694	745
Number of volunteer hours	1782	1918	2638	3547

Timperley Tidiers lead by Julie Johnson now operating under a TW public liability cover (figures not included in above).

Communications to volunteers continue through Website, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Email.

The website hosting through Site123 was renewed for 3 years in November 2022. Less responses in 2023 than 2022.

TW had a stall at Sale Makers Market 5 times this year and a useful number of volunteer contacts have been made.

TW presence at Trafford Green Space Forum event in September.

TW had a stall at Sale West volunteer event in November.

### 3.2 RESERVES (NT) *NT comments in red*

3.2.1. Brookheyes & Sinderland Green management plan agreement with NE (to allow continued de-leafing of green pond & hedge maintenance). *NT and NE are working together through Project Riverlands and LON (Land Outdoor & Nature) projects on the above so keep paused.*

3.2.2. Hogswood & Sinderland Brook edge to brook difficult to access making balsam control difficult. Crawling under low hawthorn is a challenge physically and time consuming so will only pull balsam up to hawthorn tree line. *NT always say do what is manageable. Pulling to the hawthorn boundary is more than adequate as Sinderland Brook edges will always have balsam due to seed infecting the area in flood of which there are several a year.*

3.2.3. Willow Tit additional habitats in Maljurs/Stamford Community woodland. *Willow Tit was officially recorded in our 2023 breed bird surveys which will aid future management plans which are being drafted this year.*

3.2.4. Brookheyes permissive path boardwalk over sometimes underwater section. *All footpaths and outdoor furniture have been logged during summer footpath surveys and repairs and replacements will be carried out in due course in partnership with Bollin Valley Ranger.*

TW: Indications from NT are that other than the regular balsam & tree aftercare tasks there are unlikely to be any major items for TW in 2024.

### 3.3 RESERVES (BMC)

Results of birch suppression:

11 cut winter 22-23 to about 30cm, drilled with 100mm x12 mm damp Epsom Salts & protected from daylight by zero translucence black plastic sheeting. Could only find 9 of which 5 regrew and 4 did not – Poor

19 originally cut to near ground winter 21-22, new growth cut down autumn 22, bases cut to ground level and covered with weighted zero translucence black plastic sheeting. None regrew – Good

10 cut winter 22-23 to about 30cm & marked with red ribbon - 1 regrew & 9 did not (some of the 9 were light deprived by other vegetation). Good – but problem is tripping hazard.

10 originally cut to near ground winter 21-22, new growth cut down autumn 22, marked with 25mm square stakes. Only 7 left as stakes had been removed from 3. All 7 regrew – Poor

Summary: covering with plastic works however simpler to winch all stumps out, hence an additional winch has been purchased.

The weed barrier purchased for the tree planting areas has been found to be too thin so a thicker barrier will be purchased.

### 3.4 SWIFTS. Report from David N.

We have a number of things to report, like the formation of the South Manchester Swift group which although in its infancy now meets every month, we hope to have a website up and running very shortly, there is a Facebook page and twitter(X) account also. 6.2 The Swift pages can be left live on the T.W. Web site & I would like to update the pages when the SMS groups' web page is live. Nearer to the start of this years Swift season I'll post a report on T.W.'s WhatsApp page about last year's season and the hopes for the coming year. I've recently had a follow up email from a lady called Katherine who contacted me last year about Swiftboxes she had been directed to me from the TW website.

4.1 Sunday group & financial summary. See separate document. One question raised over skip hire. This is a provision which may be eventually covered by others, or may be postponed to a future year.

4.2 Margaret McCormick and John Somerville who passed in 2023 were remembered for their dedication to nature reserves in Trafford. See separate document.

5. The current officers were unanimously requested to continue.

### 6 AOB

6.1 Sale Wombles. As they were formed some time ago, it was felt Wombles branding was now out of date and did not represent that of Trafford Wildlife. However if a TW supporter wishes to start and lead a litterpicking team for their area then Public Liability cover can be provided.

6.2 Jennifer W was thanked for her kind hospitality in hosting the evening.