

Summary of outcomes from the Hob Hey Wood consultation event at Frodsham Community Centre,
10/03/18

A consultation event was held at Frodsham Community Centre on Saturday the 10th of March, from 10am until 2pm. This drop-in session was supported by staff from the Mersey Forest with Frodsham Town Council's Estates Officer in attendance, in order to ascertain local interest in the formation of a Friends of Hob Hey Wood group. A total of fifteen members of the local community attended the session, and a number of immediate environmental and safety issues at Hob Hey Wood were discussed, including: the dilapidated access route into Hob Hey Wood from Townfield Lane; sections of footpaths throughout the wood that are in desperate need of repair and/or proper delineation; damage caused by unauthorised divergence from the bridleway by horse-riders; drainage issues at several key points; soil bank erosion; and a poor balance of different tree species.

Several attendees expressed interest in forming or joining a Friends of Hob Hey Wood group, which would undertake tasks to tackle these issues and improve the health and accessibility of the wood. There is also the opportunity to develop a wood allotment [hyperlink: <http://www.woodallotments.com/>] group, either alongside or as part of the Friends group. However, it was emphasised that the Mersey Forest is concerned with conservation, not commercial forestry, and that any firewood to be extracted from the wood would be primarily for the benefit of the woodland (e.g. to remove invasive tree species, or to create space and light for ground flora).

To follow on from this consultation event, we will be meeting at Hob Hey Wood on Sunday the 22nd of April, where we can see and discuss some of the issues and potential tasks on-site. For those who may wish to join us, we will meet at 10am at the entrance on Townfield Road, and walk from there into the wood. To confirm your attendance, or for any further information, please email yendle.barwise@merseyforest.org.uk or call 07927177684.