



Friends of Frodsham's Green Spaces

Background

There are a number of green spaces across Frodsham that are owned by Frodsham Town Council for the benefit of the local population and natural environment. The Friends Group at Hob Hey Wood demonstrate what can be done by local people, with support from the Council, to help maintain and enhance local green spaces.

Opportunity

To establish a programme of volunteering across Frodsham Town council owned green spaces which could deliver a number of exciting outcomes:

- Support the maintenance of local green spaces and further build our already vibrant civic community
- Promote local green spaces and encourage their appreciation and care in the community, with health and wellbeing benefits for those that use them
- Enhance the natural environment to improve biodiversity and opportunities for climate change adaptation

It is recognised that there will be a range of roles available to suit people with different skills, interests and time commitments. This will include volunteers associated with a particular activity, event or campaign e.g. conducting an ecological assessment, butterfly survey, Tree ID day, tree planting, wildflower sowing. However the primary focus will be to encourage Friends Group volunteers who will work at a site over an extended period, to support maintenance, organise events and activities, or help with group administration

This will require a range of resources, including:

- Leaflets/ flyers for neighbourhoods around green spaces to promote the formation of friends groups
- Resources and support - how to set up a group, governance information, basic maintenance advice, access to training
- Tools and appropriate storage

In addition to time spent recruiting and supporting volunteers and applying for funding.

Proposal

For Frodsham Root Network (FRN) to support FTC with the recruitment of volunteers across its green spaces, to:

- Help develop and design the required resources to set up and manage a 'Friends' group
- Support with the recruitment of volunteers and ongoing administration for the long term management of green spaces
- Develop funding bids to help groups to achieve their goals for the sites, getting the most out of them for the benefit of local people and wildlife.

FTC would remain legally responsible for the land and any statutory maintenance requirements, as is the case with Hob Hey wood. It is not usually an option for charitable funds (i.e. from grant applications) to be used towards statutory responsibilities, however money allocated to maintenance budgets could be used as 'match funding' to leverage additional funds.

FRN is currently being set up as a social enterprise and these services will require funding to make them sustainable. In the short term it is anticipated that sufficient funds could be secured through grant applications i.e. as per the 'volunteer co-ordinator' project identified in the Strategic Environment Plan for Frodsham. ¹

About Frodsham Root Network

Frodsham Root Network is being set up to connect people who want to protect, improve and enjoy green spaces. We want to provide a single point of contact for landowners, volunteer groups and the community; so that volunteers can get the support they need to make their projects happen and the public can more easily access the nature on their doorstep. The goal is to see a network of high quality, biodiverse, well maintained and well used green spaces, for a healthier, happier community where people and nature can thrive.

There are a number of activities that Frodsham Root Network could help to develop or deliver to achieve this goal (subject to funds!). This will build on the amazing work that is already taking place across the town to engage people in the natural environment - e.g. Frodsham Festival of Walks and the work of hundreds of volunteers and community groups across our town.

¹ [Strategic Environment Plan for Frodsham, The Mersey Forest, 2018](#)