

Minutes of Lady Bay Community Association Spring Public Meeting **Wednesday 11th May 2022 8pm All Hallows' Church Hall**

Before the meeting Richard Arblaster's pupils played for us on the piano.

Present: 34; including Borough Cllrs Richard & Sue Mallender (RM & SM)

Apologies: Brenda Baxter (BB) Lady Bay Arts Trail; County Cllr Penny Gowland (PG); Jeff Macintosh, Chair of Friends of the Hook; Rev Jonathan Mole, Vicar, All Hallows' Church; John Osborne LBCA Committee member; Chris Reynolds (CR) Air Raid Shelter Project; Alan Wright of FIELDS;

Welcome & Introduction: The Chair, Sian Trafford (ST), welcomed everyone & introduced Lesley Taylor (LT) Education Officer from Veolia.

Blue Bin Blues?: LT told us she was "paid to talk rubbish!" She gives tours around the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) & goes to schools & community groups.

Veolia is an environmental services company dealing with waste, energy, transport & water. It began as a water company in France. Veolia has the waste disposal contract with Notts County Council, covering all 7 borough & district councils (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood, Rushcliffe) but not Nottingham City Council. All mixed recycling (blue in Rushcliffe) bin collections are taken to the MRF on an industrial estate in Forest Town, Mansfield. There are mixed glass doorstep collections in Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling & Mansfield – the glass is used to make aggregate. Newark & Sherwood & Rushcliffe collect separated colours of glass at Bring Sites & this is recycled into new glass bottles & jars.

Contamination is a problem. Rushcliffe refuse collection vehicles take the contents of the blue bin to waste transfer stations & then larger vehicles take the mixed recycling to the MRF. 10-20% of the recycling is contamination. This is not acceptable to recycling companies. At the MRF materials are separated & contaminants removed. Each separate type of recyclable material is baled & sent to the recyclers. It is a circular system with recycled materials being placed in the blue bins & recycled again.

50% of the collected material is paper & card. To make 1 tonne of paper requires 17 full grown trees or 1 bale of paper & card. The paper-making industry is responsible for a lot of deforestation. With more recycling the individual fibres become shorter & weaker, for 4-5 times good quality paper is made, after that, card.

Recycling metals, steel & aluminium is 95% faster & cheaper than making containers from new metals. Aluminium recycling has increased from 10-60%.

Plastic is around for 100 years in the environment. In the UK less than 50% of plastic bottles are recycled. In Norway, where there is a refund returns scheme, 98% are recycled. To make plastic a fossil fuel; oil, is used. If you fill any plastic bottle ¼ full that is how much oil is required to make it.

Contamination can be obvious e.g. food waste, old carpets. In this case the bin is often rejected by the refuse collectors. However, a lot of contamination results from over-enthusiastic recyclers.

LT distributed a quiz sheet. After filling in the quiz Lesley went over the answers. See quiz sheet & quiz sheet with correct answers.

Plastic carrier bags, crisp packets, cling film, bubble wrap & other “soft, squidgy” plastics are too low grade for recycling. It isn't cost effective to recycle them. Many supermarkets & Terracycle collection points collect them; they are turned into road surfacing. At the MRF they had thought that the 5p carrier bag charge would reduce carrier bag contamination but all that has happened is that the bags are better quality, including “bags for life”.

Fruit punnets & food trays: Nottingham City Council accepts these, Notts County doesn't. A lot are high grade but not all & they are hard to differentiate. LT predicts that in a few years what is accepted will be the same across England.

The general waste (grey bins in Rushcliffe) and any contaminants from the MRF are burned in an energy recovery facility. Emissions from the burning are regulated by the Environment Agency. More of these facilities are to be built in the next 10 years. They produce electricity from the waste. The waste doesn't go to landfill.

Acceptable waste in the blue bins in **bold**:

Any household plastic bottle, rinsed out, including lids except for trigger or pump action tops. Large plastic bottles may end up in the wrong stream but they are later sorted by hand. If you want to conserve space in your blue bin you could squash the bottles.

Margarine tubs & lids.

Any yoghurt pot, no foil lids,

Not big “bucket-type”, plastic containers.

Tetrapaks: these are mixed materials; cardboard coated with plastic & an aluminium layer. They can be taken to a collection point. They are used to make underlay for carpeting.

Metal cans: these are infinitely recyclable. Rinse out or food & drink contents can contaminate the paper in the bin.

Aluminium drink & spray cans, including paint cans; remove cap but not internal spray mechanism.

Foil: This disintegrates very quickly so is worthless. It is also often contaminated with food waste.

Take away card boxes: contaminated with food waste. You could remove clean sections for recycling & the contaminated parts can be used in compost or disposed of in general waste.

Shredded paper is a massive contamination problem as it clogs the machinery.

Greetings cards & wrapping paper but not any parts with foil or glitter. Use the “scrunch test” – if the paper stays crunched it is fine, if it opens up it is not. You can remove plastic tape if you wish.

Magazines: No need to remove staples, but it does help if you want to do so.

Cardboard Boxes: Remove plastic “windows”

Paper Envelopes: No need to remove plastic “windows”, but it does help if you want to do so.

The recycling centres will take wood, textiles, large metal items etc.

LT showed a video of the Mansfield MRF in operation.

LT had “goodie bags” – reusable bags with a recycled plastic pen, stickers for your bin & information leaflets e.g. recipes for using up leftovers, to give out at the back of the hall.

ST thanked LT & introduced Monica Pallis (MP) of **Plastic-free Lady Bay**: At the last LBCA public meeting in November Brenda Ainsley from Plastic-free Cotgrave introduced the Plastic-free Communities idea, which is an initiative started by Surfers Against Sewage.

Plastic-free Lady Bay would like more people to join the group to talk to local businesses & community groups. The aim is to reduce plastic use, especially single-use plastic. Across the world the weight of plastic produced every year is the same as that of the whole human population. In the UK only 10% plastic is recycled, the majority is incinerated & the burning produces carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, causing global warming. The UK government says it is illegal to send waste plastic to other countries but there has been film of refugees in Syria working on illegal plastic waste dumps with labels showing that the plastic is from the UK.

Community groups – allies – in a plastic-free community take action to remove 3 plastic items, pledge to reduce their use of plastic & spread the word. LBCA is an ally. Please see MP at the end of the meeting or contact her by email (in the newsletter p. 27) monica.pallis@hotmail.com

ST thanked MP & introduced Cllr RM who is speaking on behalf of CR **Lady Bay Air Raid Shelter**. See PowerPoint. Please contact CR on chris.reynolds@ntu.ac.uk See newsletter article p. 5.

Questions & Comments:

Will the shelter area be opened?

Only for groups to visit e.g. Lady Bay Primary school pupils.

ST thanked RM & introduced Mike Scott (MS) Coordinator of **FIELDS**: MS explained that FIELDS is campaigning against development on the land east of Lady Bay which is in a flood plain & green belt & the removal of Lady Bay Primary School from

the heart of Lady Bay. See article on p. 26 of the newsletter. At the moment it's all gone very quiet which is possibly a good sign; there may be no funding for the building project. There is no need for a secondary school off Regatta Way as the increase in population is around the Ruddington area, not near here. The committee at the County Council to pay attention to is the Policy Committee & there has been no news about the Regatta Way project for a long time. Reps from the FIELDS committee are meeting with Ruth Edwards MP soon. In general the idea of building schools on the land east of Lady Bay is unpopular.

ST thanked MS & introduced Maureen Mitchell: **Lady Bay Open Gardens:** See article & contact p.14 of the newsletter. papthepole@googlemail.com This year there weren't enough gardens to run the event.

AOB: ST introduced Simon Bishop (SB) **North South Active Travel Way Campaign:** SB & others are campaigning across the city to create a safe route for cyclists & scooter-users from West Bridgford - Central Avenue via the city centre & Mansfield Road to Sherwood. SB works as an academic at the University of Nottingham. He cycles to work over Trent Bridge then along the river or via the cycle superhighway on Castle Boulevard. There are some good facilities but Trent Bridge is a particular bad spot. During lock down a lot of people cycled when there were fewer cars on the roads. SB's group is talking to officers at the city & county councils. There is a petition & leaflets. The idea was very popular in Sherwood when the group gave out leaflets there recently. Please see the website for more info: nouthsouthactivetravelway.co.uk

Questions & comments:

Is Pedals aware of the campaign?

Yes, Mark Beaven & Hugh McClintock & others are very supportive.

Lengthsman Scheme: The Secretary, SM asked whether those present would agree to LBCA asking for funding/action from the Lengthsman Scheme from Notts County Council. SM read out an email forwarded by PG about the scheme which PG had ascertained was available to community groups as well as parish councils: "As you may be aware since 2012 Nottinghamshire County Council have administered a Lengthsman Scheme. This has allowed Parishes, with the funding provided and their corresponding match funding, to employ a Lengthsman who would complete tasks around the area or cluster. Tasks that a Lengthsman can tackle include grass and vegetation cutting, ensuring visibility of traffic signs, maintaining heritage and non-illuminated signs, clearing drains, ditches and storm debris, tidying roadsides, painting of traditional signs and ironwork and reporting problems to us.

Over the last 12 months we have been approached by Parish Councils, not part of the scheme, to request inclusion. County Councillor Neil Clarke MBE (Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee) is keen for the scheme to continue and to maximise community engagement and has decided to support the relaunch of the scheme with some subtle differences.

Additional Parishes will be invited to apply and those existing members will have an opportunity to continue as they are, or become part of a cluster of Parishes or stand alone. Training and PPE will be provided to participating parishes.

Applications for payment will be invited at the end of the financial year accompanied by supporting documentation and photos illustrating the work that has been completed during that year.

Funding allocation will be calculated on receipt of an expression of interest and will be agreed at the start of the year and form part of the Contract which will be issued subsequently as is the rest." There was a vote taken & it was unanimously agreed that LBCA should partake of the benefits of the scheme.

Lady Bay Arts Trail (LBAT): SM read out an email from BB: Looking forward to the long awaited LBAT 2022 11:00-5pm Saturday & Sunday 14th & 15th May. The event will be opened by SM Mayor of Rushcliffe, at Lady Bay Primary School. The brochures will be folded A3 sheets including a map, details of artists & what's on. A big thank you to LBAT's Paul Liptrot on such a brilliant job designing these plus the flyers and banners. This year is free entry & volunteers will distribute brochures from main entry points at Lady Bay Primary School, the Poppy & Pint, Lady Bay Pub & the Scout Hall. The arts trail map information will be on the website & social media. We'd like to thank our supporters Cllr PG for securing a County Councillor's fund on our behalf, Custom Frames Ltd in Bulwell, The Poppy & Pint & Lady Bay Pub. These contributions help us to run workshops & go towards the production of our brochure. We'd also like to thank Cllrs SM & RM for awarding a grant from the Rushcliffe Community Support Scheme to enable VCreate Dance to run a series of children creative workshops at the school, including dance, performance, singing, crafts & printing 11:00-4pm on Saturday. <https://www.ladybayarts.org.uk/>

No Mow May: SM reminded people that it is "No Mow May" Plantlife's campaign to let wild plants get a fast start on summer to the benefit of insect and birdlife. <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/no-mow-may-dawn-of-a-new-british-lawn>

The Big Plastic Count: SM & MP alerted people to the Big Plastic Count <https://thebigplasticcount.com> A Greenpeace & Everyday Plastic initiative where you count the plastic you throw away for one week 16th-22nd May. The aim is to uncover the truth about how much we're collectively having to throw away and what really happens to it.

Meeting closed 9.50pm