

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 33, August 2013

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Please forward or print out and pass on to anyone else who may be interested.

Local Plan: The revised Proposed Submission version of the *Cambridge Local Plan 2014*, and its associated *Policies Map* and *Sustainability Appraisal*, is now out for consultation – see <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-2014>. This plan (if approved) will replace the current *Cambridge Local Plan 2006*. The ten-week consultation period closes on 30 September 2013. FCHB is particularly interested in *Policy 15: South of Coldham's Lane Area of Major Change*, which proposes a new urban country park for the lakes adjacent to Cherry Hinton Brook. We are currently developing our views on this proposal. Please see our briefing document prepared last year in relation to this area (on our website), and do get in touch if you have views you would like to share. *(Sue Wells)*

Litter in the Brook: The Brook has looked very good over the summer, flowing well with plenty of water plants and fish, but the heatwave and associated lakeside partying also resulted in an increase in litter. It's a pity the revellers didn't use the shopping trolley tipped into the Brook alongside the cans and bottles at the Daws Lane end to take everything home! The Sainsbury's area also continues to be an eyesore: sandwich wrappers, coffee cups, carrier bags and packaging from the loading bays are a constant unwelcome presence. In response to a letter to Sainsbury's from FCHB, the store said that they would clean this area more frequently, and help with the next litter pick. Two of the five values on the Sainsbury's website are "respect for the environment" and "making a positive difference to our community" so clearing up rubbish that has come from the store is an important way to uphold these values. Watch this space! *(Sue Wells & Holly Anderson)*

Improving the Brook: At the AGM in June, Jess Hackett from the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust gave an excellent talk about the Brook and how it could be improved. As a result of the interest this generated, Ruth Hawksley from the Wildlife Trust and Guy Belcher, the City Wildlife Officer led a walk with a number of FCHB committee members to discuss some of the options that might be



possible to improve the flow and quality of the water. Ideas include tree/bush pruning in some places to bring more light to the water and modifying the channel using flow deflectors and coir roll revetments at strategic points. There are a number of other chalk streams where this has been done successfully, including the River Shep, one of the tributaries of the Cam.

Work of this kind will require funding and we are currently planning to work with the Wildlife Trust to obtain a lottery grant. There are several groups and organisations interested in the Brook and we will be consulting with them before making any formal grant application. *(Sue Wells & Holly Anderson)*

Nicole and her daughter Audrey looking at the ducklings along the Brook (photo: Holly Anderson)

AGM: FCHB held its 2013 AGM on 6th June. A number of Committee members stepped down and we would like to acknowledge the hard work they have put into supporting the Group. FCHB welcomes the new Committee members (see website) who have been elected in their place. *(Sue Wells)*

Membership: Members whose membership has become due for renewal in June 2013 or subsequently are invited to renew by making an annual suggested donation of £2 to FCHB. Donations can be made to the membership secretary in person (to arrange this please email membership@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk) or by sending a cheque written to the Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook to 69 Burnside, CB1 3PA.

Monica Frisch (editor@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk) 20th August 2013

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