

REPORT - CHARNWOOD FOREST REGIONAL PARK STEERING GROUP

The group met on 1st October 2015 and I advised them of the death of Geoff Mason. After the election of a new Chairman the principle agenda item was discussing an action plan and the challenges in delivering it in financially difficult times.

We touched on what has been achieved – as a group we have produced a map of the area and after the failed lottery bid some partner organisations have moved on with their own schemes and to project the forest concept we need to ensure these are seen as part of our wider ambitions.

We looked at the current structure of the Steering Group and how to make best use of limited resources and progress particular areas of work. It was identified that currently there is a gap in communication between partners delivering actual tangible projects and the Steering Group and how better to align specific priorities.

The group discussed a potential new model for the Steering Group which would involve setting up a number of Delivery Boards that could act as a conduit for information between the steering group and partners delivering projects on the ground. This would enable the Steering Group to direct resources
Four distinct work streams were suggested -

- Tourism/Economy
- Social/historic – the story of Charnwood Forest
- Environment
- Development group – resources, funding, governance

I suggested bringing sports and leisure activities within the first heading and made the point that we should promote such events being badged at Charnwood Forest Park events to promote that Brand.

We discussed delivery groups being formed for each work stream made up of Partners/Stakeholders who have particular specialisms or interests in these areas which could meet separately and more frequently than the steering group and have a more direct link to actual projects being delivered within the regional park.

The frequency of meetings would be determined by each delivery group, linked directly to project needs. Steering Group meetings may then not need to be so frequent, possibly twice a year with the annual meetings of all stakeholders and interested parties continuing as at present

We then discussed funding and had received encouraging noises about resubmitting a landscape partnership bid to the lottery board in May 2017. We are to work up an overarching theme to give it a more cohesive feel than last time and then involve partners with appropriate projects to fit that scheme. The several ages of Charnwood going back 600M years was a suggested scheme emphasis

We discussed the venue, speakers and format of a Stakeholders meeting for later in the year and the provisional date is to be Thursday Nov 26th.

Roy Denney, Representative