

Annual report to Costessey Town Assembly

Queen's Hills Community Park CIO

27th April 2021

Overall position

We are still waiting for the adoption of the Queen's Hills estate to SNDC from the developers' consortium, but we are now negotiating directly, in conjunction with SNDC, on the following;

Funding for a 15 year maintenance programme for the woodland and land which will be managed by QHCP is progressing, but this is very slow due to the current legal issues relating to the historic land ownership transfers

We are in the process of agreeing the legal and management relationship between SNDC and QHCP to ensure there are clear lines of demarcation and authority, and future funding for the maintenance works for the woodland and land

The ecology development programme has recently been reviewed with The Friends of the Tud Valley ecologist, and will form the backbone of our planned work on the QHCP area ecology. Funding for this work will be a critical issue and work is underway on this

Trustee board now includes the OVA and we are considering inviting the Costessey and St Augustine's Primary Schools to elect their trustees, given that we now have the outdoor classroom in place, already being well used by the QH Primary School. We have also worked with QHPS on the initial development of their Tree Nursery, and we hope to work with OVA on their sensory garden and outdoor classroom/allotments set up by our FOTV trustee Pauline Williamson some years ago

We have been working with Easton College for partnership working with their students on woodland management, and these are already under way with 1 of the 3 student groups already undertaking work in the woods

Critical issues

Agreeing a timetable for adoption of the woods and land – but we are at the mercy of the Consortium and legal positions for that

The finalising of our 2, 5 and 10 year operating plans is dependent on the above, but once we have that we will be discussing and agreeing these with our board of trustees

Funding for officer support, equipment, storage facilities and training from SNDC will be a critical factor for the success of QHCP as we cannot achieve all that needs to be done solely through the dedication and time of our volunteer group currently being recruited