



Registered Charity Number 1196642

Dear Resident,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some major changes which have recently taken place, concerning the Walderslade woodlands and its plateaux.

But as a quick introduction, I am chairman of the Walderslade Woodlands Group (WWG), and for the past fifteen years, have been actively involved in trying to bring safety and enjoyment to the local area, as the woodlands are effectively the only amenity that we have.

Ownership of the woodlands and plateaux, which amount to 38 Hectares, has changed. Kent County Council (KCC) have signed it over to Boxley Parish Council (BPC). Up until this happened, the WWG have been trying to manage the area, with our funding coming from the Parish Council and the National Lottery and donations from local residents. But with the legacy of neglect that KCC passed on to us, it has taken a lot of time and effort to get to where we are now, which is a properly managed area.

With the transfer of ownership to BPC and the creation of a registered charity, called the Walderslade Woodlands Trust (WWT), we are now on a 'professional' footing, albeit fuelled by the efforts of volunteers, all of whom started out as interested residents.

This brings me to the other main reason for this letter. As the only local amenity for the residents, we need you to work with us, in our management, and would like you to be proactive in making sure our areas are safe and of value. If you have any suggestions or observations which you feel we need to know about, please contact me directly, or the Boxley Parish Council office at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Chatham, Kent, ME59RU, by telephoning 01634 861237, or emailing walderslade-woodlands-trust@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk. We are actively looking for Grants to enable us to make improvements to paths and improve access for all.

There is also a Facebook page for WWG which you can use to make your comments and feelings known. Let us know about things which you feel are important and follow our activities throughout the woodlands or get involved and join us on workdays. Good examples of issues we need to know about, are people cutting trees without the required planning permission and the dumping of rubbish, either garden or household. We need to know about these situations as quickly as possible, so that we can then take the appropriate action.

Please don't assume because you live within Tunbridge & Malling or Medway local authorities, that you cannot be involved, or have a say. The woodlands are for the use of all residents.

Kind regards

Rob Burrows
Chairman
Management Committee

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