

Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (FoBHC), before 2015 named Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust (BHCCAT), was founded in 2000. FoBHC works with, among others, Manchester City Council (MCC), landowner of Boggart Hole Clough (BHC) & most of Bailey's Wood, & with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) local authorities' department.

## **Submission to MCC's 1.12.2018 *Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec Stakeholders Meeting* held at North City Library, Harpurhey.**

At the previous 20.10.2018 BHC & DLR Stakeholders Meeting, Peter Milner (FoBHC Administrator) handed out copies of 1-page *Submission to MCC's 20.10.2018 Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec 'Stakeholder Meeting'* (FoBHC, 19.10.2018) doc, to which was attached the first 3 pages, outlining 10 community provisional proposals, of *Revivifying the Lake* (FoBHC, 17.10.2018) doc.

MCC's *Action Points* report re the above 20.10.2018 meeting (which can be seen on our website, having been given permission to publish these reports online at 16.6.2018 Stakeholders Meeting) did not acknowledge FoBHC's submission described above; so MCC's report was not a true record of the meeting.

FoBHC requests that this 3-page *Submission* to this 1.12.2018 meeting is acknowledged / recorded in MCC's subsequent report re this meeting, with perhaps a link in the report to this doc on our website.

According to email received 26.11.2018 from Paul Rosenbloom (MCC Charlestown & Blackley Neighbourhood Engagement & Delivery Officer), this 1.12.2018 meeting will focus "on the **development & implementation of a Parks Development Plan**" for the area.

In this regard, FoBHC has many proposals set out in many documents, which can be seen on our website. **The most relevant docs are as follows** (listed chronologically according to publication date). These docs themselves refer to other docs (including e.g. GMEU docs) but not all these docs need to be listed here.

1. *Recent planting of non-native trees spoils Ancient Woodland*, BHCCAT, 28.2.2011.
2. *Restoring the Clough's biodiversity health - introduction*, FoBHC, 19.2.2015.
3. *Japanese Knotweed in Boggart Hole Clough environs*, FoBHC, 24.9.2015.
4. *Combined archaeological & ecological preliminary proposals to sustainably regenerate Bailey's Wood*, FoBHC, 14.5.2016.
5. *Re-uniting Bailey's Wood & Boggart Hole Clough*, FoBHC, 10.7.2016.
6. *North Manchester Ancient Woodlands Discovery Centre - a community proposal*, FoBHC, 29.4.2017.
7. *Update re North Manchester Ancient Woodlands Discovery Centre - a community proposal*, FoBHC, 28.5.2017.
8. *Socialist environmentalism*, FoBHC, 21.6.2017.
9. *Ancient Woodlands Park proposal*, FoBHC, 18.10.2017.
10. *Wildway Network proposal*, FoBHC, 30.11.2017.
11. *Submission to MCC's 16.6.2018 Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec Stakeholders Meeting*, FoBHC, 15.6.2018.
12. *Revivifying the Lake*, FoBHC, 17.10.2018.
13. *Submission to MCC's 20.10.2018 Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec 'Stakeholder Meeting'*, FoBHC, 19.10.2018.

FoBHC proposals to regenerate the Clough environs are outlined briefly below - **I** to **XV**. The documents listed above are cited (in which details of the various proposals can be found) & referred to as Docs **1, 2, 3**, etc.

FoBHC urges MCC to consider, discuss, develop & carry out the following proposals:

- I.** Create a team of properly trained & paid nature conservationists to **restore the area's biodiversity health**. Bailey's Wood & the Clough contain *Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland* described by Natural England as "irreplaceable" & "of prime ecological & landscape importance." The GMEU has reported both woodlands to be in a poor condition needing "management of the woodlands for wildlife". Restoring their biodiversity health requires eradicating invasive non-native plant species e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam & Rhododendron, & removing accumulated rubbish. See Docs **2, 3, 4 & 9**. This team of properly trained & paid conservationists should also be responsible for conservation management of the Lake & Island Waterbirds Sanctuary, another central feature of Boggart Hole Clough Local Nature Reserve - see **II** below.
- II.** **Refrain from removing any more Island edge trees** overhanging or fallen into the Lake, whilst remaining attached to the Island, which provide Great Crested Grebes, Coots & Moorhens with a habitat of branches in the water on which they build their floating nests. Instead, **remove the floating islands, remove rubbish** from the Lake, **reduce leafage falling into the Lake** by eradicating Sycamores (non-native species) from the Island, install **improved Do not feed the birds signage**, plant **trees to shade the Lake**, establish **oxygenating plants** in the Lake, & **deepen the Lake**. See Docs **12 & 13**. Re implementation, see **I** above.
- III.** Create a team of properly trained & paid archaeological conservationists to excavate, at the west end of Bailey's Wood, the site of the former *Lion Field Bleach Works* & display any remains permanently in-situ. See Doc **4**. This team should go on to **explore & conserve the history of the whole Boggart Hole Brook Basin**. See Doc **9**. As much archaeology involves carefully excavating rubbish dumps / middens, this work could be creatively combined with removing accumulated rubbish from the area. See Doc **4**.
- IV.** Create a team of properly trained & paid eco-engineers to construct **eco-bridges** (overpasses & underpasses) to re-unite Bailey's Wood & the Clough creating an *Ancient Woodlands Park* thus beginning to establish a **green network physically re-connecting / de-fragmenting the Boggart Hole Brook Basin's natural woodland habitat**. See Docs **5, 9 & 10**.
- V.** Instead of MCC's formerly proposed new shrunken visitor centre, build a new centre worth building - the *North Manchester Ancient Woodlands Discovery Centre* - to facilitate the appreciation, preservation & re-unification of Bailey's Wood & the Clough & the provision of multiple all-abilities outdoor activities - with the capacity to provide archaeological & ecological conservationists (see **I, II, III** above) with space to store equipment, to research & plan work, etc; & to provide resources facilitating the use of the woodlands as outdoor classrooms, developing the *forest school* idea, for children to learn about not only ecology & nature conservation but also about the area's wider social / industrial / cultural history; & to provide space for a team of social carers to organize Multiple All-Abilities Outdoor Activities (see **XII** below). See Docs **6, 7 & 9**.
- VI.** Share with FoBHC the *Feasibility Study* re **restoring the David Lewis Recreation Ground memorial**. FoBHC requested copy of this study which we have not received. See Doc **11**.
- VII.** **Plant only Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland species** in the Clough environs (see **I** above). See Doc **1**. Re proposed planting of more trees on David Lewis Rec, around small wetland area adjacent to football pitch, plant e.g. Oaks, Alders, Willows & evergreen Holly.
- VIII.** **Unblock drains** especially along north side of the main Avenue, section leading from the Lakeside to Five Ways; water overflows across the Avenue in several places, dangerous in Winter when turns to ice. Includes blocked drain catching water from Fish Pond Clough Brook, taking water under Avenue into Boggart Hole Brook - **install heavy duty steel grate grid at entrance to this drain / gully**. Jon Atkin (MCC North Area Parks Manager) & Peter Milner looked at this & other blocked drains during 22.6.2018 walkabout meeting. See Docs **11 & 13**.

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