

## **Lindow Moss Community Forum Plans**

*When heavy machinery returned to Lindow Moss in June and July 2020, there was concern about the motives for this work, largely because of poor communication. Transition Wilmslow, authors of this document, propose the Lindow Moss Community Forum as a way to give local residents and others – including visitors to Lindow Moss who don't live locally and people with an academic interest in Lindow Moss – a say in how restoration is carried out, as well improving communication between those restoring Lindow Moss and the wider community.*

### **1. Who will be members of the Lindow Moss Community Forum?**

The Lindow Moss Community Forum will be a group of local residents and others interested in, and concerned about, the future of Lindow Moss – specifically the proposed restoration scheme. The base for this group is the group of respondents to the Save Lindow Moss Survey who asked to be added to the mailing list. However, anyone who did not respond to the survey, but would be interested in the group's activities, will be wholeheartedly welcome. We suggest Forum members reach out to people or groups in the community who might be interested, but weren't reached by the survey, and encourage them to get involved by emailing us. The Forum will be most effective if it has representation from a wide number of interest groups, as well as people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, physical abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

### **2. How will the Lindow Moss Community Forum give residents and others a say?**

In the planning consent for the restoration of Lindow Moss, it is a requirement that a Liaison Committee be established with the aim of ensuring 'that the local community are fully engaged and informed of activities associated with this planning permission'. We anticipate that many interest groups will have representation on the Liaison Committee, including the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Manchester Airport.

The Lindow Moss Community Forum was proposed by Transition Wilmslow so that local residents and others would have representation on the Liaison Committee. It is proposed that two members of the Lindow Moss Community Forum (the Forum Representatives) sit on the Liaison Committee. These representatives will take the views of all Forum members to Liaison Committee meetings, thereby giving everyone a voice. In addition to this primary function of the Forum, it will also allow information about the plans for, and progress with, restoration, to be shared with the local community. The mechanisms via which this will be possible are explained in the next section.

### **3. What will the Lindow Moss Community Forum do?**

As outlined above, the key aims of the Forum are to ensure residents' concerns are considered by those carrying out restoration, as well as informing residents about the plans for, and progress with, the restoration of Lindow Moss. To achieve this, members of the Forum will meet roughly once every 3 months, with the first meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7:30pm. Initially, these meetings will be conducted virtually, although may become in-person in future if circumstances allow. Attendance is strictly optional, and members may attend some meetings without attending others. A pre-selected Forum member will take minutes at each meeting, and they will be sent out via email to all Forum members, including those who couldn't attend.

The first meeting will be a conversation between Professor John Handley, who has a detailed understanding of the restoration plan, and another Forum member. This conversation will endeavour to describe and explain the plans for the restoration of Lindow Moss and will be followed by a Q&A

session, in which Forum members will be able to submit their own questions to John via the chat function on Zoom. At the end, the Forum will discuss which issues to vote on, so that the opinions of members can be recorded and forwarded to the Liaison Committee (more details in the next section).

Subsequent meetings will have a similar format, beginning with an explanation of the proposed works for the next 3 months, and scrutinising any progress with restoration since the previous meeting. The two Forum members on the Liaison Committee will feed back any information they have gained as well. Questions and answers will take place after this. There may also be suggestions of issues for the Forum to vote on. The exact format of these meetings, however, will be flexible, and decided by the Forum members both in the previous meeting, and via email over the months between meetings.

#### **4. How will voting work?**

Transition Wilmslow, based upon our critique of the restoration plans, will suggest a number of issues to be voted on. Any other Forum members may propose issues to be voted upon as well. Once the issues to be voted on are decided, the votes themselves be recorded using an online survey distributed to the Forum membership via email. There will be a seven-day period in which votes can be cast by any Forum members, regardless of whether they attended the meeting in which the issues were decided. The outcomes of these votes are significant in that they will demonstrate the opinions of Forum members (and thereby the local community) on the restoration plan. These views can then be presented at Liaison Committee meetings and may influence the restoration outcomes. There is no guarantee that the results of these will be acted upon, but the Liaison committee will certainly take them into consideration.

#### **5. How will the Forum Representatives be selected, and what will they do?**

The two members who will represent the Lindow Moss Community Forum on the Liaison committee will be self-selected. Following the first Forum meeting, in which the role of the Forum and its representatives should become clearer, Forum members interested in becoming Representatives will be asked to put themselves forward. Transition Wilmslow hopes more than two people will do so, allowing the creation of a small panel of Representatives, from which two will go once a month to sit on the Liaison Committee. The two Representatives from this panel who go to the Liaison Committee will rotate each month, therefore allowing Representatives to be flexible about which Liaison Committee meetings they attend, based on personal commitments etc. The three key requirements of Forum members are: attending Liaison Committee meetings on a semi-regular basis; presenting the views of the Forum at those meetings; feeding back any news from the Liaison Committee.

We hope this document explains the Forum in sufficient detail, however if you have any further questions please email [savelindowmoss@gmail.com](mailto:savelindowmoss@gmail.com)