

Forum Questionnaire

At the AGM the question was asked as to how the Forum should go forward and how better to interact with our constituent members. It was proposed that to engage the members we should produce a questionnaire that could be sent out to current members and to other similar 'Friends' groups and organisations who we feel may be able to contribute and be interested in the objectives of the group.

Introduction:

The Bexley Natural Environment Forum is an umbrella body for Friends of Parks and Open Spaces groups, local wildlife and conservation enthusiasts, sustainability campaigners and those with a general interest in the natural environment of Bexley. The Forum works to raise the profile of environmental issues, increase public engagement and promote discussion and encourage better policy making and implementation of these issues within and by the London Borough of Bexley. Established in the mid 1990's, the group has participated in the preparation of the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), consulted on numerous council programmes such as the Core Strategy, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Review and presenting detailed submissions on important planning issues and applications.

In these times of cut backs and financial restraint we are finding it harder to engage with the council to stress the importance of conservation and biodiversity and of the authorities' responsibilities both under national legislation and in implementing its own policies. We are seeking your assistance in how the Forum can best support the friends' and other groups etc. in their efforts to achieve these goals, present a united case for environmental issues and obtain a better deal for nature in Bexley.

Questions

- 1) From this definition, do you:
 - a) Think that your group benefits or would benefit from this relationship and?
 - b) do you think that BNEF work's well in this capacity?
- 2) What do you see as the main issues facing the natural environment in Bexley over the next 10 years and how do you think these could be tackled?
- 3) We wish to increase our representation and communication with such groups and thereby strengthen the voice for conservation and biodiversity in the borough.
 - a) How do you feel that your group as a whole or as individuals could contribute to this process?
 - b) Does your group contain any people with specific knowledge or interest in these areas?
- 4) In what way do you think that a borough wide group like BNEF could better represent your areas of concern for wildlife in the borough?
- 5) Are you aware of any other groups in Bexley who may be interested in working with the BNEF?