



Friends of Anderton and Marbury (FoAM)

Policy 3 - FoAM Membership, Volunteering with FoAM and Volunteering with Countryside Officers

Becoming a Member of the Friends of Anderton and Marbury (FoAM)

1. The subscriptions paid by Members of FoAM play a valuable role in supporting the work of the group.
2. Cheshire West and Chester Council support and encourage FoAM membership by offering a concessionary car park season ticket rate to FoAM Members.

Volunteering with Friends of Anderton and Marbury (FoAM)

3. Some Members of FoAM are able give up part of their time to assist the Group in a variety of ways, one of which is by becoming a Trustee and joining the Committee of Trustees which manages the group.
4. Trustees play an important role in ensuring that FoAM meets its charitable objectives by ensuring that all activities undertaken by the Group fall within the scope of its Constitution.
5. There is a close working relationship between FoAM and Cheshire West and Chester's Countryside Officers which works to the advantage of both. Whilst there are clear benefits for the Council's Countryside Officers to sit on FoAM's Committee, FoAM's Constitution requires that Trustees be independent of both Cheshire West and Chester Council and Marbury Country Park Ltd. To maintain this independence, the Countryside Officers are not Trustees and are invited to attend in an ex-officio role, with no voting rights. A similar arrangement exists for a representative from The Mersey Forest.
6. Trustees are responsible for ensuring that FoAM does not relieve Cheshire West and Chester Council of any of its statutory duties. This was a requirement for FoAM to be able to achieve registration as a charity.
7. Trustees on the Committee plan and organise walks, talks and events to engage community interest and make the natural, historical and cultural value of the area known to a wider public.
8. Trustees also play an important role by raising external funding for projects to preserve, protect and improve Northwich Woodlands and improve the facilities for visitors. Some of these funding opportunities are available to FoAM but are not available to the Council. Most are helped by FoAM's charitable status which gives funders confidence in the Group.
9. The above volunteering activities with FoAM are covered by its insurance policy, but this is limited to running or assisting with walks, talks and other activities as set out in its Constitution. The use of simple hand tools required for some of FoAM's events is covered, but use of machinery is excluded.

Volunteering with Chester West and Chester's Countryside Officers

10. A group of volunteers also carry out practical management work in Northwich Woodlands under the direction of Cheshire West and Chester's Countryside Officers. Without these volunteers, the Countryside Officer service would not be able to operate as effectively as it does.
11. These volunteers work under the direction of the Countryside Officers and operate under Council rules. Their volunteering activities are covered by the Council's insurance.
12. Some FoAM Members or Trustees may also volunteer with the Countryside Officers but do this as individuals and are not acting in any way for FoAM whilst engaged in these activities.