

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

16th June 2021

Carla Bilenkyj, Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Brian Carpenter,
Mike Jeffries, Rosemary Walker and Gill Cameron Webb

1. WEBBER'S MEADOW

a) Wildflower area (both sides of gate entrance along fence):

- brambles were cleared last December;
- Ted contacted Craig Dunton who said grass in the wildflower areas should be cut only at end of August and in October, with cuttings removed. In late October the area should be scarified and yellow rattle seed spread around;
- mark the edge of wildflower area by putting in stakes. Ask Howard if he still has some stakes;
- GCW to ask 'Dave' about yellow rattle seeds.

b) Response to Parish Council (PC) about complaint that long grass is causing (some) dog owners problems with finding pooh and with getting ticks:

- **apart from wildflower area**, the rest of Webber's Meadow grass can be cut regularly, as per previous cutting regime;
- Webber's Meadow is a meadow not a park;
- owners have personal responsibility to protect their dogs from ticks;
- propose signs for dogs to be on lead during bird nesting season.

c) Ted and Geraldine created a Log Pile insect hotel. To prevent the logs near the river from being swept away, they'll move them up near the hedge to make another bug hotel.

2. PLANTERS

PC paid Devon County £60 for licences for 10 planters.

5 should be put at village entrances, locations for others yet to be decided.

PC will buy the planters, soil and flowers.

Volunteers will be needed for regular maintenance (weeding, watering, etc).

There were a lot of options so PC to be asked the following questions:

- a) should there be a theme for all planters? If so, central plant buying is preferable.
- b) should planters advertise parish needs (e.g. 'Go Slow' message at village entrances). If so, ask for volunteers to 'own' one planter each for maintenance.
- c) should community groups be asked to 'own' a planter each (e.g. the school)?
- d) should businesses (including local landowners) be asked to own and maintain a planter in return for advertising? Alternatively businesses could pay PC for maintenance in return for advertising.

3. TREE PLANTING

PC have about £3,000 for planting trees for the Jubilee.

The Climate Change Group suggestions include:

- focus on planting wildlife friendly trees (e.g. Hawthorn, Sorbus, Crab Apples, etc)
- plant larger saplings not whips as they're less likely to be accidentally damaged and it'll be easier for residents to see what's been planted;
- Ted and Howard to identify locations, to include a copse in Webber's Meadow and new trees in Newton Popleford graveyard;
- Rosemary is also looking at the Woodland Trust 'free trees' offer;
- Ask Sidmouth Herald for publicity once trees and locations are chosen.

4. TRAFFIC CALMING

In addition to current 20mph on the A3052 and the Red Bridge replacement actions, propose longer term traffic management to the PC, to include:

- overall priority to be given to pedestrians, cyclists and horse not vehicles;
- increase 20mph range to include other parts of the parish (e.g. Back Lane and Harpford);
- at village entrances and where there is no footpath, introduce chicanes to create a footpath and reduce vehicle traffic to a single lane;
- apply for Quiet Lane status (known precedents in Oxford and Norfolk).

5. BAT/BIRD/BEE BOXES

- GCW noted that boxes made by the RSPB now cost £8;
- Ask Howard about his previous suggestion about the Cubs/Scouts making boxes.

6. STALL AT VILLAGE FAIR

It might be an idea to have a stall at the Village Fair on 18th July even if it's just posters publicising what the group is doing. Geraldine thought she may already have some posters.

7. NEXT MEETING

GCW will contact everyone to arrange a meeting in one month's time.