

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

27th July 2021

Howard Hughes, Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Mike Jeffries, Rosemary Walker and Gill Cameron Webb

1. WEBBER'S MEADOW

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

- Ted will contact Paul Hayward to arrange the next grass cut in August and to ask if the contractors can gather the cut grass and place it in a mound next to a hedge where it can become a home for wildlife;
- Howard will then scarify the soil in late October;
- Ted has spoken to Dave Ludlow who will give us yellow rattle seeds;
- Craig Dunton thinks there should already be enough wildflowers in the soil. However it won't hurt to add more so Geraldine is collecting seed and anyone who wants to can collect more seed from Hugh's wildflowers.

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

- The Parish Council have decided to mow a 20metre strip next year from the meadow entrance to where the new bridge will be; this can also be used for dog walking;
- Although this is a compromise it's not ideal as long grass provides more environmental benefits so the mown area should be minimised;
- The mown grass could also mean that the planned copse planned for Webber's Meadow will have to move.
- Howard will do a strategy/timeplan in relation to the above.

2. PLANTERS

As part of the licensing process the Parish Council have to tell Devon County Council where the planters will go and DCC will have to tell us the permitted planter size.

Rosemary will send out the list of proposed sites but otherwise the CCG is on hold with the planters.

3. TREE PLANTING

The Climate Change Group will look at new tree planting but for safety reasons the Parish Council will keep responsibility for tree maintenance. However, tree maintenance should take an environmental approach (e.g. using logs to create wildlife habitats).

In addition to the Parish Council's £3,000 for new trees there are other funding sources:

- Howard is already working with Paul Hayward to apply for additional funding and
- Rosemary will apply for the 'Copse' selection of trees from the Woodland Trust for planting in Webber's Meadow.

New tree planting - Gill will send Ted and Howard a list of parish owned land so they can do a recce of parish owned land to see where new trees can be planted;

Ted and Howard have already made plans for a new copse. Howard has about 30 whips for this but to stand the best chance of survival these should be potted up and grown on before planting out. Howard to let people know when they can come and pot up the whips.

4. TRAFFIC CALMING

Improving traffic safety is a Parish Council responsibility but any measures taken should also consider how to improve the environment.

The group would like to suggest to the Parish Council that they create a Traffic Calming strategy that encompasses both safety and carbon reduction.

E.g. In addition to current 20mph on the A3052 and the Red Bridge replacement actions, longer term traffic management could 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 confirmed that Toby Taylor is charging £8 for bird boxes; they will probably be on sale at the FunDay on 8/8/21.
- Howard will arrange for the Cubs/Scouts to make bird/bee boxes when they meet up again after the summer break.

6. STALL AT VILLAGE FAIR (Funday)

Generally it was felt that future marketing is a good idea but as there aren't any marketing plans in place yet (e.g. what, when, how, etc.) a table wasn't booked for the Funday on 8th August.

7. NEXT MEETING

GCW will contact everyone to arrange a meeting in one month's time.
GCW to send copies of the minutes to Paul Hayward for the Parish Council website.