

## CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Howard Hughes, Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Brian Carpenter, Carla Bilenkyj and Gill Cameron Webb

### 1. PLANTERS

Planter discussions have become complicated due to there being so many options, so the meeting decided the best way forward was to look again at the underlying objectives:

- a) provide aesthetic value and habitats for insects at village entrances
- b) get best value for money for parishioners
- c) be sustainable (reduce/reuse/recycle?)
- d) locally sourced

The group decided that planting bulbs and perennial wildflowers will achieve the objectives better than planters, and agreed to propose this to the Parish Council.

	Planters	Bulbs & Perennial Wildflowers
Flowering period	Could be 12 months	About 8 months using spring snowdrops, bluebells and daffodil bulbs plus summer perennial wildflowers
Up front Cost	About £1500 (£250 per planter in sustainable materials?)	About £200 would buy enough bulbs and wildflower seeds
Annual costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cannot rely on volunteers for maintenance so installation, watering &amp; weeding must be paid from parish funds</li> <li>- Replenish soil and buy new plants twice a year</li> <li>- Eventually replace planters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No maintenance required</li> <li>- No annual cost unless we want to add more bulbs every year</li> </ul>
Locally sourced?	Will probably have to go on-line to get sustainable planters	Yes, can buy from local garden centres
Flowering area	Limited to the planters	Bulbs and flowers would naturalise to create much bigger flowering areas
Other benefits	Might be considered tidier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use King Alfred Daffodils to emphasis local culture</li> <li>- Use remaining budget to give residents free bulbs and seeds to increase flowering area in parish</li> </ul>

## **2. WEBBER'S MEADOW**

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

- unfortunately the contractor didn't cut the grass well or collect it as they don't have the right equipment. Also it's not in their contract
- Ted, Geraldine and Gill raked up some of the grass and created a habitat mound but manual raking was too hard
- Ted tried manually strimming 20"sq.m but it also proved too difficult
- Need a solution as the grass will probably need cutting again in November
- Ted will speak to Paul Hayward about letting a separate contract for cutting and baling the meadow grass and scarifying the surface
- Howard said Dan Clatworthy and Roger Kimber both have the right equipment and may be willing to do the job. Could be funded from the planter budget?
- Ted has spoken to David Ludlow who confirmed that he has the yellow rattle seed.

## **3. TREE PLANTING**

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

- Paul Hayward has applied to the Platinum Jubilee tree fund and also to EDDC for 70 trees
- Howard is working with Paul Hayward to apply for other funding and
- Rosemary has applied for 30 trees from the Woodland Trust for the 'Copse', due to arrive in November (we believe to Howard's farm?). We'll need confirmation from Paul for the copse location.

Once trees have been delivered Howard will work out how to keep them until they can be planted and to let people know if/when whips need potting up.

Gill will put an advert in the Parish Magazine to ask for help with tree planting once we know dates.

Ted and Howard have the list of parish owned land and will see where new trees can be planted in 3 or 4 weeks time after the harvest is finished.

Ted has lots of willow whips. The meeting suggested that some could go where the beavers are but agreed that Ted has the best knowledge so should decide where to plant them.

Recommend to the Parish Council:

- that Jubilee trees be planted in Harpford and Venn Ottery in addition to the oak to be planted in the Sports Field.
- 2 trees be planted whenever one tree has to be cut down.

## **4. TRAFFIC CALMING**

Need to keep up the emphasis of traffic safety and impact on climate.

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 (e.g over bridges);
- apply for Quiet Lane status (known precedents in Oxford and Norfolk).

## **5. BAT/BIRD/BEE BOXES**

This year's scouts are too young for making bird/bee boxes but Howard might be able to programme it in for next term.

## **6. Jubilee**

At the next meeting we could talk about options for commemorating the platinum jubilee. E.g. 70 free plants, trees, bulbs, seeds or bird boxes for residents?

## **7. Recording Achievements**

In future the group will record and photograph achievements so they can be published to the Parish Council and put on social media.

Achievements so far (despite Covid Lockdowns):

- dug brambles out of Webber's wildflower meadow
- edged meadow with stakes (twice!) to allow grass to grow for pollinators
- made a bug hotel
- made a grass mound habitat
- planted many willow whips along edge of river
- sourced yellow rattle seeds for keeping grass at bay
- grown some wildflower seedlings for planting next year
- applied for 30 trees from Woodland Trust
- already planted some crocus and snowdrop bulbs

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

GCW will contact everyone to arrange a meeting in one month's time, ideally on a Thursday night.

Note – C/F from last meeting but not discussed,

b) Response to Parish Council (PC) about complaint that long grass is causing (some) dog owners' problems with finding pooh 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.