

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

25th November 2021

Present: Howard Hughes, Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Brian Carpenter, Rosemary Walker and Gill Cameron Webb

1. Climate Change

An Exeter University report shows that an average 16ton of Co2 is created per household in the parish with road transport being the top cause.

Howard will arrange for 'Dawn' to speak with Exeter University to get a breakdown of their underlying data and see if it's possible to use it as a benchmark for future climate change improvements.

Howard will also ask Dawn to get a copy of Sidmouth's 'Green Plan' as we could potentially copy it to create initiatives in our parish.

2. Traffic Calming

Jess Bailey arranged a meeting with Tom Vaughn (DCC Highways), the Parish Council and some residents (including Gill) on 26/11/21.

The meeting is about traffic calming in relation to safety but the group believe all initiatives should take climate into account as a matter of course, so Gill will ask Tom Vaughn about 'quiet lanes' and the climate change aspects of traffic calming.

Notes from Traffic Calming Meeting:

- Tom Vaughn gave reasons why the parish won't get a 20mph speed limit in the near future;
- the Road Safety Team will meet with the Parish instead to do an incremental Traffic Calming Strategy to include creating 'Gateways' at village entrances and a 7 day speed monitoring exercise. The Parish Council will also do a 'crossings' survey;
- Tom Vaughn said DCC does have a Climate Change agenda but he will need to report back on how this relates to traffic calming;
- Tom Vaughn said DCC is aware of the 'Quiet Lane' concept but they haven't yet formed an opinion on how these will relate to Devon.

3. Bulbs

£90 of daffodil and crocus bulbs was bought and will be planted around Harpford, Venn Ottery and Newton Poppleford (see attachment for locations).

4. Tree Planting

The Copse:

- 30 trees from the Woodland Trust arrived with canes and protectors (mix of birch, maple & hazel) but they're too small for planting out so in the new year Rosemary and Gill will plant them in pots to grow on;

- Gill has 20 native trees with established roots so these can be planted as the copse in the new year (3 dogwood, 3 field maple, 5 hawthorn, 2 oak, 1 native cherry & 5 hazel);
- the copse was due to go in Webber's Meadow to the left of the Back Lane entrance. However the ground is now being used as wildflower meadow as it's too hard for planting (it's over the old railway line). A different location is needed, that isn't too hard and doesn't flood.

Other tree planting notes:

- the Parish Council has £3,000 for new trees;
- applications to the Platinum Jubilee tree fund and EDDC were turned down;
- Ted and Howard to decide where more trees could be planted on Parish Land, to be rearranged for when Howard has time;
- Ted will do a footpath map with suggestions for tree locations as a 'Jubilee Tree Trail' proposal to the Parish Council.

5. Wildflower Meadow

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

- when the new Parish Clerk starts Ted will speak to them about letting a separate contract for cutting and baling the meadow grass and scarifying the surface (Dan Clatworthy and Roger Kimber could do this);
- in the meantime, Ted will strim sections of the meadow and broadcast the yellow rattle seed (from David Ludlow) and wildflower seeds that Geraldine has collected.

6. Sports Field Waxcap Fungus*

Although the Fungus Foray group say our sports field is the best site in East Devon for the rare Wax Cap fungus, the grass is kept short for playing football.

To allow the fungus to grow, the Parish Council will be asked to change the grass cutting regime so that the areas around the football pitches are not cut during the autumn.

*these fungus are not for eating but they're not dangerously poisonous.

7. Bat/Bird/Bee Boxes – not discussed

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

8. Parish Magazine

Gill will do an advert asking for interest in joining the group and for individual planting sessions (e.g. tree planting)

Gill will ask Haylor to include the Climate Change group on the list of club phone numbers (Rosemary 567108 and Gill 568928)

9. Storing Climate Change documents

Howard will set up a Dropbox or Sharepoint area as a central place for saving Climate Change documents until the new Parish Clerk can be asked to find an area on the parish council website.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 20th January 2022 in the Pavilion.