

Climate Change Working Group

Thursday 9th June 2022

Present: Gill Cameron Webb, Lindi Rich (East Devon AONB), Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Rosemary Walker, Carla Bilenkyj and David Ludlow

Apologies : Steve Filer, Brian Carpenter, Howard Hughes and Maz Dufall

1. East Devon AONB Nature Recovery Project

1.1 Engagement with Newton Poppleford Primary School

Gill to speak to Steve Filer to arrange summer holiday watering of the 10 school trees.

Lindi will talk to Beverley about installing wildlife cameras to help increase pupil's wildlife knowledge.

Lindi will arrange regeneration of the school pond, preferably by an adult group to avoid damaging the liner. Best time will be the end of autumn, maybe ½ term.

1.2 Lindi will speak to Kate Pontin again about getting contacts with local farmers for possible tree planting and hedge repairs. The Devon Wildlife Trust's Saving Devon's Treescapes project may be a source of trees. Kim Strawbridge or Sam Bridgewater may be other contacts.

1.3 Lindi has made contact with the person who runs Tipton St. John 'Eager Beavers' and will look to develop a relationship with them.

1.4 Events

There was a bluebell walk in Harpford Woods on Sunday 8th May.

Lindi is arranging a local bat walk with Sara. Bats are known to fly around Littledown Lane, David Ludlow's field, Aylesbeare common and in Otterton Mill.

Lindi will run a guided river walk via Harpford and Tipton in late summer and will speak with Ted to decide the route.

Lindi has been in touch with Kate Ponting (Clinton Devon Estates Countryside Learning Officer) about activities on the Pebblebed Heaths during the summer, such as a moth evening and a butterfly walk.

2. EDDC Climate Change Officer – Catherine Causley

Carla spoke to Catherine about coming to the next meeting to arrange a Climate Change talk in the village. This would provide people with ideas on how they can make personal choices to help climate change and on how they can reduce their use of gas and electricity to help reduce carbon footprint.

It turns out that Catherine doesn't have a repository or pack of material that parish's can pick up and use, she was only able to point us to various websites. Carla will speak to Catherine to see how EDDC could create this repository.

3. The Pavilion's is booked for an 'Ambassadors' meeting on 14th July. Lindi will do 15 minutes on the Nature Recovery Project and Ted will do a 5 minute slot on how the community is working with Lindi.

4. Catherine Causley initiated a 'Plastic Reduction' challenge to take place 6th to 13th June, which Gill promoted in the parish on the village Facebook and in the Parish Magazine. Carla to ask Catherine what the result was.

5. Tree Planting and Related Matters

5.1 Devon County Council Project

Ted and Gill Cameron-Webb toured the parish on Monday 25th April to consider what types of trees could be planted in the autumn and where.

Devon County Council Emergency Tree Fund were then asked if they could provide trees. Instead they have proposed making our parish a project. They will assign a contractor who will project manage the planting of trees in our parish; they will find and negotiate with landowners, buy the trees and maintain them for 5 years. They will need to work with the Parish Council to agree the way forward and will ask the Climate Change Group to find community volunteers to plant the trees. Anita Kemp will speak to Toby Taylor to see if his group of volunteers will help plant trees.

DCC will shortly tell us where in the Parish they suggest planting trees; this is likely to be the old and new cemeteries and sportsfield.

5.2 Woodland Trust

Lindi spoke to the Woodland Trust who have agreed to give free trees to the parish. We will need to publicise and arrange a 'give-away' day which is likely to be during National Tree week (Saturday 27th November to December 5th)..

5.3 Otter Valley Association

Ted bought £60 of wildflower seed which was paid by the OVA. This will cover approx. 10sqm. Ted will prepare and scarify the soil using his brushcutter.

5.4 Webber's Meadow

Gill will send out a date for an end of June evening to survey Webber's Meadow to plan tree and hedge planting under Lindi's Nature Recovery project.

Lindi suggested putting up a board to publicise what's done in Webber's Meadow. It would need to be located in a public area to reduce vandalism.

5.5 The Parish Council commissioned a tree survey which contains many recommendations, need to ask the Parish Council who will carry these out.

5.6 Jubilee

The Jubilee tree walk was very successful, approximately 50 people joined.

Carla held a Jubilee Climate Change stall. Several people said they liked the bee hotel, others suggested turning patches of grass to wildflowers (e.g. King Alfred Gate) putting more water butts on parish buildings, more benches in the parish and having a co-car-club.

Gill has stored contact details for 2 people who might be interested in working with the Climate Change Group.

Carla will speak to Nick Murphy who is very keen on making bee and bat boxes with a group he organises, and will report back to the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

Gill to arrange the next meeting