

Climate Change Working Group

7pm on Thursday 8th September 2022 – Bowhayes Coffee Hut

Present: Gill Cameron Webb, Ted Swan, Geraldine Swan, Steve Filer, Rosemary Walker, Howard Hughes and Lindi Rich (East Devon AONB).

Apologies : Carla Bilenkjy, David Ludlow, Brian Carpenter and Maz Dufall.

MINUTES

1. Brian arranged for the Climate Change Group to have a standing item on the Parish Council agenda in future.

2. East Devon AONB Nature Recovery Project

2.1. During the school holidays Steve Filer kept the new school trees watered and spread compost (donated by Howard) around them.

2.2. Other AONB tasks:

- Lindi will talk to Beverley about installing wildlife cameras;
- Steve will arrange with Lindi, Beverley and Chris Lea to plan regeneration of the school pond, probably during Autumn half term;
- Lindi hasn't been able to talk to Kate Ponting about getting contacts with local farmers for possible tree planting and hedge repairs;
- Lindi has just been on river monitoring training and will now look towards monitoring pollution on the River Otter.

2.3. AONB Events

a. Members of the group enjoyed the bat walk on 29th July and asked Lindi to pass thanks to the organiser.

b. Next summer Lindi will arrange:

- a guided river walk via Harpford and Tipton late summer, Ted to decide the route;
- summer activities on the Pebblebed Heath, such as another bat walk or a moth or butterfly walk.

2.4. Howard can arrange for the Beavers to build bird and bat boxes if Lindi tells him how many she needs, and hopefully Lindi could do a talk to the Beavers.

3. Reducing Carbon Footprint in the Parish

3.1. Our Place/Our Planet

To give people ideas on how to improve their own carbon footprint Maz did a Parish Magazine article which pointed people to the Our Place/Our Planet website and Gill did posters listing energy savings tips. Gill will send the same list to the October Parish Magazine and do a Facebook Post.

3.2. Carla will speak to Catherine Causley to see how EDDC could create a repository or pack of material that Parishes can pick up and use. It would be useful to at least know EDDC's objectives and whether there's funding (e.g. from the locality budget) to help people to become more environmentally savvy. C/F

3.3. Hopefully Catherine Causley can come to a future meeting to help arrange a Climate Change talk in the village to provide people with ideas on how they can make personal choices to help reduce their own carbon footprint. C/F

3.4. Carla to ask Catherine the result of her 'Plastic Reduction' challenge was. C/F

3.5. Gill will re-circulate the carbon footprint links sent out previously (e.g Exmouth Council info) to see which bits could be useful for our parish.

4. Tree Planting

4.1. Jean Salter's family are selling her paintings at 11am on 15th September in the Pavilion to raise money to buy a memorial tree for the Venn Ottery cemetery.

4.2. Elaine Evans has bought a memorial tree; Gill and Rosemary will agree a date w/c 19/9/22 to plant it in Harpford

4.3. East Devon AONB Project:

- Lindi will send Gill an ED AONB Community Fund form to request funds to pay for the trees in Webber's Meadow, including planting and maintenance costs.
- Tom and Howard will take 2ft cuttings from the willow trees for Howard to grow on.

4.4. Devon County Council Project:

- after some delay DCC are now expecting to award a contract for the DCC Tree Project on 9th September;
- in addition to planting trees in the old and new cemeteries, the sports field and Burrow Green, DCC are now talking to Highways about planting on their land.
- once the contract's awarded Gill will tell DCC about 'Wales and West Utilities' plan to install a new gas pipe alongside the sportsfield/Back Brook for 20 days weeks starting 20th October.

4.5. Parish Council permission:

Gill briefed August's Parish Council meeting on the DCC and ED AONB tree planting plans. The Parish Council gave permission for Webber's Meadow trees to be planted and gave "permission in principle" for the DCC tree planting project. To avoid delay to winter planting Rosemary Walker will represent the Parish Council during the DCC surveys and make decisions on the Parish Council's behalf.

4.6. Planting the trees:

Gill did an article for September's Parish Magazine to let people know about the AONB and DCC projects and to make people aware that help will be needed with planting.

4.7. Lindi/Howard to let Gill know when trees and wildflower seeds will be given away during National Tree week (Saturday 27th November to December 5th) so Gill can publicise.

4.8. Nick Howe has said that he will water Harpford's Jubilee tree.

4.9. Gill said it looks like someone has now woven in the willow house trees in the school field.

5. Wildflower Meadow

Ted said that the wildflower meadow has been cut but the risings haven't been taken away. Ted will rake away the 4/5 locations he seeded but the rest will have to be left as it's too big a job to rake it up.

6. Rosemary will ask the next Finance Committee for £60 to buy more daffodil bulbs

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 7pm on Tues 18th October, at the Cannon Inn.