

Newton Poppleford Climate Change Committee

Annual Report to Parish Council – April 2022

The Climate Change Committee was set up by the Parish Council to give a lead to the local community for measures that we might take locally to help mitigate the effects of global warming.

Most of the measures already taken concern the green infrastructure in the locality and consist of the following:

- Defining an area in Webbers Meadow as a wildflower site. Advice on going about this was sought and an area designated. A few small initial areas were cleared and sown with wild flower seed last autumn. A large log pile was established as a 'Bug Hotel' and a relevant notice added to make meadow users aware.
- Defining another area in Webbers Meadow where tree cover would be beneficial and a small number of trees were planted earlier this year.
- A large number of willow whips planted in various parts of the village, mainly on waterway banks to encourage stabilisation from the very real problem of erosion.
- Three sites were considered for planting commemorative trees to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. A silver birch (*Betula Utilis Jacquemontii* 'Snow Queen') was planted in Newton Poppleford (Meadow View), Harpford, by the village hall and on Venn Ottery Village Green.
- A survey was undertaken during the winter period to ascertain suitable places for future tree planting and a considerable plan was established. Future plans are to re-visit these sites and establish suitable species for each position with a view for planting this coming winter.
- Various locations around the local communities were planted with spring bulbs during the winter period.

The group was contacted during the year by Lindi Rich who is a Wildlife Officer for the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). She gave a presentation to the Parish Council in January to suggest that she and the AONB be engaged in a one-year Nature Recovery Project in the parish which was endorsed by the Council. Since then, Lindi has been actively engaged in meetings with the environment committee and has offered practical advice on several topics related to her brief.

Other topics considered during the year were traffic calming measures through the village, introduction of vehicle charging points and improving insulation in private homes and public buildings. Not a lot of progress had been made on these additional topics mainly due to the lack of someone to come forward onto the committee to take an interest in these fields.