

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP MINUTES 8 MAY 2024

Attendees

Caroline Underwood CU , Chair	Madeline Fraser MF
Aiden Joy AJ	Peter Clark PC
Ray Magness RM	Melanie Storey MS , Secretary

- Apologies: Catherine Grigg **CG**, Richard Salmon **RS**

Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- Action review:

No	Action Description	Status/Update
36.13	CU to ascertain as to which organisations cut grass in the village and exactly which areas they cover	On-going
37.5	MS to add the review of the Biodiversity Action List to the agendas for the March and September meetings each year	On-going
38.7	RS to reduce to a safe height, the dead tree in Morris Close	Completed
39.12	RS to prepare the area in the corner of the churchyard that has been cleared, and to plant with sun flowers	Completed
39.13	CU to discuss with RS the reseedling of Hunts End	Completed
40.2	CU to raise the question of an opening date for the Diddington path at the next Quarry meeting	Completed, see Item 2
40.3	MS to circulate the map of the new path in Diddington	Completed
40.4	MS to include consideration of a charity walking event on the agenda for the next meeting	Completed, see Item 2
40.5	MF to conduct quadrat surveys in the areas of new planting in Lucks Lane, the Churchyard and Morris Close to enable any increase in species numbers to be recorded	Outstanding, will be completed by end of June
40.6	CU to close the Friends of Buckden Footpaths Group and to create an action group to focus on identifying issues with our footpaths and the work required for their improvement	Outstanding
40.7	MS to include the next annual footpath check, to take place in July, on the agenda for the next meeting	Completed
40.8	CU to inform Thornhills that a path across their land by Margetts Farm, has been registered under The Ramblers Lost Paths scheme	Outstanding
40.9	MS to circulate the map showing the footpath registered under The Ramblers Lost Paths scheme	Completed
40.10	CU to send PC contact details of our swift expert	Completed

40.11	CU to ask AB if the swift boxes she erected have been used by breeding swifts	Completed
40.12	MS to submit a note to the Roundabout highlighting that ledges to put under house martin boxes are available	Closed - drafted, but not submitted as there are no ledges available
40.13	RM to discuss with RS the possibility of assisting with planting of wildlife areas	Closed
40.14	RM to discuss with the allotment group the potential for establishment of an orchard	Completed, see Item 5
40.15	CU to submit a reminder about 'No Mow May' to the Roundabout	Completed
40.16	CU to send the Biodiversity Survey to the Group for information	Completed
40.17	MF to submit a version of the Biodiversity Bingo for inclusion on the website and in the Roundabout	Completed, on website and submitted to Roundabout but they did not publish
40.18	MS to include an item on the Photography Competition in the agenda for the next meeting	Completed, see Item 3
40.19	MF and CU to meet the village handyman to discuss how a maintenance plan for the churchyard could support conservation in the area	Completed, see Item 3
40.20	MF to send the Group the Churchyard Conservation awards leaflet and scoring system	Completed
40.21	MF to draft an application for a bronze award under the Churchyard Conservation awards scheme, for consideration by the Church and by the Group at our next meeting	Completed, see Item 3
40.22	CU to draft a response on improving pedestrian access at Paxton Pits	Completed

Item 2 Green Infrastructure

- It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to the consultation on changes to paths in Diddington as follows:
 - The proposed changes would be welcomed
 - Clarification would be sought on how the risk to walkers/runners from any speeding cyclists would be reduced on dual use paths
 - Clarification would be sought on who would be responsible for maintenance
 - Clarification would be sought on the route available to cyclists to access the new routes when they are approaching from the north, ie from Stirtloe and Buckden
- It was decided to potentially include a charity walking event in the celebrations to mark the opening of the new public rights of way in Diddington
- Members of the Group decided which footpaths they would cover for the annual footpath check in July
- It was noted that the Slow Ways initiative now included a section on suggesting new footpaths under the banner of 'Make Ways' and it was decided that the Margetts Farm path should be registered
- The Group was updated on a meeting of the Ouse Valley Way (OVW) Management Group (dormant for 6 years)

- The Group's mission is to restore proper maintenance of the OVW to ensure access at all times of the year and to re-establish its position as a major asset of Cambridgeshire for both residents and visitors
- It was noted that there are 2 sorts of issues: regular maintenance (2 years of funding has been put in place, a full survey will be conducted and work will start in May with a major cutback in September) and unexpected obstructions (these should be reported on the Cambs CC website)
- After 2 years of discussion with National Highways (NH), concerning the bank repair under the A14, NH has confirmed there is funding in place for this work in 2025 but it was agreed the Great Ouse Valley Trust would apply to the A428 Legacy Fund in case the work did not materialise
- It was noted NH has included a budget for bank restoration where the new A428 crosses the river as a direct result of the Great Ouse Valley Trust efforts to resolve the issue of bank erosion resulting from installation of the A14 bridge
- The date for the next OVW Marathon was announced as 22 September 2024 and applications to the event have already exceeded the number of runners last year
- It was noted the Great Ouse Valley Trust continues to try and achieve National Trail status for the OVW

Action 41.1 MS to draft the Parish Council's response to the consultation on changes to paths in Diddington

Action 41.2 MS to issue the template for the annual footpath check

Action 41.3 MS to register the proposed reinstatement of the Margetts Farm path under the Make Ways initiative

Action 41.4 PC to bring the Make Ways initiative to the attention of the Great Ouse Valley Trust

Item 3 Biodiversity

- A survey of the Parish Trees was undertaken on 22 April and locations where 5 trees could be planted identified
 - It was noted that a meeting with the HDC Tree lead was planned for 15 May and it was agreed the following points should be raised:
 - What trees would be available to plant in the 5 identified locations given the desire to use natives and mindful of the need for resilience to the effects of climate change
 - To seek clarification on the status of the previously identified HDC trees on Mill Road
 - To ask for an opinion as to whether it would be appropriate to trim the yew tree in the Churchyard to afford a better view of the Judas tree from the street
- It was noted that no entries for the photography competition had been received and it was decided it would potentially be reinstated to coincide with the celebrations to mark the opening of the new public rights of way in Diddington
- Churchyard Conservation Scheme
 - It was agreed an application at the bronze level should be submitted
 - It was noted that in preparation to progress to the next level a management plan will be needed and increased engagement with the local community along with improvements to biodiversity through potential installation of bird boxes, a bug home, a compost heap and a wheelbarrow planted with herbs

Action 41.5 RM to raise, in the meeting with the HDC tree lead, the availability of trees for planting, the status of the HDC trees on Mill Road and whether it would be possible to improve visibility of the Judas tree in the churchyard

Action 41.6 MS to include an update of the meeting with the HDC tree lead on the agenda for the next meeting

Action 41.7 MF to submit a bronze level application to the Churchyard Conservation Scheme

Action 41.8 MF to draft a management plan for the care and development of the habitat in the churchyard

Action 41.9 MF to submit an article to the Roundabout explaining what is happening and what is planned in respect of the habitat in the churchyard

Item 4 Budget

- It was noted there have been no changes to the status of the budget

Item 5 AOB

- Potential community orchard
 - The allotment group has offered up a piece of land to be planted as an orchard
 - Another piece of land may be available from the Church Commissioners in due course
- It was noted that the Great Ouse Valley Trust AGM focused on sustainable farming
- It was noted that the draft planting scheme for Lucks Lane was available for consideration
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 July from 1900 hours at 55 High Street

Action 41.10 RM to finalise a planting plan for the proposed community orchard to be presented at the next meeting

Action 41.11 RM, MF to review the draft planting scheme for Lucks Lane **and CU** to discuss it with RS