

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING RECORD
15 NOVEMBER 2022

Attendees

Caroline Underwood CU , Chair	Madeline Fraser MF
Richard Salmon RS	Catherine Grigg CG
Melanie Storey MS , Secretary	

Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- 2 members, Pam Fraser and Joshua Harris, have left the Group as they are no longer Parish Councillors and the Chair recorded thanks for their contributions
- 2 new members joined the Group, Madeline Fraser and Catherine Grigg, and the Chair welcomed them
- Action review:

No	Action Description	Status/Update
29.2	All to try and encourage people to volunteer to join the Footpath Working Party	Closed
29.4	RS to arrange for the work on the footpath posts to be completed before the beginning of April	Closed, picked up by this year's check report see Item 2
29.8	CU to request that the map and QR codes are added to the draft 'Talking Trees and Bees' leaflet	On-going, awaiting contribution from Vicar
31.1	MS to add consideration of creating a map of green spaces residents could use and creating a new circular path, once the Diddington lake route is open, as an agenda item for a future meeting	Closed, opening of path delayed until later in 2024
31.2	All to complete their annual checks of the footpaths allocated to them by 31 July	Partially completed, see Item 2
31.3	CU to send a reminder to the Footpath Working Group as to the need to regularly report on the condition of the footpaths they look after	Completed, see Item 2
31.4	MS to send CU the grid references for the starting and finishing points for the proposed new footpath	Completed
31.5	CU to establish land ownership for the route of the proposed new footpath	Completed see Item 2
31.6	CU to publicise the national events due in July and September	Completed
31.7	CU to submit the Biodiversity Strategy Action List to the Parish Council for approval	Completed see Item 3
Actions to be Monitored		
16.2	MS to distribute Round About Buckden leaflets and to record their take-up	Library, George, Buckden Towers, Drs Surgery restocked
26.1	MS to monitor the impact of the Slow Ways initiative Neots	

Item 2 Green Infrastructure

- Annual footpath check: action list
 - It was noted 3 footpaths have still to be checked
 - It was agreed action should be started to resolve the issues with footpath B4 as they concerned matters of access for people less able to manage the uneven surface
- Footpath Working Party
 - It was agreed that the current members of the Footpath Working Party should be contacted to ascertain whether they wanted to continue in the role
- The proposed new footpath
 - It was agreed that the application for a new footpath should be progressed by contacting the landowner

Action 32.1 MF to complete the annual check on footpaths D 13, D14, D15 and B5

Action 32.2 MS to report the poor condition of footpath B4 to Cambs CC Highway Department

Action 32.3 CU to seek a solution to address the poor condition of footpath B4 by writing to Cambs CC about the risk the footpath poses to those with mobility issues

Action 32.4 CU to write to the current members of the Footpath Working Party to ascertain whether they wanted to continue in the role

Action 32.5 CU to write to the landowners of the area where the proposed new footpath would cross as the next step to progressing the application process

Item 3 Biodiversity

- Biodiversity Strategy
 - Action Plan: it was agreed that action was needed to increase the number of swift nest boxes in the village
 - It was noted that during December deadwood would be removed from the hedge area near the telephone box
- The suggestion by a resident that the wildflower bed on the Village Green should be removed was discussed and it was decided the bed should be retained on the following grounds:
 - The grant received from the A14 fund that paid for the creation of the bed was based on the understanding that biodiversity would be improved on the Village Green and the creation of a wild flower bed was viewed as a crucial element to achieve that aim
 - The School was involved in the creation of the bed and the children use it as part of their studies
 - The bed did not look its best this year due to weather conditions and action is already in hand to improve the planting
- Talking Trees and Bees
 - It was noted that the leaflet has been designed and the QR code signs have been purchased
 - There is one recording outstanding, that is for the Judas tree in the churchyard
 - It was agreed that the project should be completed for a launch in the Spring
- Tree surveys and maintenance
 - The Chair pointed out that during a meeting with the new administration at HDC she had become aware that it offers a tree survey and maintenance service
 - It was also noted that HDC has confirmed that the trees where Greenway meets Mill Road belong to them
- It was noted that members of the Group had participated in HDC's climate change focus groups covering topics such as green spaces and energy saving; it was felt that suggested actions were not within the remit of Parish Councils, although the eventual strategy may be more useful in that respect

Action 32.6 CU to contact the man who created the bird boxes placed round the village for a quote to produce a set of swift nest boxes

Action 32.7 MF to draft an article, on helping swifts, for publication in the Roundabout in the January or February editions

Action 32.8 CG to ask Father David when he will be able to complete the recording of the words about the Judas tree in the churchyard for the Talking Trees and Bees project

Action 32.9 CU to ask HDC to quote for surveying and maintaining the trees in the village that are the responsibility of the Parish Council

Item 4 Budget

- It was noted there has been no change in the budget since the last meeting and that the proposal for next year's budget has been submitted

Item 5 AOB

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 January from 1915 hours at 55 High Street