

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING RECORD
24 JANUARY 2023

Attendees

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

Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- The Chair welcomed Peter Clark to the Group
- Action review:

No	Action Description	Status/Update
29.8	CU to request that the map and QR codes are added to the draft 'Talking Trees and Bees' leaflet	Completed, see Item 3
31.2	All to complete their annual checks of the footpaths allocated to them by 31 July	Closed, superseded by 32.1
32.1	MF to complete the annual check on footpaths D13, D14, D15 and B5	Planned to take place 30 January
32.2	MS to report the poor condition of footpath B4 to Cambs CC Highway Department	Completed, awaiting response
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	Completed, awaiting response
32.4	CU to write to the current members of the Footpath Working Party to ascertain whether they wanted to continue in the role	Completed, see Item 2
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	Outstanding
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	Completed, see Item 3
32.7	MF to draft an article, on helping swifts, for publication in the Roundabout in the January or February editions	Completed, see Item 3
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	Completed
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	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	See Item 2 for update

Item 2 Green Infrastructure

- Annual footpath check: action list
 - It was agreed that RS would check the sites where action is needed to replant posts and advise the Group as to the best approach
 - It was noted that issues remain with the Ouse Valley Way (OVW)
 - It was noted that a landowner, over whose land part of the OVW passes, had contacted Cambs CC with regard to undertaking some remedial work and he had been incorrectly directed to Buckden Parish Council
- Update from the Footpath Working Party
 - With one exception, the current members of the Footpath Working Party wish to continue in their roles
 - At the meeting PC offered to cover footpath D2 and MF to cover footpaths B1, B2 and B4
 - It was agreed a request for more volunteers should be placed in the Roundabout
- Update on new footpath application process
 - It was noted that there had not been any activity on this matter and an update would follow at a later date

Action 33.1 RS to check the sites where action is needed to replant posts, as listed in the annual footpath check action list and advise the Group as to the best approach

Action 33.2 CU to investigate the issues with the Ouse Valley Way

Action 33.3 CU to place an item in the Roundabout seeking volunteers to join the Footpath Working Group

Item 3 Biodiversity

- Biodiversity Strategy: swift boxes
 - It was noted that the article on swift boxes was due to be published in the Roundabout shortly
 - It was noted that some swift boxes are in place on property belonging to Buckden Towers
 - It was noted that to attract swifts to new nest sites, bird calling boxes are useful
 - It was agreed that bird calling boxes would be supplied to building owners if nest boxes were added and the site was deemed to have a good chance of being successful
 - It was agreed that it would be helpful to know where swifts currently nest in the village
- Talking Trees and Bees: implementation
 - It was noted that a quote for design and printing of the Talking Trees and Bees leaflet had been received
 - It was agreed that a plan to publicise the content of the current leaflets and the creation of additional leaflets, should be discussed at the next meeting; CG offered to publicise the leaflets on the School's Parent Mail
- Update on outsourcing tree surveys and tree maintenance to HDC
 - It was noted that information has been received from HDC explaining the difference between a tree survey (a means to identify what work is required) and a risk survey (quantifying the risk to life and property over the following year) and where the responsibility for the trees lay
 - As the Parish Council has approved the quote from HDC it was agreed the work should be commissioned for completion this calendar year

Action 33.4 CU to seek advice from the village nest box expert as to sourcing bird calling boxes and the lead in time for their installation

Action 33.5 CU to contact a landowner in Stirtloe to see if swift boxes could be erected on their barns

Action 33.6 CU to ask the author of the Biodiversity Strategy to tell the Group where swifts were nesting when he undertook his survey

Action 33.7 MS to include an item on the agenda of the next meeting on publicising the content of current leaflets and the creation of additional leaflets

Action 33.8 CU to instruct HDC to undertake tree and risk surveys for completion during 2023

Item 4 Budget

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

Item 5 AOB

- It was noted that an update from the Slow Ways initiative, aimed at Parish Councils, has been received
- It was agreed that the article on cutting hedges would be submitted to the Roundabout for publication; links to further guidance will be added to the website version
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 March from 1915 hours at 55 High Street

Action 33.9 CU to circulate the update from the Slow Ways initiative around members of the Parish Council

Action 33.10 CU and MF to attend the Slow Ways webinar on 30 January

Action 33.11 CU to submit the article on hedge cutting for publication in the Roundabout