

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP MINUTES 18 JUNE 2025

Attendees

Caroline Underwood CU , Chair	Madeline Fraser MF
Richard Salmon RS	Peter Clark PC
Ray Magness RM	Melanie Storey MS , Secretary

Apologies: Catherine Grigg **CG**

Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

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

No	Action Description	Status/Update
43.3	RM to approach Buckden Towers with a view to creating a new native hedge	Outstanding
43.6	MF to continue to publicise the planting in Lucks Lane and the work in gaining a conservation award for the churchyard	On going - Maintenance Group not pursuing conservation award as site in middle of village
44.2	CU to contact the Housing Association that is responsible for Cranfield Close in respect of the collapsed fence (Footpath B1)	Completed - see Action 45.1
44.6	CU to ask the Parish Clerk what progress has been made with insertion of a dog fouling sign at the beginning of the Waterworks road (Footpath B15)	Completed – positioned on entry gate
44.7	CU to ask the landowner to mow the route of Footpath D15 to improve accessibility (Footpath D15)	Will be raised with landowner when footpath signs are installed
44.14	MF to explore how to create a Beeline Map recording all the areas of wildflowers in the Parish	Completed
44.16	MF and RS to create a planting plan for the planter outside of the Lion hotel	Options being considered, planting in the autumn
44.17	MF to consider what could be planted along the Offord road and on the piece of land opposite Greenway	Options being considered, planting in the autumn
44.19	MF to explore adding QR codes to the spotters' guides	On-going
45.13	RM to draft a planting plan for the area adjacent to the telephone box	Completed, see Item 3

Action 45.1 CU to contact a resident to try and determine who is responsible for the collapsed fence in Cranfield Close

Item 2 Green Infrastructure

- Update on annual footpath check 2024
 - All but one of the actions have been finished by the Group (see Action 45.2 below), although not all tasks have been completed due to dependency on other organisations
 - Details of the actions can be found in the attached updated report
- Date of annual footpath check 2025

- It was decided this would take place in October
- Walk the Ouse Valley Way (WOW) on 20 July
 - Given that WOW has an official stop at Buckden Marina the Parish Council will advertise the event
- Public Rights of Way Hierarchy Engagement consultation, due July 2015
 - The section of the consultation return that covers Diddington has been sent to Thornhills for completion
 - It was noted that MF has already entered comments on the online return
 - It was decided that the lowly classification of the Ouse Valley Way should be challenged given that it is an official long distance path

Action 45.2 CU to organise a note for the website and social media asking residents to report any issues with the Ouse Valley Way

Action 45.3 CU to ensure that reprinting of the footpath map is discussed at the next meeting of the Quarry Liaison Group

Action 45.4 MS to add the allocation of footpaths for the annual check as an agenda item for the next meeting

Action 45.5 CU to ask the Parish Clerks to publicise WOW on social media and to bring it to the attention of the Parish Council at its next meeting

Action 45.6 CU to comment on the classification of the Ouse Valley Way as part of the Public Rights of Way Hierarchy Engagement consultation

Item 3 Biodiversity

- Report on 'Greening Buckden Day'
 - Positive feedback has been received about the event
 - A welcome offer from the allotment stand to grow plants for the Group' biodiversity initiatives was received during the event
 - The library stand took a set of the spotter guides to display in the library
 - It was agreed that the number of attendees was rather low, which may have been addressed by better signage
 - It was agreed that if the event was repeated, it would be better to hold it on a different date from the Repair Cafe
- Update on Planting Plans
 - Some of the planting is struggling in the dry weather, despite efforts to water plants where possible
 - It was agreed that if dry spells are to become the norm then planting may have to focus on more drought tolerant plants
 - MF and CU raised the issue of the responsibility for the wildflower areas across the village to ensure that both groundsmen and RS reliably know where responsibility lies
 - It was agreed it would be helpful if we understood what schedule RS is contracted for, including the weed killing schedule
 - The expectation is that the Groundsmen will take over full responsibility from Richard at the end of the year. This will need to be confirmed in the autumn
 - MF and CU confirmed that the only requirement for the groundsmen in relation to the area at the end of Lucks Lane is a twice yearly cut of the grass; this will be added to their work schedule
- Tree Update
 - The Tree Warden (RM) has completed his Tree Inspection Course run by Lantra; this is a requirement of the Parish Council's Tree Strategy to enhance his ability to spot issues with trees

- A dead branch in the lime tree at Hunts End has been reported to HDC but given the heavy footfall in that area there is concern that no assessment has yet been made
- It was noted that the bidding process for grants from the Tree Council for next year has opened
- Biodiversity
 - It was noted that Thornhills has offered to give members of the Group a guided tour of the work they are doing on biodiversity

Action 45.7 CU to contact RS to clarify what he does and when he does it in relation to maintenance of the wildflower areas

Action 45.8 RM to remind HDC to assess the risk associated with the dead branch in the lime tree at Hunts End

Action 45.9 RM to talk to the Towers about making a bid for a grant or free trees from the Tree Council

Action 45.10 CU to contact Thornhills to arrange a guided tour of their work to improve biodiversity on its land

Item 4 Operational Plan 2026

- It was suggested that one item to be included in the plan could be the development of a circular route from the village when the new footpaths in Diddington are fully open
- The Group was asked to bring ideas for the plan to the next meeting

Action 45.11 MS to include ideas for the Operational Plan as an agenda item for the next meeting

Action 45.12 All to bring ideas for the Operational Plan to the next meeting

Item 5 Budget

- Expenditure against the budget was discussed and no issues were raised

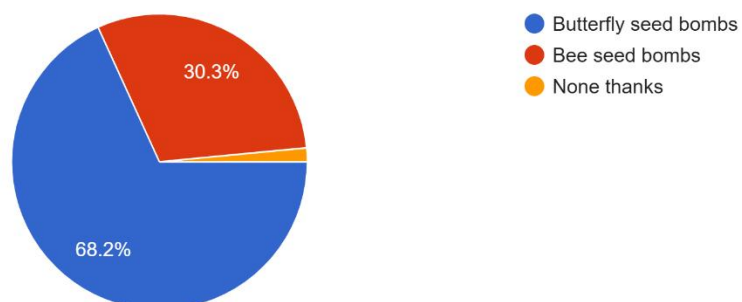
Item 6 AOB

- The Parish Council is developing a 'hub' for young people and the Group was asked to bring ideas for green infrastructure initiatives to the next meeting
 - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 September from 1900 hours at 55 High Street
- Action 45.13 MS** to include ideas for the young people's hub as an agenda item for the next meeting
- Action 45.14 All** to bring ideas for the young people's hub to the next meeting

Appendix 1 - Seed Bomb and Nature Survey Results

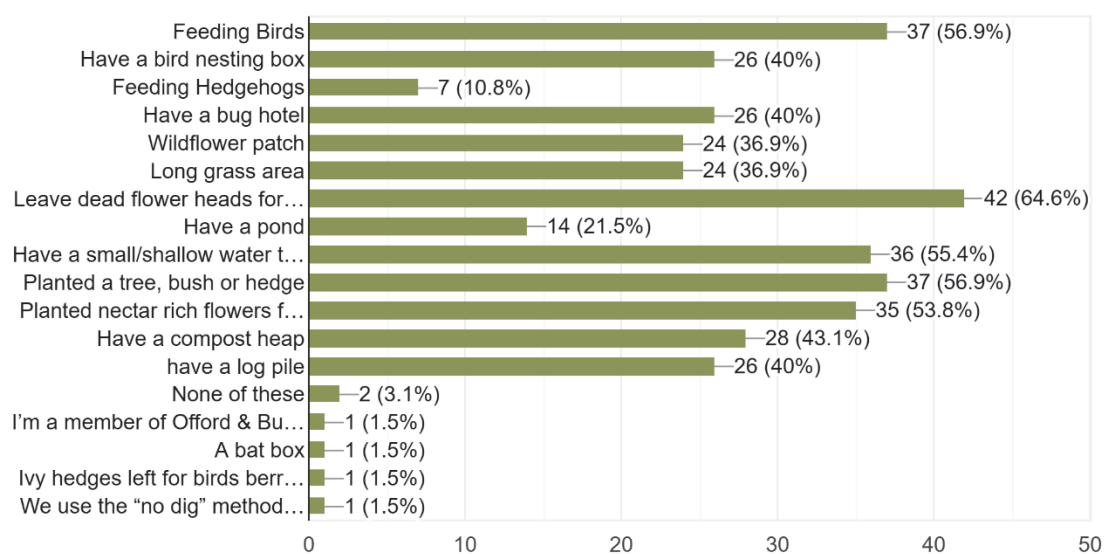
Which type of seed bomb would you like?

66 responses

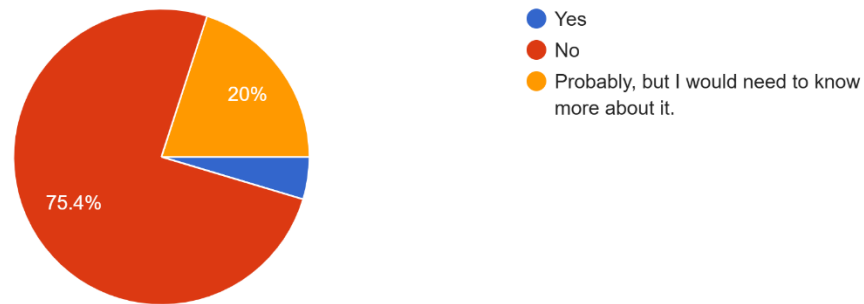


Please tell us which of the following you are already doing?

65 responses

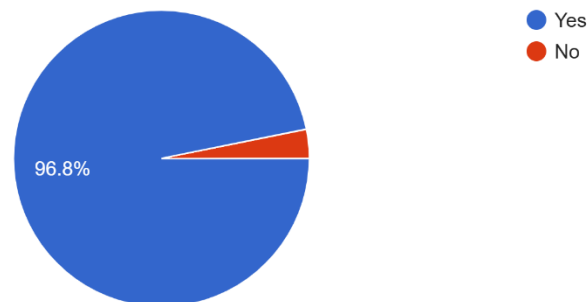


Would you be prepared to be part of an Open Gardens for Nature Day during Big Green Week
65 responses



Three respondents said yes and a further thirteen showed an interest. We could pursue this and perhaps ask them whether they would be prepared to allow people to view their gardens during Great Big Green Week or at some other suitable time.

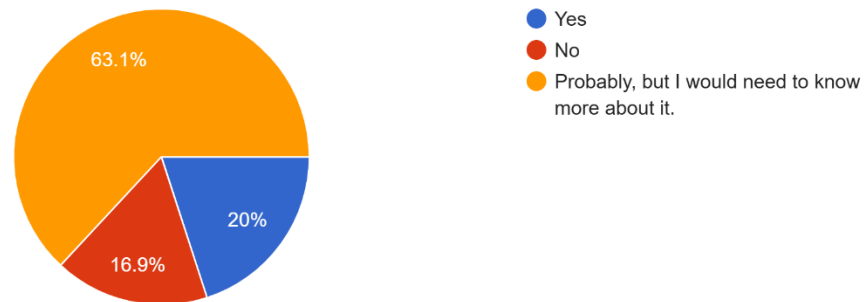
I think Buckden should do more to help restore nature
63 responses



This is very encouraging, although how many of these people would be prepared to help with schemes, organise planting events and so on remains to be seen.

I would be interested in taking part in a Buckden Nature Day

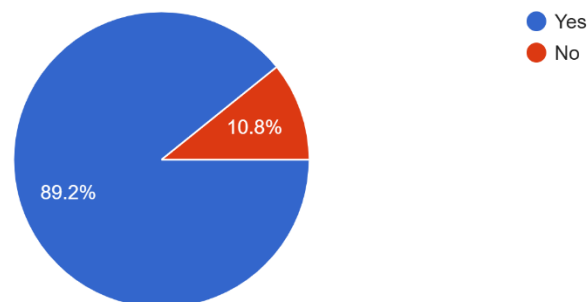
65 responses



I suggest that we contact all those who said yes or probably to make sure that they know about the Greener Buckden Event and ask if they could help at it and also if any of them would be prepared to make an exhibit/posters and so on.

I am happy to allow the Parish Council to contact me , using the e-mail address provided, about any future activities to promote nature recovery in Buckden

65 responses



The 89.2 % means that we have 58 respondents who are interested in what we are doing. This might prove helpful in future if we want to do some planting, restoration work, footpaths, etc.