

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP MINUTES 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

### Attendees

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Caroline Underwood <b>CU</b> , Chair | Ray Magness <b>RM</b> |
| Richard Salmon <b>RS</b>             | Peter Clark <b>PC</b> |
| Melanie Storey <b>MS</b> , Secretary |                       |

Apologies: Madeline Fraser **MF**

### Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- It was noted that Catherine Grigg is no longer a member of the Group; the Chair recorded thanks for her contribution
- Action review:

| No    | Action Description                                                                                                                             | Status/Update                               |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 43.3  | <b>RM</b> to approach Buckden Towers with a view to creating a new native hedge                                                                | Completed, see Item 3                       |
| 43.6  | <b>MF</b> to continue to publicise the planting in Lucks Lane                                                                                  | On going - Maintenance Group                |
| 44.7  | <b>CU</b> to ask the landowner to mow the route of Footpath D15 to improve accessibility (Footpath D15)                                        | Completed, route mown                       |
| 44.16 | <b>MF and RS</b> to create a planting plan for the planter outside of the Lion hotel                                                           | Completed, see Item 3                       |
| 44.17 | <b>MF</b> to consider what could be planted along the Offord road and on the piece of land opposite Greenway                                   | Closed: superseded by Action 46.6           |
| 44.19 | <b>MF</b> to explore adding QR codes to the spotters' guides                                                                                   | On-going                                    |
| 45.1  | <b>CU</b> to contact a resident to try and determine who is responsible for the collapsed fence in Cranfield Close                             | Outstanding                                 |
| 45.2  | <b>CU</b> to organise a note going for the website asking residents to report any issues with the Ouse Valley Way                              | Completed                                   |
| 45.3  | <b>CU</b> to ensure that reprinting of the footpath map is discussed at the next meeting of the Quarry Liaison Group                           | Closed: superseded by Actions 46.1 and 46.2 |
| 45.4  | <b>MS</b> to add the allocation of footpaths for the annual check as an agenda item for the next meeting                                       | Completed                                   |
| 45.5  | <b>CU</b> 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 | Completed                                   |
| 45.6  | <b>CU</b> to comment on the classification of the Ouse Valley Way as part of the Public Rights of Way Hierarchy Engagement consultation        | Completed                                   |
| 45.7  | <b>CU</b> to contact <b>RS</b> to clarify what he does and when he does it in relation to maintenance of the wildflower areas                  | Completed                                   |

|              |                                                                                                            |                       |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>45.8</b>  | <b>RM</b> to remind HDC to assess the risk associated with the dead branch in the lime tree at Hunts End   | Completed, see Item 3 |
| <b>45.9</b>  | <b>RM</b> to talk to the Towers about making a bid for a grant or free trees from the Tree Council         | Completed             |
| <b>45.10</b> | <b>CU</b> to contact Thornhills to arrange a guided tour of their work to improve biodiversity on its land | Completed, see Item 3 |
| <b>45.11</b> | <b>MS</b> to include ideas for the Operational Plan as an agenda item for the next meeting                 | Completed             |
| <b>45.12</b> | <b>All</b> to bring ideas for the Operational Plan to the next meeting                                     | Completed, see Item 4 |
| <b>45.13</b> | <b>MS</b> to include ideas for the young people's hub as an agenda item for the next meeting               | Completed             |
| <b>45.14</b> | <b>All</b> to bring ideas for the young people's hub to the next meeting                                   | Completed, see Item 3 |

**Action 46.1 CU** to find out who printed the 2016 version of the footpath map

**Action 46.2 CU** to contact Aggregate Industries to discuss printing of a revised footpath map

## Item 2 Green Infrastructure

- The following allocation of footpaths for the annual check in October was agreed
  - RS** B6, B7, B8
  - PC** D2, B12, B13, B9, B3, D5, B14
  - RM** B5, D14, D13, D15, D12
  - CU** B1, B4, B11, D1 and new paths
  - MS** B2, B11, D6, D11, D18

**Action 46.3 MS** to issue a template for annual footpath check

## Item 3 Biodiversity

- Tree and planting updates
  - The dead branch in the lime tree on the green has been removed by HDC
  - Work has taken place on the Judas tree in the churchyard
  - Buckden Towers has confirmed it is content with the plan for the planting of 60 metres of hedging along its paddock (the other side will be planted at a later date); the plants have been obtained but a mini digger may need to be hired for a day
  - 70% of the shrubs planted in Lucks Lane have died due to the drought and grass has invaded the plot; it was agreed the grass should be sprayed off and new planting be organised with perhaps an extension of the wildflower area
  - It was agreed bulbs should be planted along the Offord Road by the chicane
  - In the area by the telephone box the conifers have been cut back and the land cleared; more work in this area is due to take place shortly
  - A complaint has been received about the size of an ash tree in Morris Close; it was agreed this tree should be topped again
  - It was noted that the planter outside of the Lion Hotel will be planted up shortly
  - An enjoyable and informative tour of the Thornhill estate took place on 28 August; the Group learnt about how the estate is seeking to improve and be guardians of the land under its management

**Action 46.4 RM** to check if the work on the Judas tree is now complete and the tree is safe

**Action 46.5 RS** to provide a costing for the replanting of Lucks Lane

**Action 46.6 RS** to provide a costing for planting along the Offord Road

**Action 46.7 RM** to ask HDC to top the ash tree in Morris Close

**Action 46.8 CU** to inform the Parish Clerk that a request has been sent to HDC to top the ash tree in Morris Close

- Ideas for the young people's hub
  - It was noted that in the summer a successful event for young people was organised by the Parish Council
  - It was agreed that when activities are planned ie planting, designing leaflets etc young people should be invited to participate

**Action 46.9 RS** to raise sunflowers for planting out around the village next year; an activity that young people will be invited to participate in

- Cambridgeshire County Council's Protected Road Verge scheme
  - The details of this scheme were noted

**Action 46.10 CU** to circulate details of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Protected Road Verge scheme

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
  - It was noted that the Group has submitted a response to the consultation

**Action 46.11 CU** to circulate details of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

#### **Item 4 Operational Plan 2026**

- It was noted that the actions in the Operational Plan 2025 have been completed, with the exception of a notice boards explaining some of our biodiversity work; it was agreed that some of the that information is in our leaflets
- It was agreed that the focus for the Operational Plan 2026 should be the design and issuing of a new footpath map

#### **Item 5 Budget**

- It was noted that the budget spend has been profiled, although it was accepted that tree work is often reactive rather than planned

#### **Item 6 AOB**

- It was noted that the purchase of the allotments has yet to be finalised
- Complaints have been received about non Parish Council trees overhanging people's gardens; the residents have been advised to contact our District Councillor
- The Parish Council has asked all Advisory Groups to check their section of the Neighbourhood Plan
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 December from 1900 hours at 55 High Street

**Action 46.12 CU** to circulate a link to the Neighbourhood Plan

**Action 46.13 MS** to include the Neighbourhood Plan as an item on the agenda for the next meeting