

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP MINUTES 24 JULY 2024

Attendees

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

Apologies: Catherine Grigg **CG**, Aiden Joy **AJ**, Ray Magness **RM**

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
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	Completed, see Item 4
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
40.8	CU to inform Thornhills that a path across their land by Margetts Farm, has been registered under The Ramblers Lost Paths scheme	Completed and response received 'noted'
41.1	MS to draft the Parish Council's response to the consultation on changes to paths in Diddington	Completed
41.2	MS to issue the template for the annual footpath check	Completed
41.3	MS to register the proposed reinstatement of the Margetts Farm path under the Make Ways initiative	Completed
41.4	PC to bring the Make Ways initiative to the attention of the Great Ouse Valley Trust	Completed, no response received
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	Completed
41.6	MS to include an update of the meeting with the HDC tree lead on the agenda for the next meeting	Completed
41.7	MF to submit a bronze level application to the Churchyard Conservation Scheme	Completed, judging likely to take place in September
41.8	MF to draft a management plan for the care and development of the habitat in the churchyard	Started and will be completed before September

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	Completed
41.10	RM to finalise a planting plan for the proposed community orchard to be presented at the next meeting	Completed
41.11	RM, MF to review the draft planting scheme for Lucks Lane and CU to discuss it with RS	Completed, see Item 4

Item 2 Group Terms of Reference and Election of Chair

- It was agreed that increasing biodiversity and considering the impact on climate change of any actions taken, should be added to the terms of reference and that they should be comparable with other groups' terms of reference in respect of governance
- Caroline Underwood was duly elected as chair for another term (proposed by MF, seconded by PC)

Item 3 Green Infrastructure

- It was noted that the Quarry meeting has been postponed, so there is currently no update on changes to paths in Diddington
- It was noted that the next Great Ouse Valley Way meeting will be on 22 October
- Annual Footpath Check
 - It was noted that using the section of the Ouse Valley Way (OVW) towards Brampton was impeded by nettle growth and a fallen tree but it was assumed these issues would be addressed before the marathon in the autumn
 - It was noted that the boardwalk on footpath B9 is now walkable
 - It was noted that the 'Roundabout Buckden' path was impassable between the waterworks and the OVW (footpath B14)

Action 42.1 CU to contact the Cambs CC tree lead to ascertain whether:

- He is aware of the fallen tree between Buckden Marina and the boundary with Brampton beyond the A14 bridge (copy to Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) lead)
- The boardwalk on footpath B9 had been repaired by Cambs CC?
- He knows who owns the land across which footpath B14 crosses?

Action 42.2 CU to log the following issues through the Cambs CC online system:

- B14 is impassable
- A fallen tree on the OVW between Buckden Marina and the boundary with Brampton beyond the A14 bridge *Sec Note: Cambs CC has confirmed this tree has been removed*

Action 42.3 MS to collate the information gathered from the annual footpath checks and present the report at the next meeting to agree any subsequent actions

Item 4 Biodiversity

- Update on quadrat surveys
 - Lucks Lane: 6 belt transit surveys have been completed along with 'by eye' surveys to identify any plants that need to be protected during implementation of the planting scheme and to form a baseline from which to measure any increases in biodiversity
 - Churchyard: 'by eye' surveys have been undertaken, using the Wildlife Trust template, with further surveys to be completed in the grassy areas
- Update on discussion with HDC tree lead: to be carried forward to the next meeting
- Update on planting plan for the proposed community orchard: to be carried forward to the next meeting
- Draft planting scheme for Lucks Lane

- RS and MF have agreed a planting plan to include: shrubs, climbers, wildflowers, under-planted bulbs and mown edges
- It was agreed that maintenance of the area will need to be included in future budgets
- It was agreed that this would provide a good opportunity for a community planting session and that Deborah Whittall had volunteered to assist

Action 42.4 MF to collate the data from the species surveys in Lucks Lane to present to the next meeting

Action 42.5 MS to include 'update on discussion with HDC tree lead' and 'update on planting plan for the proposed community orchard' on the agenda for the next meeting

Action 42.6 MF and RS to contact Deborah Whittall to determine the best way to communicate a community planting session in Lucks Lane

Action 42.7 RS to draft an article, for inclusion in the Roundabout magazine by the August deadline, on the community planting session in Lucks Lane

Item 5 Budget

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

Item 6 AOB

- GOVT Initiative
 - The Parish Council has received a request from the GOVT to assist with fundraising for initiatives to encourage participation and volunteering
 - It was agreed that a response would wish GOVT well with the initiatives but that the Parish Council felt at this time it was important to concentrate on regular maintenance and achieving special designation for the area
- Wildflower Areas
 - It was noted that it is 3 years since some of the wildflower areas in the village had been planted and that they are in need of a refresh
 - It was noted that some of the planting along Morris Close has failed to thrive and that bramble growth remains an issue
 - It was suggested that volunteers who help with the community planting in Lucks Lane may be interested in helping with Morris Close
- Dangerous Tree: RS has found that a limb of a tree splitting from its trunk is posing a hazard on footpath B7
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 October from 1900 hours at 55 High Street

Action 42.8 CU to draft a response to GOVT wishing it well with its proposed initiatives but stating that the Parish Council felt at this time it was important to concentrate on regular maintenance and achieving special designation for the area

Action 42.9 RS to determine what needs to be done to refresh areas of wildflower planting in the village

Action 42.10 RS to contact the landowner to ask them to take action to remove the hazardous tree branch on footpath B7