

**Present:** Julie McMullen-Kerr, Sofie Sjogersten, Simon Welham, Jenny Drury, Michael Simpson, Belinda Simpson, Chloe Payne, Billie Mendiondo, John Perrett

**Apologies:** Melissa Wadams, Ben Fern

**1. Trees**

**a. Plastic surround removal in Diamond Wood**

- East Midlands Airport postponed their working party to help with guard removal, but will hopefully rearrange soon.
- Mike and John will meet with Gavin (from University) and a representative of the Woodland Trust on 5 November.
- We will hold another guard removal event on Sunday (2pm-4pm) – **Jenny** to promote on FB and email.

**b. Tree Preservation Orders**

- The TPO working party has not met since our last meeting – **Julie** to chase up next meeting

**2. “God’s Acre”**

- Ben, Julie and Jenny had a very productive meeting with PCC at St Michaels – a few changes were made to the proposed plan, and these will be voted on by the PCC at the end of September. Thanks to Ben for his hard work!

**3. Wildlife Trust report on the Spinney/Meadow**

There were a few updates to the plan below (in **bold**) – new actions in **red**:

Ref.	Project Title	Prescription	Agreed Action
3.1.1	Friends Group	Set up a Friends of Group to take ownership of this management plan and its delivery.	Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Group is taking on this role
3.1.2	Site interpretation	Install new interpretation boards at appropriate locations as funding becomes available.	Will return to this
3.1.3	Site cleanliness	Carry out regular litter picking and inform Sutton Bonington Council of any fly tipping, antisocial behaviour or dog fouling as soon as possible.	This is happening already through a village initiative

## NOTES FOR CLIMATE CRISIS & BIODIVERSITY MEETING - 22/09/21

3.1.4	Meadow management	Maintain the grassland (meadow and orchard) areas through an annual cut late summer or early autumn, i.e. August or September on a rotational basis. If ground conditions prevent this timing, late July would be acceptable. All arisings should be removed either mechanically or by hand and piled under adjacent trees if it is not possible to remove from site.	<b>Mowing has been done</b>
3.1.5	Meadow enhancement	Where funds allow, a programme of meadow enhancement through plug planting would be beneficial to increase diversity. Introducing seed, for example Yellow rattle, on carefully prepared areas would also be beneficial.	<b>Belinda to order plug plants suitable for the meadow area.</b>
3.1.6	Woodland management - thinning	Carry out selective thinning of some of the younger trees in the woodland to increase structural diversity and create additional glades. Use brush for dead hedging and/or habitat piles. Additional seeding of the newly created glades with a suitable native woodland (shade-tolerant) mix could also be considered.	Will return to this
3.1.7	Woodland management - coppicing	Carry out a programme of rotational coppicing of young-semi mature trees on 12-15 year rotation. Use brush for dead hedging and/or habitat piles.	Will return to this
3.1.8	Woodland management - deadwood	Select one or two mature trees for ringbarking to create standing deadwood.	Will return to this
3.1.9	Woodland enhancement	Install bat and bird boxes – seek advice from Nottinghamshire Bat Group, South Nottinghamshire Ringing Group, South Notts Local Group.	Julie has a bat sensor which is available to borrow. <b>Chloe to find out which areas need surveying (from Leics Bat Trust)</b>
3.1.10	Orchard tree management	Seek specialist advice on the management of the fruit trees to maximise fruit availability for the local community. Undertake management in accordance with this advice.	The Parish Tree Warden has reported that no action is needed since the goal is not to maximise fruit production
3.1.11	Orchard enhancement	Introduce native, locally appropriate plug plants within the orchard meadow to enhance species richness and potentially encourage pollinators.	See 3.1.5
3.1.12	Hedgerow management	Undertake rotational management of all hedgerows in late winter (e.g. February) to ensure that birds are able to access fruits whilst avoiding the breeding season. Aim to cut two thirds of hedgerows each year on a rotational basis, i.e.	We noted that the orchard hedge has been cut – we will watch to see how it

## NOTES FOR CLIMATE CRISIS & BIODIVERSITY MEETING - 22/09/21

		each hedgerow is fully cut on top and both sides over a three year period.	grows now and if more work is required.
3.1.13	Hedgerow enhancement - gaps	Fill hedgerow gaps with native, locally appropriate species which could be sourced from self-set saplings on site. Clear vegetation around any new plantings whilst they establish and water regularly if necessary.	Will return to this
3.1.14	Hedgerow enhancement – standard trees	Identify standard trees to retain as part of the hedgerow, but allowed to grow to full height.	Will return to this
3.1.15	Hedgerow management – traditional methods	Investigate potential for laying H4 either by a specialist contractor, or as part of a training session for the local community	We plan to do this in February – Chloe and Ben have prior knowledge which will be useful.
3.1.16	Drainage ditch enhancement and management	Contact Canal and River Trust to discuss potential management and enhancement of the drainage ditch. To increase diversity, it is recommended that work is carried out to reduce overshadowing, stabilise banks and encourage marginal/emergent vegetation.	Will return to this
3.1.17	Pond management	Carry out initial clearance of vegetation around pond area and remove arisings. In subsequent years, include this area with rotational meadow management.	Will return to this
3.1.18	Wetland enhancement	Increase the site’s wetland resource by creating one or two new ponds/shallow scrapes which may attract amphibians as well as wetland invertebrates (subject to funding)	Will return to this
3.1.19	Monitoring	Undertake annual condition monitoring to rapidly assess the condition of features and potentially identify where corrective action is needed.	Will return to this
3.1.20	Infrastructure maintenance	Maintain site infrastructure, repair and repaint benches and signs as necessary.	Will return to this
3.1.21	Educational links	Link with local schools, colleges, universities to investigate use of the site as an educational resource.	Already begun via link with Chloe

The meeting was asked to consider the impact on biodiversity of a recent agreement with the local anglers. The Parish Council has given permission for up to 15 vehicles to park on the meadow up to 4 times a year, to allow less mobile anglers to join competitions at the river. It was agreed that this would not impact biodiversity, but that the anglers should be reminded of the terms of the

agreement and asked for future dates so that we can check the meadow is OK after they leave. The arrangement will then be reviewed after a year. **Julie** to feed back to Parish Council.

#### 4. Orchard Grass Cutting

Unfortunately the power scythe needs repairing. The grass has become very matted – **Julie** to enquire if sheep can be grazed there for a month.

There is also some wood from a willow tree by the river to move for seating and turn any remaining logs into a hedgehog/bug hotel, which could be done at the same time. Ben (Edmonds) has 3 oak logs which he will deliver to the orchard for use as benches.

#### 5. Allotments/Bulb and Flower Planting

The bulbs that were to be planted at the allotments have arrived, but the bank at the allotments can no longer be used. The bulbs will therefore be planted opposite the Hall and by the Scout Hut. **John** to arrange (Chloe can help too).

**Julie** to request a final cut opposite the Hall and then we will arrange to scatter the wild flower seeds in November.

#### 6. Promoting practical action that residents can take with regard to biodiversity/climate crisis

It was decided to promote No Mow May and Knee High July next year, using Village News, Facebook and perhaps a competition category at the Show (photos of biodiverse gardens). **Simon** to draw up ideas.

#### 7. Food Waste

To be discussed next time (**Simon**).

#### 8. Hedgehogs

Melissa Wadams will join the next meeting as she has a shared interest in hedgehogs.

#### 9. Next meeting

Wednesday 27 October at 7pm at Billie's house