

Subject:	Two monthly update on Land and Nature Working Group (LNG) activities for the attention of town councillors
From:	Mark Gregory on behalf of the LNG
Date:	20 th October 2021
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The LNG requests the TC to take out membership of Wild Oxfordshire as soon as possible at an annual cost of £35 (the rate for community group membership). 2. Watch this space for details of funding requests for the next precept which will be submitted shortly! 	
Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]	
N/A	
Communications: [do we need to communicate with residents and how will this be done if so]	
N/A	

[Main body of report goes here]

As this is our first regular (every two months) report to the TC under the new reporting format, it contains a fair amount of background detail as well as an update on the latest activities. Future reports will be shorter!

Background

The Land and Nature Group went into hibernation during the lockdowns but has sprung back into life with the easing of COVID restrictions. Since June, we have held meetings every month, featuring lively and wide-ranging discussions. Geoff Griffiths and Mark Gregory are now sharing the role of convening the group, after Anne Miller stepped down over the summer due to the weight of other commitments. The group has roughly a dozen active members, three of whom are Town Councillors (Peter Kenrick, Frances Mortimer and Tony Merry). Many members are also involved in other local

environmental groups and campaigns, providing opportunities for links and leverage that will strengthen the TC's land and nature activities.

Our work is currently focussed on four main areas: hedge rows, verges, carbon mapping and wildlife corridors. Further details of these campaigns and other recent activities are set out below. But first, some more explanation of our funding request for the TC to sign up for membership of Wild Oxfordshire.

Wild Oxfordshire application

Restoring nature is something which cannot be done in isolation and it is essential to coordinate efforts with those taking place at County level.

Wild Oxfordshire is a local charity which provides a co-ordinated and strategic approach to nature conservation in Oxfordshire. It works in partnership with over 60 organisations and current projects, according to its website, include: Inspiring and empowering communities to bring the wild back into their neighbourhood; Delivering natural solutions for effective flood management; Putting nature at the heart of County strategy and planning.

Joining this organisation would: 1. Help co-ordination and working together with other local government and community environmental groups in this area; 2. Give us access to more information to aid our projects; 3. Act as a gesture of support for a very worthwhile local initiative.

The LNG therefore requests the TC to take out membership of Wild Oxfordshire at an annual cost of £35 (the rate for community group membership).

Signing up can be done through this link: <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Membership-subs-%C2%A3120-2020-21-to-send-by-email-.pdf>

Campaigns and recent activities

1. Street Fair

We had a strong presence at Charlbury Street Fair which included:

- Visual displays made up of 3 posters: one introducing the LNG, another focussing on the carbon mapping project and a third outlining how Charlbury can learn from nearby local communities which have introduced wildlife corridors to improve the survival chances of hedgehogs and other endangered animals. The displays were generally well received although there were no new sign ups.
- Seed bombs for kids went well though fewer children were involved than in some previous years. It provided an opportunity to connect with the scouts so we will be working with them on seed bombing in future, and with local schools.
- A circular walk organised by Peter Kenrick took place on the Sunday after Street Fair. There were stops along the way to talk about local history and environmental issues. It attracted more than 20 participants, with good inputs and discussions. In view of this success, we're considering a follow-up walk with new themes to be explored, early next year.

2. Hedge rows

This campaign is about reviving and reinforcing hedge rows locally, emphasising their importance for biodiversity and as a defence against climate change (hedges store carbon). Likely next steps include organising a major hedge row survey with a view to community participation and engagement with local landowners.

Among recent activities, Anne Miller has been in discussions with national hedge row expert Nigel Adams, who is running a day workshop at Dunthrop Farm on 25th November, for any members of the town council and the Nature group to attend, too.

Cost per person is £10. Apply via

<https://www.cotswoldfarmers.org/event-details/hedgerow-management-workshop-and-farm-walk>. Meanwhile, the Ditchley estate is willing to consider running a further workshop in Feb/March next year.

3. Verges

This campaign works with other local groups to promote healthy, environmentally well managed verges around Charlbury. As well as looking pretty, verges are important stores of biodiversity and have great potential as havens for increasingly endangered, traditional Cotswold plant species. We believe the TC has a role to play in developing policies that enhance verges. We aim to engage with higher level local authorities on issues, such as cutting regimes, which are important for environmentally sensitive verge management.

At our October meeting, the LNG agreed on the need to identify which verge areas are the responsibility of the Town Council, the County Council and WODC, as a baseline for understanding who to influence. Christine Elliot has carried out a survey and will be producing a report on the verges around Charlbury to share with others prior to us maybe preparing a map of different areas and inviting people to get involved in better verge management (Good exemplars are on Hannover Close and Geoff's Terrace). We would need to identify whose responsibility it is to maintain/ mow all the verges and be aware that we may need to arrange management of the verges within the 30mph limit. Look at educational aspects of this with signage to advise of managing it sensitively for wildlife and people, and Christine will offer a Zoom talk in February, so that we can catch people thinking about this before they start mowing in March 2022.

4. Carbon mapping

The ultimate aim of this project is to produce a carbon map (or maps) showing the balance of carbon emissions and sequestration in Charlbury and surrounding parishes. As a step towards this, pilot studies have been completed of four sites in the locality: The Mill Field in Charlbury, Wigwell Nature Reserve, Southill Solar Farm and FarmED (a regenerative agriculture centre on the A361 Chippy-Burford Road). The TC has contributed towards the cost of surveying The Mill Field and Wigwell Nature Reserve. Other funding has come from Sustainable Charlbury. Initial findings indicate, for example, that The Mill Field site sequesters (keeps out of the atmosphere) around 12 tonnes of CO₂ per year, and there is potential to quadruple this figure through altered

site management practices (e.g. cutting the grass less often). The point of the project is to provide useful data in accessible form that will be used in discussions with landholders and the wider community to reduce net carbon emissions associated with land management (an important issue given that 11 per cent of UK global warming emissions come from agriculture).

In July, Geoff and Mark gave a short presentation to the TC outlining the findings on The Mill Field. A document setting out the findings across all four pilot sites will soon be circulated. Community and landholder engagement is the next target. Towards this end, Geoff and Mark made a presentation to a soil management conference at FarmED on 16th October. Other sessions are in the pipeline.

The carbon mapping project's work on the Mill Field coincides with progress in another (unrelated) initiative to improve environmental management of the site. Councillor Gary Harrison reports that he is expecting a quote from Boward Tree Surgery, following their recent visit to Campbell Copse on the Mill Field. The copse has been overgrown for some years. The current year's TC budget includes provision for tree thinning, with a view to improving access and tackling biodiversity loss. See the separate Mill Field report for full details.

5. Wildlife corridors

Work on this topic is led by Flora Gregory. She points to a 90 per cent collapse in the hedgehog population in recent decades. This is just one sign of an ecological armageddon that threatens to engulf many once common animal species in this area and the UK more generally. Survival chances would be enhanced if hedgehogs and other endangered creatures could move more freely between gardens and open spaces, enabling better access to the resources they need in a world of increasingly fragmented habitats and impassable boundaries. Other communities have already made progress with introducing hedgehog highways and wildlife corridors – often all that is needed is a 13 cm hole cut in multiple neighbouring garden fences.

The LNG's October meeting discussed plans to promote wildlife corridors and hedgehog highways through a campaign to change attitudes and raise awareness of the obstacles and opportunities – e.g. along Market Street. One idea is to mobilise a 'hedgehog team' for door-to-door information and discussion. Flora, Anne and Christine are to engage with Catriona Bass and colleagues at Charlbury primary school to establish how best to support their 'ecowarrior' groups in classes. Flora has already had a preliminary meeting with Catriona and will report to our next meeting in November on progress.

Meanwhile, Flora has attracted interest from more than 20 Charlbury residents in forming a Charlbury Nature Society, which will have its first meeting on 22nd October to agree priorities and decide who will be involved (in what could be described as a campaign for the restoration of free movement of animals).

Subject:	Journeys team report to TC
From:	James Styring
Date:	21 October 2021
For information/discussion/decision/action [please delete as appropriate]	
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):	
<p>1. Car club questionnaire: Council approval required for printing and distribution costs, planned for November 2021</p> <p>2. Walkers are Welcome: Council approval required for amalgamation of WaW into the Journeys team, to enable wider involvement of Journeys volunteers in WaW activities. Also agreement for Town Council to support WaW through provision of insurance cover, first-aid training and other requirements.</p> <p>3. EV charging: Council to task the Clerk with writing to Park and Charge asking to go back on their list, to be a part of the scheme.</p>	
Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]	
<p>1. Car club questionnaire: costs for printing and distribution, both are budgeted for in the current financial year.</p> <p>2. Walkers are Welcome: Extension of council insurance to cover volunteer and public liability associated with organised events plus funding for first aid training for walk leaders</p>	
Communications: the Car club questionnaire is a communication aimed directly at residents.	

1. Rollout of car club questionnaire

The Journeys team would like the Council to distribute a survey about a potential EV car club for the town. The survey was successfully trialled at Street Fair (online and hard copy formats) and a few tweaks to wording were made as a result.

Draft copies of the are included with this report: [see papers 1 and 2](#). NB The printed version is not final copy. It was created by James using Word. We would have the final copy designed properly using InDesign, probably by the Pubs committee. The final copy of both version of the survey will be approved by Pubs committee before it is sent out.

Delivery

We would now like to distribute paper copies of the survey to every household within the town, and ideally if we can to the whole of the OX7 3 postcode area, which includes Fawler, Wilcote, Ramsden, Finstock, Chilson, Shorthampton, Chad, Dean, Spelsbury and Taston (see map at <https://geopunk.co.uk/postcode-district/OX7-3>) as all of these areas are served by Charlbury.

Delivery only within the town can be undertaken by the volunteers who deliver the *Leaflet* to every household in the town plus immediately outlying home such as Spelsbury Villas. The cost of delivery only within the town would be a financial contribution to St Mary's Parish funds. For delivery, we think a donation to the St Mary's parish funds of £50 is about right. Their deadline for our flyers to reach them is 19 11 21. See paper 3. This includes 1600 homes and businesses.

Delivery to the whole of the OX7 3 postcode area can be undertaken by Royal Mail at a cost of £240. See paper 4. This includes 2700 homes and businesses. It takes them a few weeks to deliver.

Printing

I have chosen <http://oxfordgreenprint.com/> because I have used them for 20 years and they have, as far as I know, the greenest techniques in Oxon. All of their paper is 100% post-consumer recycled and they use a printing technique called Risograph (look at the web link, it is interesting). The Riso press uses non-toxic veg-oil inks and only 1/6 the energy of a digital printer. The only waste is a biodegradable paper master.

The A5 Word version of the flyer that I have produced isn't clear enough and I think we will need to go with A4 double-sided 2-col both sides, folded to A5 to make it legible. This would require a new design of course but we would keep the content the same. The printing would use two colours (black and green) on white paper.

Printing costs (not VATable):

1600 A5 double-sided 2-col both sides on 100gsm white paper ~ £89

1600 A4 double-sided 2-col both sides, folded to A5 ~ £174

2700 A5 double-sided 2-col both sides on 100gsm white paper ~ £137.95

2700 A4 double-sided 2-col both sides, folded to A5 ~ £283

Council decision required. The costs would be:

1) Charlbury only

printing £174

delivery £50

total **£224**

2) all of OX7 3 post code

printing £283

delivery £240

total **£523**

Our recommendation is delivery to the whole of the OX7 3 postcode area as all of these areas are served by Charlbury, as Frances is testament. This has been budgeted for in this year's EWG/Journeys budget.

2. Walkers are Welcome

WaW circular walks achieved with Tony and via Cotswold Conservation Volunteers. WaW's ambition is to increase the offer in terms of guided walks – even a walking festival? This would require insurance and perhaps training for first aiders.

WaW needs liability insurance. A closer relationship w Council could facilitate cover by the Council's insurance.

Agreed we would amalgamate WaW into the Journeys team.

Council decision required.

3. EV charging: Park and Charge – TC said no a few years ago to Park and Charge installing EV charge points in the Spendlove Car park as this would have come at the cost of the removal of the recycling bins. Now that WODC has removed this recycling facility, we should now go back to Park and Charge asking to go back on their list, to be a part of the scheme.

We want to engage our District Cllrs in this as they have held back on lobbying for this due to lack of previous TC support.

Council decision required: Council to task the Clerk.

When Gary has a greater understanding of the infrastructure and costs associated with the installation of multiple charging points, we can assess the use the site at the Bowls Club that we rent from the County Council.

4. Borrow-a-bike scheme: Council approval required in November for going ahead with this scheme now that Frances has secured a supplier of insurance via Windrush Bike Project: the scheme can be added to the insurance for the Windrush Bike Project for >£100 per year (there had been some doubt after the Council insurers refused to cover it).

Frances is in the process of checking the Liz Leffman's priority fund can still cover our first year capital costs.

5. Journeys team Strategy discussion

The team has agreed the following:

Journeys team mission

The Journeys team aims to encourage and assist the residents of Charlbury and its environs to transition to sustainable transportation for all of their journeys.

Journeys team aims

1. Helping Charlbury and environs residents reduce (and ultimately, to end) journeys requiring fossil fuels.
2. Encouraging Charlbury residents to make more journeys on foot, by bike and using public transport.

3. Turning Charlbury and environs into pleasant places to walk, cycle – or just to be – as opposed to either being simply thoroughfares or car parks.

Theory of change

Mechanisms include: engagement/influencing/infrastructure change/delivery projects.

Priorities: achieve greatest impact (on climate and wellbeing) and to demonstrate what is possible for a town or parish council / small community

Objectives

Our objectives could then be specific projects such as the e-bike scheme, EV Charging etc. which could be defined as SMART. Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

For instance:

Objective 1: Amalgamate WaW into the Journeys team: by the end of October 2021.

Objective 2: Establish an EV Charging Sharing App for Charlbury Residents by end June 2022.

Objective 3: Establishment of new circular walking routes by August 2022.

Objective 4: Charlbury borrow an e-bike scheme to launch January 2022.

Existing projects already relate closely to these aims/values: EV charging relates to 1); car club to 1), 2) and 3); borrow-a-bike

Subject:	Food Working Group October 2021 report
From:	Dan Raymond-Barker, Working Group lead
Date:	21.10.21
For information/decision	
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):	
A new print run of the local food leaflet – to be distributed more widely in Charlbury.	
Financial implications:	
200 copies of leaflet (printed in colour on recycled paper): £65 Allocated to EWG food festival budget	

The local food element of the Council's presence at the street fair seemed to be well-received. We gave out approx 150 leaflets (along with focaccia made with local ingredients, thanks to Chloe Horner of Oxford). Many people we talked to said they would use the leaflet when thinking about their food shopping. The remainder of the 200 leaflets printed have been given to Cornerstone and the Charlbury Deli.

We propose a new print run for further distribution – via Primary School book bags, pubs, cafes and local businesses. Feedback and suggestions will be taken into account and included in the new version of the leaflet.

Subject:	Corner House & War Memorial Hall
From:	Tim Crisp & Peter Kenrick
Date:	21 st October 2021

For information/discussion/decision/action [please delete as appropriate]

1. The Town Council recently booked space in The Corner House but had found the outside doors locked. It was acknowledged that this is a problem and that there is no system in place currently for ensuring that access is available for hirers. Peter Bennet's contact details are shown on the Memorial Hall outside door, but not on The Corner House, and he can come in at short notice should access problems occur. Regards locking up one option is to employ someone specifically and in the meantime Neil Pakenham-Walsh has offered to attend to locking-up when he is using his office. Smartlocks, similar to the one on the Memorial Hall, are being considered once the charity's insurers have been consulted.
2. Rebecca Gilmour (former secretary) and Susan Burne (former bookkeeper) have resigned since the last committee meeting. Simon Walker, who has been organising the registration of the new CIO, had agreed to undertake the secretary's role through the transition period. Jane and Ian Parsons, who had been responsible for the bookings and for caretaking, have now left. It had been decided to amalgamate the booking, and income and expenditure book-keeping roles, and following the post being advertised, the committee had appointed Elena Piras. Elena is partially sighted and has a personal assistant to support her. Paddy Gallagher has been given the position of treasurer, responsible for all financial matters. After soliciting tenders, a Combe-based family have been appointed to carry out regular cleaning duties at the Memorial Hall, with the Corner House office and toilets being cleaned on a fortnightly basis.
3. The website has been transferred from Jackie Hague to Paddy Gallagher and Elena's personal assistant has begun work on updating and modernising it.
4. Establishment of the CIO. A response has now been received from the Charity Commission, requesting some minor clarifications, which are in hand. The assets of the existing charity, namely the Corner House and the Memorial Hall, will need an order to be made by the Charity Commission to transfer them to the new CIO, providing legal certainty. In response to a question from Tim about the future roles of the current committee and the new trustees it was explained that the CIO trustees will be involved with operational management, with individual trustees having specific responsibilities as well as looking after strategic planning.
5. Title to the building: The ownership documents had been retrieved from the safe in The Corner House and examined. Chris Potts explained the difference between legal and beneficial ownership of charity assets, and went on to confirm that the Land Registry records show that the Town Council holds legal title to the properties. The existing charity is the beneficial owner. A decision for the CIO trustees will be to choose between having the Town Council continue as the custodian trustee, or the Official Custodian at the Charity Commission, or for the CIO itself to hold legal title.
6. Replacement smart meters are being considered for both buildings to avoid the need for manual meter readings (some existing smart meters are no longer communicating with the suppliers)

7. Peter explained that, with the imminent retirement of the Town Clerk, the Town Council has requested to use The Corner House as its official address. This was agreed in principle subject to the Town Council paying for a new lockable mailbox to be installed on the back of the Corner House front door and being responsible for regularly emptying the box.
8. The total in the charity's two accounts is £43,235.43. Bookings are increasing particularly for the Memorial Hall. Tim asked if any further expenditure has been committed, there is still some more electrical work to do, and some decorating. Peter asked about the relationship between income and expenditure, and it was explained that in general terms the Memorial Hall's income covers about 60% of its running costs, while that for The Corner House is closer to 30%. This was the rationale for the recent renovation work in the Memorial Hall. In response to questions from Tim about actual running costs for The Corner House, it was difficult to give representative figures for the past two years, but added that the charity had benefited significantly from receiving government grants that had been made available during the pandemic to offset lost income.
9. The booking and invoicing process is being updated by Elena Piras to bring them online and make them more efficient.
10. Roof repairs to The Corner House have been completed whilst further work is required to insulate the cellar, subject to a condensation inspection. Rent paid by Cornerstone will be increased to reflect the higher heating bills. Suitable bookshelves for the Anne Downer rooms are still required, with Cornerstone running the project and taking 20% of income. Arts Society have requested to take the Larcum Kendal room on an initial 6-month tenure for £1,000 from January 2022. Longer term usage of all rooms will be subject to a full review by the CIO of the future use of the Corner House. The HIFA tenancy in the John Kibble room has been renewed for a further year.
11. Cladding work to the Memorial Hall is nearly complete. Peter has submitted a request to Gigaclear for provision of a broadband connection to the MH as a community benefit but this may not be available until April 2022. Upgrade to the PA system has been completed. Tim advised that Sustainable Charlbury are unable to consider funding retrospectively, so it would not be possible to support this work. Applications for any future energy-saving projects must be made before the work is undertaken. It was noted that there will be plenty of opportunities for applications in the future, but that these will be the CIO's responsibility. Tim confirmed that Sustainable Charlbury is standing by its previously given commitment to make up to £100,000 available for upgrading energy efficiency at The Corner House. It was asked whether this could cover projects such as insulating the cellar ceilings.
12. It was agreed that a complete review of Health & Safety is needed and the costs of a full professional H&S Audit are being investigated.
13. The Museum needs to replace one of the side windows quoted at £678, which the Museum will meet. The committee questioned whether it should permit replacement of a single-glazed window with another single-glaze or whether improvements such as this should take account of possibilities to improve insulation. Sustainable Charlbury is to be asked to consider funding the extra cost of upgrading the window.

14. Peter asked if the Town Council could make use of The Corner House for storing its archived documents. Roy Scott responded that this was unlikely, given the lack of a suitable storage area.

Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):

1. The formal mailing address for the council will be changed to The Corner House with immediate effect. The mailbox and sorting arrangements are still to be finalised once the new clerk is in post.
2. Tim and Michael Simpson to meet to discuss SusCha support of cellar insulation costs.
3. Tim and Judy Dod to discuss SusCha support of window replacement costs.

Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]

1. Mailbox for The Corner House, costs tbc

Communications: [do we need to communicate with residents and how will this be done if so]

1. Mailbox - Update Town Council Website and Town Council page on Charlbury.info. Add news item to Charlbury.info.

Subject:	Mill Field, Watery Lane and Bridges Report
From:	Gary Harrison & Tony Merry
Date:	21 October 2021
<p>For information/discussion/decision/action [please delete]</p> <p>Tree Thinning Campbell Copse and Watery Lane</p> <p>Gary Harrison had a meeting at the Mill Field with a tree specialist from our contractor Boward Tree Surgery. We walked the whole area and discussed both the thinning of Campbell Copse and the trees between Watery Lane and the Mill Field.</p> <p>The conclusion was that Campbell Copse can be left as is apart from the large Ash tree on the river bank that has suffered from Ash die-back and will need to be removed.</p> <p>A further large dying Ash tree was also identified for removal a little further up towards the weir on the same side.</p> <p>The row of Pollarded Willow trees at the top end of the millrace are in need of pollarding as they are in danger of splitting and subsequently dying.</p> <p>All other trees are not in need of any work this year and can be re-examined in 12 months time.</p> <p>We are awaiting firm quotes from Boward for the work mentioned above, it is hoped that all of this urgent work can be done within the £6000 already allocated to tree thinning.</p> <p>Gate Replacement</p> <p>Rob Jackson has made a temporary repair to the Mill Field Gate as it is old and starting to rot. We have received an indicative quote of £1000 incl VAT for replacing it with a 12 ft Galvanised Steel gate from Cotswold Landscaping.</p> <p>Mill Lane Work</p> <p>Len Pratley has been given permission to use Mill Lane for access for garden works and waste removal. This is ongoing and being actively monitored. He and Rob Jackson have tidied up the trees and bushes on Mill Lane to facilitate this and as a gesture of goodwill.</p> <p>Bench</p> <p>The 2 metal benches are in need of repainting urgently.</p>	

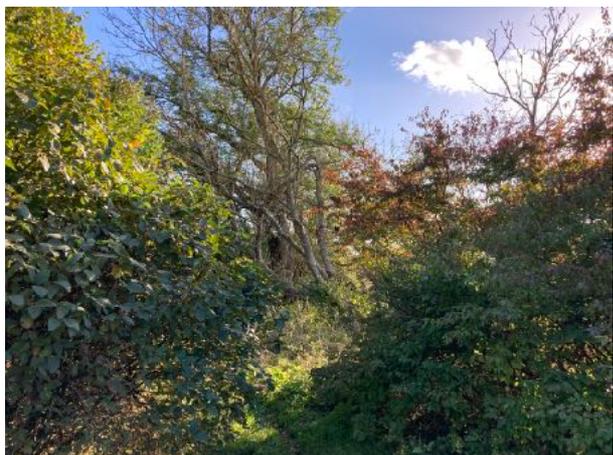
Summary of decisions or actions requested:

1. Agree to proceed with the Tree work detailed above as long as it does not exceed £6000. Budgeted for in EWG.
2. Agree to replace the main gate to the Mill Field with a wider metal gate at a maximum cost of £1000 incl VAT. Not budgeted for.
3. Agree to repaint the 2 metal benches, costs to be agreed. £500 budgeted for this financial year.

Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]

As above.

[Please keep reports to a maximum of two pages]



Campbell Copse Ash



Ash Further Down Mill Field



Pollarded Willows



Splitting Willow Trunk

Subject:	Wigwell Report
From:	Peter Kenrick
Date:	20 th October 2021
For information See report below	
Summary of decisions or actions requested: Confirm continuing support for the Wychwood Forest Trust and Wigwell Friends with ongoing and planned work on Wigwell and associated community engagement. This work to be integrated with the Land & Nature and Engagement Teams.	
Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for] In association with proposals from the Land & Nature and Engagement groups plus any grant request from the Wychwood Forest Trust	

[Please keep reports to a maximum of two pages]

Wigwell Nature Reserve Report for Charlbury Town Council October 2021

1. **Working Parties**. Membership of the Wigwell Friends volunteer group continues to rise and now stands at 48 in addition to representatives of the Wychwood Forest Trust and Thames Water. Working parties continue on the second Wednesday each month and are well attended. Work continues to improve the permissive paths as well as on the management of the Meadow Clary. Once again thanks to Toby Swift for running the work party sessions and to all of the volunteers who have attended. Special thanks to the members of the Cotswold Wardens for their help and efforts with much of the work.
2. **Meadow Clary (*Salvia pratensis*)**. An enthusiastic band of volunteers have been working hard to implement the management trials of the Meadow Clary within the three cages as identified during the summer. Special thanks to Louise Spicer for championing this work and to David Cannell for his detailed mapping and monitoring of the plants within the cages.

3. **Permissive Path.** As already reported, significant work has been carried out successfully this year to improve the condition of the permissive paths through Wigwell. Beyond this, a watching brief will be kept on the paths, particularly through the winter months, to identify any further improvement or maintenance work that may be required to keep this increasingly popular route accessible to members of the public.

4. **Anticipated Community Project for 2022.** As reported last time, Wigwell has been identified for early work associated with the Evenlode Smarter Catchment Plan agreed between Thames Water and the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. Work will be focussed on the Wigwell stream and creation/enhancement of wetland habitats. Another important feature of this work will be community engagement and we hope to be announcing a range of community activities on the site during 2022. We particularly hope to involve young people in these initiatives.

Subject:	The Gifford Trust Report
From:	Gary Harrison
Date:	21 October 2021
<p>For information/discussion/decision/action [please delete]</p> <p>The Community Centre continues to get busier post covid restrictions with Cricket re-starting and bookings looking strong through the winter season. The gym is also opening earlier where possible due to increased demand and is now open from 8:00am on Mon, Weds, Fri & Sun.</p> <p>We will be organising another Halloween Hunt for the Children this year as it was very successful last year with 200 participating.</p> <p>The Trustees are considering 3 options for providing 2 x EV Charging Points at the front of the Community Centre and will be reviewing the options at their November Meeting.</p> <p>We are also in discussion with the Town Council re the provision of a market stall for vendors where the current Community Centre signage is situated.</p>	
Summary of decisions or actions requested:	
Nil	
Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]	
Nil	

[Please keep reports to a maximum of two pages]

Subject:	School Governor Report
From:	Janet Burroughs
Date:	26 October 2021

For information/discussion

This half term has been a busy one for the school. The following is intended as a snapshot reporting on some, but not all, of the events during the term.

2021/22 Academic Year

The children returned to a more normal school after their summer break. The children will no longer be in “bubbles” and events that involve mixing such as assemblies are returning with the Friday morning assemblies now open to parents/carers. . Parents were able to “meet the Teacher

Years 5 and 6 were able to start the year by going on a residential at Kidderminster which “exceeded all expectations.”

Sustainable Schools

With the help of a grant from Sustainable Charlbury the school has appointed a Sustainable School Advisor to work with pupils and staff across the school.

A pupil-led eco Committee will carry out an environmental audit of the school to inform a programme to allow the children to learn more about sustainable issues.

Staffing

The school is saying “Goodbye” to their Business Manager, Catriona Pitt. Amy Wiggin will be the new Business Manager and will be starting mid-November, working with Vickie Jeffs who is taking on some of Catriona’s roles.

Community

The school has held a Macmillan Coffee Morning and Frances Webber of CRAG was invited to an assembly to talk about the journey of Little Amal.

The girls from Years 3 and 4 took part in a football competition in Witney, and the Year 5 and 6 girls and boys had successful outings to a tournament at Chipping Norton.

Oxford Half Marathon

Managing the school budget continues to be challenging.

Jennie Grierson (Reception Class Teacher) and Teresa Moss (Teaching Assistant) entered this event to raise funds for more books and resources.

Dogs

The perennial problem! The school has messaged parents who drop off and pick up with dogs, following complaints by residents in Crawborough about dogs fouling.

Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):	N/A
Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]	N/A
Communications: [do we need to communicate with residents and how will this be done if so]	N/A

Subject:	Nine Acres Management Committee
From:	Janet Burroughs
Date:	10/10/21
For information/discussion/decision/ action [please delete as appropriate]	For information report of last meeting included below Please note in particular the comments regarding the Childrens' play area.

NINE ACRES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES FROM 13th SEPTEMBER 2021

Chairman's Report: Since the last meeting, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer have met to ensure that normal business has been maintained and bills have been met. The £25K secured from the Football Foundation is being used for pitch improvement and is much appreciated by the clubs.

Treasure's Report: the books are with the auditor at the moment. The finances are secure. Monies are currently owed to Karen Fitzgerald and Michael Oliver. Some of the Hard Court 'sinking fund' is being used for the current refurbishment of the tennis courts. This work is to be completed imminently.

Present account holdings are: Current: £4007, Deposit: £6093, Pavilion: £6093, Hard Surface: £27,999.

Senior Football: One side will be in competition this year. The club is pleased with the pitch improvement.

Junior Football: There are 14 teams (including 3 girls' teams and 1 women's team) competing this year. The club has applied for a pitch improvement grant from the Football Foundation. If successful, this could enable the purchase of small machines for finer pitch working and a secure steel container to be sited near the Enstone Road gate entrance.

Tennis Club: Membership is growing (78 at the moment). A new coach has been appointed (Faith Herron) who is proving popular. The cleaning and re-painting of the courts is much appreciated. The club has contributed £2K to the £12K cost.

Sports Pavilion: The building should be scheduled for full re-decoration in 2022. Low water pressure is making the showers ineffective. Servicing of the boiler and the pressure vessel is to be ordered. Ventilation is also an issue – is bigger extraction possible?

Children's Play Area: This is a major concern. The area is looking dilapidated. P Morgan will get an estimate for refurbishment costs.

Football & Sports Club: The Club is slowly building back after the closures which blighted its opening. It is hoped that starting darts and pool matches will draw more custom.

Other Business:

1. A defibrillator on the Pavilion? Agreed generally as a good idea. P Morgan to get costs.

<p>Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):</p>	<p>The Childrens play area is a concern. It is well used but it was commented that it is not of the same standard as some of the play areas in adjoining communities.</p> <p>Some limited repair/refurbishment has been undertaken and paid for by the TC.</p> <p>However, a major refurbishment will involve a significant cost. The Nine Acres Management Committee is very proactive and has a number of projects in hand. Where these involve for example the Football Club or the Tennis Club, there is an income source to tap into as well as making grant applications.</p> <p>However, the Childrens play area does not have an income source.</p>
<p>Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>Communications: [do we need to communicate with residents and how will this be done if so]</p>	