

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	Wednesday 3 rd December 2020 2.00 – 2.57 p.m.
Venue	Video conference meeting to talk about enhancements to the Jubilee River with Brian Clews.
Attendees	Alison Crampin, Fiona Cryle, Marjorie Clasper with guest Brian Clews
Secretary	Jane Simpson

Agenda Item		Action
1.	<p>FC explained that we were looking at the Green/Blue Environment which included the part of the Jubilee River which came into our parish – Black Potts weir to The Myrke. BC showed us the relevant part of the map.</p> <p>We were wondering if the raised bank with no footpath and area around the Myrke Stream could be areas for biodiversity opportunities.</p> <p>FC asked why the EA did not fulfil its commitment to making this area a greener environment. BC said a survey and planting regime took place but unfortunately the 25 year ecological maintenance plan had been abandoned due to lack of funds, and the EA had just left it to the landowners and LAs to maintain it. A couple of winters ago though, the EA spent £100k on the JR. An Education Centre was due at Marsh Lane but this never materialised.</p> <p>FC asked how good Eton College was in maintaining their land. BC advised that it had been said they had inadvertently dug out the bank which may have been one of the causes of the 2014 flooding. BC believed that they were aware of their duties. FC advised that she was going to speak with Ian Mellor at Eton College. BC suggested having a chat with George Fussey the Biology Master as he was very keen on wildlife. BC will send contact details.</p> <p>What is needed to be done to enhance this area? BC said surveys would need to be carried out first – botanical, soil sampling, general habitat, etc. BC advised that he had the original planting schedule and if he could find it he would send it to FC. If enhancements for wildlife, e.g. nectar plants for insects, began then everything else would benefit.</p> <p>BC said that the stretch between the Bridge and Black Potts Weir had been quite densely planted with shrubs like Dogwood but unfortunately fishermen had trampled this area down. Their presence does not help the ecological wellbeing of an area.</p> <p>BC had sent bird records to the County recorder and also the EA's ecologist in Swindon had the information. AC asked Brian if we could have access to his surveys on the Datchet section of the JR. BC said he would look in his records and send FC any relevant information.</p> <p>FC enquired what stood out most now to BC. He felt the Myrke ditch was always overgrown which prevented a proper flow of water and felt if it was better maintained then creatures like water vole and water shrew could be</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>BC</p> <p>BC</p> <p>BC</p>

Agenda Item		Action
	<p>reintroduced here, so long as the mink wasn't around. BC thought the 100m of woodland before the Myrke Bridge was an important habitat area which could be improved with more planting, and whilst there was not much that could be done about the raised bank, reed planting would be good for the reed warblers etc. BC said Phragmites reeds are favoured by birds and are good for reed warblers, etc. Bull Rushes are not suitable for nesting birds and can cause blockages in the water flow. If this happens, the water will become stale which will kill off dragonflies and other insects. The water needs to be kept flowing and ideally needs maintenance every three months. Also wild flowers along the grassland between the Myrke and the footpath would be beneficial for insects but the mowing regime would need to be considered and it would also be useful to fill in the gaps in the hedgerows which would be invaluable for wildlife. BC thought that the Myrke Ditch should ideally be cleared every 3 months or so to help the flow.</p> <p>BC estimated that 12+ Muntjac Deer and about 50 Roe/Fallow Deer live in the Datchet area. If a mammal survey was required it would need to be undertaken by a local mammal society who would have the appropriate licence. Local Mammal Societies include South Bucks MS and Maidenhead MS. BC to send details.</p> <p>The RTS was discussed and BC said he would contact Graham Scolley at the EA to see if he or a colleague would discuss habitat advice with DNPSG.</p> <p>FC advised about the out-of-date information received from TVERC, via our contact there, Robbie Still. BC sympathised with them as there was a lot of data which needed inputting into their system as a lot of local groups ply them with information. LAs can employ them to undertake surveys and they have the experts to do this, likewise the DNP could make such a suggestion. BC advised of their autumn conference and if he still had the link would forward it to us.</p> <p>Alison suggested asking TVERC what they meant by a Biodiversity Enhancement Area as an action point for ourselves.</p> <p>BC defined the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI (Special Sites of Scientific Interest) – officially recognised with some protection. • LWS (Local Wildlife Sites) – usually privately owned but no protection. • BC thought that a BEA (Biodiversity Enhancement Areas) half way house between the two. <p>BC advised that LWS should theoretically be surveyed every 3 years. It was thought developers could perhaps contribute towards these surveys in future. He advised of the local wildlife groups being set up which were a great source of knowledge, e.g. Wild About Datchet.</p> <p>FC closed the meeting by thanking Brian for sharing his knowledge with us. BC would be happy to answer any further questions we might have.</p>	<p>BC</p> <p>BC</p> <p>BC</p> <p>FC</p>
2.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>4.30 p.m. on 9th December 2020 – monthly meeting.</p>	