



Parish Council Meeting 18th May 2023

Jubilee Meadow Makers Working Group update

1. Progress since last report

1.1. Wildflower Meadow extension - Phase 2. As agreed weed suppressant membrane has been acquired and lain on the next section of the meadow excluding an area that already has Yellow-rattle plants appearing. The intention is to leave this in place until Autumn and then, assuming there is suitable ground, seed the area with wildflower seed and Yellow-rattle. The membrane will then be moved to the final section (Phase 3). A plea through the Resident's Facebook generated offers of pallets to help secure the membrane.

1.2 Wildflower areas have been created in the Harrold Place bank using plants donated by Meadow Maker volunteers. Donated plants and seeds have also been added in the car park border and in the bank facing the soak-away.

1.3 Habitat creation. A bug-hotel structure was created at the far end of the meadow using donated pallets, logs and roof-felt. This provided the basis of one of two public events. A post has been donated and installed on the meadow as a potential perch for raptors.

1.4 Public events. Two events were held over the Coronation Weekend on 7th May. An early morning Dawn Chorus walk and the chance to help fill our new bug-house "Btingham Palace". Meadow Makers provided refreshments after the Dawn chorus and children left the bug-house with Jubilee Meadow bookmarks. The two events attracted over 40 people and we received positive feedback including:

"Fantastic dawn chorus walk. My 1st time at Jubilee Meadow. More walks please! Insects, birds, wild flowers, more birds. Thank you"

"It's a lovely addition to the meadow and we look forward to revisiting over the year to check on the hotel inhabitants. Thanks to all for a lovely experience "

1.5 Other public engagement. The website continues to be regularly updated, articles and notices have been published in "Free for All" and we have continued to promote and publicise through the Residents Facebook.

1.6 Monitoring. Encouragingly Yellow rattle sewn last year has appeared in good density and is widespread. Given that the plant, which will play a vital part in combating the vigorous grasses

that currently dominate, is notoriously difficult to establish, it appears that we have been extremely successful.

The regular bird monitoring has continued and 52 species have been recorded this year so far. The national butterfly monitoring scheme resumed in April and a further two species have been added to the Meadow list bringing it to 16 species. Using refugia mats, a reptile survey ~~has~~ been started although no reptiles have yet been recorded.

2. Forthcoming

2.1 Wildflower Meadow extension - phase 2

When the membrane on the Phase 2 area is removed in Autumn, we will need to have acquired seed for sowing the section with Yellow-rattle seed and wildflower mix . We may also require a contractor to lightly rotovate the ground.

2.2 Wildflower Meadow phase 1 & 3

In autumn the intention will be to cut the phase 1 area and use the resulting hay to re-seed the area. Supplementary seeding and rotovation may be required. A contractor will be required to cut. The resulting cuttings (arisings) will be allowed to rest and drop seed before being raked off. The remaining area (Phase 3) will also require a cut and will require the arisings to be removed.

Whether arisings are to be removed or stored on site needs to be decided. We have a quote from Ribbondale nurseries of £350 to cut and remove and £150 if risings are left on site. (Ribbondale are replacing CGM as our contractor from July). Gill Jinkerson will also contact John Service and Ian Burrage for additional comparison quotes.

2.3 Bulb and hedge planting

We are proposing to plant areas of the meadow with wildflower bulbs including bluebells, snowdrops and winter aconites. The numbers and distribution will need to be subject to a more detailed evaluation, however we would expect to acquire 'in the green' bulbs for planting in early Spring 2024.

Some hedge infilling maybe be required also it is proposed that we plant Purging Buckthorn the food-plant of Brimstone butterflies

2.4 Regrettably the contractors have mown the cycle track mound twice. Notices will be put up to try and prevent this happening again. This has highlighted the need for more 'Leaving the weeds for bees" signs here and in other places around the Playing Field.

2.5 Habitat creation. A couple of small shallow water areas will be created for wildlife (e.g. using an upturned bin lid). Given the widening of the top access to the Meadow, the sighting of the original owl box is no longer suitable and there has been intentional disturbance, it is therefore planned to relocate the box to the churchyard given the absence of alternative locations on the

Meadow or nearby (note: the move is dependant on the box not being occupied by nesting Jackdaws that have been seen in or around the box recently).

2.6 Watering. Adopt-a-Tree letters have recently been distributed to neighbours of the Meadow as part of our efforts to ensure the hedge saplings and trees are watered as necessary. Basic water carriers have been obtained. Water retention potential for the existing and proposed replacement pavilion should be considered

2.7 Public engagement. Initial contacts with community groups including Embers and the Woodland School are being pursued. A new noticeboard incorporating an updated map of the Meadow has been acquired for the top entrance to the meadow along with directional signs - these will be installed as soon as possible. A poster version of the noticeboard would be very useful for future public events and publicity. The bug house and other log piles need signs to discourage disturbance.

2.8 Public feedback. Feedback from children attending the Buggingham Palace event included a suggestion for a 'den' building area. This could be created in the area near the zip wire before the entrance to the meadow. It would require the acquisition of suitable felled wood but it is assumed this could be sourced without cost. The only potential cost would be the provision of simple signage. Feedback suggesting provision of dog drinking bowls will be implemented

Feedback has also been received regarding the uneven state of the path around the meadow. Efforts to infill will continue as material becomes available and it is intended to put out a request for unwanted grow bags however longer term we should consider seeking funding for a solution potentially providing an accessible path

2.9 Funding sources. We will be looking at potential funding sources. One that has been identified so far is the Magic Little Grant scheme which offers grants up to £500 to community groups <https://localgiving.org/about/magic-little-grants>

2.10 Monitoring. A plant survey is planned to provide a comparison with the study carried out by NWT on 22nd May 2022 and a professional botanist has offered to undertake a free-of-charge survey in July

3. Approvals & decisions required

The Parish Council is asked to approve or decide on the following

1 (re 2.1) Approve purchase of wildflower seeds for sowing in autumn from existing Meadow project funding (note costings and requirements are provisional at this time, please refer to the attached BUDGET SUMMARY for a summary of Meadow project funding)

- Phase 2 area. Estimated budget £275 exc VAT
- Supplementary Phase 1 area (if required). Estimated budget £270 exc VAT

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- Cowslip. Estimated budget £100
- There may also be a requirement to rotovate the ground (Phase 2 and/or Phase 1 areas) before seeding

2 (re 2.2) Decide whether arisings are to be removed or stored on site and approve the requirement to fund a contractor to cut Phase 1 area and to cut and potentially remove from Phase 3 area in late summer. Estimated budget £150-350 from Parish Council budget.

3 (re 2.3) Purchase of bulbs for planting in Spring. Estimated budget £225 exc VAT from existing Meadow project funding. Purchase of Purging Buckthorn saplings in November estimated £30 from Meadow project funding.

4 (re 2.4) Purchase of 14 x A5 6mm Correx boards (ie. 7 x A4 boards to be cut) as 'Leaving weeds for Bees' signs for the Playing Field and adjacent areas. Estimated budget £19.72 VAT and postage from Parish Council funding.

5 (re 2.6) Parish Council to consider water retention potential for the existing and proposed replacement pavilion.

6 (re 2.7) Purchase of 6 x A5 6mm Correx boards (ie. 3 x A4 boards to be cut) as 'Bug house' signs for the Meadow and 1 x A1 PVC poster version of the latest noticeboard. Estimated budget £13.75 exc VAT from existing Meadow project funding (cost assumes purchased with 4 above).

7 (re 2.8) The provision of a den building area in the area of the playing field near the zip wire. Estimated budget for printing £10 from Parish Council funding.

8 Finally, the Parish Council is invited to visit the Meadow before the Parish Council meeting on the 22nd June. We propose meeting over on the Meadow at 18:30 to allow sufficient time to have a walk around before you go back to the Pavilion for the meeting.

Dave Jones
Meadow Makers Working Group
11th May 2023

BUDGET SUMMARY

Available budget from existing grants £1800 (£300 from South Norfolk Go-for-it funding & £1500 from Geoffrey Watling Trust)

EXPENDITURE			
Item	Cost inc VAT	VAT 20%	Cost exc VAT
2 Benches @ £300 each			£600.00
Photocopies £11.25	£11.25	£1.87	£9.38
Photocopies £5.40	£5.40	£0.90	£4.50
Weed suppressant. £212.88	£212.88	£35.48	£177.40
Black board signs. £66.45	£66.45	£11.07	£55.38
Wooden bees £11.98	£11.98	£2.00	£9.98
2 Water bags £29.38	£29.38	£4.90	£24.48
A1 Noticeboard 1	tbc	tbc	
A1 Noticeboard 2	tbc	tbc	
6 directional signs	tbc	tbc	
2 packets bug stickers £2.50	£2.50	£0.42	£2.08
SUB-TOTAL			£883.20
PROPOSED (estimates)			
Phase 2 area seeding			£275.00
Phase 1 area supplementary seeding			£270.00
Cowslip seeds			£100.00
Rotovation Ph2 & Ph1 areas			tbc
Bulbs			£225.00
Hedging			£30.00
Notices for bug houses & A1 poster			£13.75
SUB-TOTAL			£913.75
TOTAL			£1,796.95

