

Town Estate Charity

Annual Report for 2018 – 2019

The main focus of work during the past year has remained the management of Line Bank SSSI to restore this important wildlife habitat to a favourable condition so that it can rightly be described as ‘a Misson Jewel’ – as Bassetlaw District Council describes the Idle Valley SSSI’s.

We have continued to work with Pollybell Estates, the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT), the Forestry Commission and Natural England (NE) to put the site into a Stewardship Agreement and deliver the necessary funding to manage and restore the site over the next five years. We have achieved a number of milestones along this journey:

- A Woodland Management Plan prepared by NWT has been approved by the Forestry Commission which is a prerequisite for our Higher Tier Stewardship application
- A Higher Tier Stewardship Application was submitted in May 2019 for woodland management within Line Bank
- A Mid-Tier Stewardship Application is being prepared for submission in July 2019 which will manage the grassland habitats within Line Bank SSSI to encourage species diversification

The principle objectives of our approved management plan for Line Bank, and demonstrated in the visual presentation at the AGM, are to:

- Enhance the floral and faunal diversity of the wood by appropriate felling to improve woodland structure to favourable condition
- Reduce woodland cover/shading around the pond areas to conserve botanical interest and achieve favourable condition
- Reduce tree cover in the fen/marsh/swamp area to restore open, wet habitats
- Maintain the public right of way through the SSSI as an open ‘ride’ for the enjoyment of the public and allow light to reach the ground flora
- Reintroduce Fen Violet into the fen area
- Develop interpretative materials
- Plan for the effects of *Chalara* to the ash population of the woodland
- Realise the commercial value of material produced through management where this is in line with conservation objectives

Thanks to a generous residents’ donation we have supported four parish projects with grants which include:

- Repair of the Community Centre projector
- Notice Board for the Cemetery
- Floral Planters
- A strimmer to undertake maintenance of verges around the village

Jayne Watson
Chair
June 2019