

Town Estate Charity

Annual Report and Accounts June 2022

1. Project 2020

Project 2020, a pilot scheme initiated by a village volunteer group, saw the Town Estate Charity directly support the volunteers to deliver their project. This collaboration proved to be a great success by bringing our small parish community together through volunteer effort to raise funding to install a commemorative bench within the historic pinfold, together with the planting of 16 trees within the pinfold and cemetery. Highlights include:

- A partnership project between the Town Estate Charity, Misson Parish Improvement Group volunteers, Misson Parish Council, and Misson residents who donated additional funds, goods and their time.
- Installation of a bespoke oak commemorative bench in the Pinfold. The bench reflects residents' sentiments of the difficult times experienced over the pandemic but with the hope of building a brighter future from our collective strength.
- Planting 16 trees which as well as being decorative in all seasons will support wildlife with nectar rich flowers in the spring, together with berries and fruits in the autumn and winter.
- Volunteer planting took place across two days of activity in January 2022. At least 46 volunteers were involved, many as family groups including multigenerational families from toddlers to great grandparents. A fact sheet for each tree with care instructions was given out to each volunteer/group to encourage them to look after the maintenance of the tree and ensure it thrives over the longer term.
- Community fundraising continued over 2020 when the LIS was in abeyance due to meeting Covid-19 priorities. As a result the community raised almost £900 in donations, a significant contribution towards the project costs. The LIS scheme grant of £1,869 (29%) helped lever additional grants and donations to meet the total project costs of £6,406.68.
- Publicity for the project has been ongoing from the original concept (Dec 2019), celebration of the planting days (Feb 2022), and installation of the Pinfold bench (April 2022) with five articles in the village newsletter which is delivered free to all households in the parish.

2. Line Bank SSSI Management

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Grant to deliver the Woodland Management Plan

- Woodland Improvement (WD2) grant of £1,240 per year for five years was approved from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2024 by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

- Subsequently, RPA remapped the parcel using GIS on 12th May 2021. This exercise identified only 11.5936ha of eligible woodland rather than the 12.40ha identified by the Woodland Management Plan and approved by the Forestry Commission. The upshot of this is that TEC has been penalised for over-claiming grant and received only £998.08 per year for the first two years rather than the £1,240 anticipated.
- Going forward claims for £1,159.36 will be made and works undertaken to this value.
- Ray Lister and his team carried out works over the winter and into spring. They focused on reducing the tree cover and shading of the main pond adjacent to the bridleway as a priority for the aquatic species responsible for the SSSI status; together with creating open glades along the bridleway by coppicing tree species.
- The result has been to create sunny glades and 'rides' which is already seeing results in increased butterfly observations and the regeneration of the woodland floor flora, particularly fern species.
- A management visit with Ray and Mark Speck, Senior Conservation Officer, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) is proposed over the summer to agree the works to be done over the autumn/winter.

Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier Grant to deliver the Grassland/Fenland Management Plan

- A Grassland Improvement Grant (GS2) of £839.74 a year for five years was approved from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2025 and the first year's funding has been received and expended.
- Ray Lister, has cut 20% of the fenland area over the autumn 2021 and, with funding made available from the NWT, has removed an area of dense willow scrub which is detrimental to the fenland by reducing the water availability and outcompeting the reed species.
- The management plan for this parcel of land is to cut 20% per year to give a variety of vegetation heights and potentially a variety of habitats.
- The level of grant for this option (GS2) is increasing from £95/ha to £132/ha this year so we should receive grant of £1,166.78 per year for the remaining four years.

Management Issues

- Managers, having shared the SSSI management plans with our regional Environment Agency team, have established an excellent working relationship resulting in:
 - EA providing and installing gates and barriers at both bridleway access points to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to improve public safety whilst travelling on the bridleway and reduce the prospect of habitat damage
 - A cessation of weed spraying on the flood bank
 - The promise of EA volunteer 'environment days' to undertake improvement works within the SSSI alongside the EA annual flood bank management works
- A successful working relationship with Polybell Farms, joint owners of the SSSI, was established during the CS management works and positive feedback was received on the

works undertaken. This relationship was greatly facilitated by Matthew Guest's daily liaison between TEC, Polybell and Ray Lister.

- Replacement water hazard signs have been installed by Ray alongside the bridleway following the tree works and remain in place.

3. Finance and Annual Accounts

- The charity made a deficit of £5,486.84 for the financial year ending 31st March 2022. The balance of current assets at the end of the financial year was £40,146.21, the increase in grant making being the principle contributory factor to the declining balance.
- The Annual Accounts are appended for Managers review and approval at the AGM.
- NatWest have confirmed that the TEC current account is eligible for free online banking facilities with dual signing/authorising of payments. Managers are invited to approve this facility at their AGM and proceed to apply for NatWest Bank Line for Communities.
- The financial position at 1st June 2022 is detailed below.

Account	Funds	Interest rate	Forecast annual income	Notes
NatWest current account	£11,340.20	n/a	n/a	June statement
CCLA deposit account	£2,787.38	0.264% variable	£7.36	March statement. Low risk money market deposit account
Shawbrook Bank CAF 12 month fixed rate saver	£25,702.96	0.45% from 1.4%	£115.66	12 month saver matures 15/7/2022. Interest received July 2021 £353.92
Total	£39,830.54		£123.02	

The Treasurer has researched deposit accounts to take advantage of rising interest rates and mitigate against the reduced interest rate with the current one-year savings bond (renewal quote of 0.7% interest). Information on the rates at the United Trust Bank, which is covered by the FSCS guarantee, will be provided at the AGM. UTB offer a variety of charity savings accounts up to a 3 year fixed rate bond. Managers are invited to select a longer-term savings product to replace the Shawbrook bond on 15th July 2022.

4. Grants

Three grants were **received** over the financial year totalling £3,706.81 for:

- Project 2020 - £1,869 from Nottinghamshire County Council
- Countryside Stewardship woodland and grassland works - £1,837.81 from Rural Payments Agency

In addition, significant 'gifts in kind' were received to enhance the management works at Line Bank SSSI – access fencing and gates provided and installed by the Environment Agency; together with two additional days' work within the fenland to remove impeding willow incursion funded by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Project 2020 tree planting was completed by Misson volunteers over two days.

Our thanks go to all those contributing their efforts and funding to the benefit of the Misson community.

Three grants were **awarded** over the year totalling £3,256.35 for:

- Project 2020 bench - £1,000 (Tunnel Tech grant) and £1,256.35 (Solar Farm Grant)
- Line Bank woodland management - £1,000 (Tunnel Tech grant)

Three applications for grants totalling £3,745.05 are tabled for decision at the AGM.

5. Governance

The charity has three policies which facilitate their support of community led parish projects:

- Equality & Diversity
- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding

These policies, together with the TEC Constitution, will be reviewed before the end of the year.

6. Communications

The Town Estate Charity has regularly promoted its work and achievements over the year through:

- Newsletter articles in 'Our Local Newsletter' delivered free to all parish homes
- The MPC website
- Notices – both within Line Bank and parish noticeboards

Newsletter articles have been well received, both by residents and by the Environment Agency who's contribution we acknowledged and, in turn helped them to promote their work within the community.

7. Future plans and aspirations

The charity managers meet to conduct the TEC business throughout the year. The annual public meeting is held to communicate their aspirations to residents and gain direct insight on residents' aspirations for the charity in return.

The prospect of additional, and on-going, management works provided by the EA in Line Bank SSSI is very welcome. Equally, the relationship with NWT may result in further habitat improvements through their third party funders.

The Secretary is confident in the potential of further grant funding to promote and demonstrate the value of the SSSI's environment and heritage to residents for their health, well-being and social interaction. For example, this could include:

- 'seeing is believing' and activity days
- Information boards explaining habitats and heritage
- Capital equipment such as a brush cutter to support volunteer habitat management should TEC continue to work with village volunteers.

The Town Estate Charity (charity number 259585)

Income and Payments Summary for the year ending 31st March 2022

Income	Amount £
Grants	3706.81
Bank interest	355.11
Total income	4061.92
Payments	
Administration	330.00
Maintenance	188.16
Communication	32.00
Project 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including 2 TEC grants totalling £2,256.35 	5,014.60
Line Bank SSSI woodland and grassland management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including a TEC grant of £1,000.00 	3,984.00
Total payments	9548.76
Deficit for the year	5,486.84
Balance of funds @31st March 2022	40,146.21
Balance of funds in the Tunnel Tech North Grant Fund	1,312.40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of which Restricted Reserve for the Misson Park and Playground Project 	1,000.00
Balance of the Solar Farm Grant Fund	33,743.65

