

Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)

Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting 9 November 2022

Period 10 October – 2 November 2022

Winter work is now fully underway at the Marlot. Work has commenced clearing the front meadow and brush-cutting it back to ground level. The challenge is the large sections of yearly growth goat willow. It is important to fully cut this back so that it does not grow into more substantial willow patches. A separate section of goat willow is being dug out by hand right down to the deep root structure, ensuring it does not return next year. Last year's willow digging efforts has been successful and no willow had grown back again. It is a hard and laborious task, which with the amount of willow on the front meadow, will take a considerable time to clear. The extra effort is worth it to ensure a willow clear front meadow.

The MCG has a new volunteer, Steve Manning from Ellesmere. He has been recruited from Graham's Whitchurch Walking Football team after showing some initial interest in what we do. During his first week he completed a Marlot Induction and Health and Safety brief and was put to work straight away in the clearing work. The MCG welcome him and his great efforts and work so far. We are actively putting the word out about the Marlot and the call for volunteers – winter work Facebook posts will be done over the next couple of sessions to show what we are doing and ask for further volunteers.

The MCG received the draft A5 Information leaflet back from Councillor Harris' graphic designer contact. With some good ideas and pointers, the MCG has now taken back the responsibility of leaflet design and content and will work on producing a final version which will be ready for print. The MCG members have also reviewed the draft Marlot Strategy and provided comments back to Councillor Mercer. I have passed details of the composite re-cycled plastic picnic bench and 3 seater bench that the MCG wished to be purchased, using the Connexus grant, to the Parish Clerk. These have now been ordered by the Parish Clerk and delivery is expected Thursday 3 November. These will be constructed and taken down to the Marlot in the next two weeks. The MCG also intends to re-cycle the two old wooden benches that are currently in the Marlot and in a bad state of repair. It is hoped that we can re-construct one bench from using parts from the current two and refurbish it to a state in which it can be used. The MCG would also appreciate any update from Councillor Rawlinson on any progress of the "wish list" of infrastructure requirements (directional finger posts and notice board backing board) as discussed at the WPC/MCG Marlot meeting.