

NOTES ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP (EWG)

8th June 2022 via Zoom

Attendees: Cllr John Turner (JT), (Chair), Cllr Ed Langridge (EL), Ken Howes (KH) and Alan Ford (LP)

In attendance: Catherine Barrett (CB) Assistant Clerk

1. Welcome from Chairman

JT reported that there had been a survey of Langton Green Village Hall carpark by Volker Highways to assess its suitability as a site for electric vehicle chargers. The Surveyor had said it would be possible to install chargers using the existing power supply. A full report would be submitted, including costings for the installation of parking bay chargers located in 4 different areas of the carpark, so that the parish council could consider various options.

2. Update on advisory call with High Weald regarding Sussex Lund funding

JT and CB had attended a zoom call with a representative from High Weald to discuss the potential for applying for Sussex Lund funding in 2022. JT referred members to the meeting notes from this call. It had been a productive call and underlined the need to have a clear vision of what the working group were trying to do in Pocket Park.

3. Consider feasibility of applying for funding by 17th July 2022

- Discuss Alan's findings at Pocket Park:
AF had been visiting Pocket Park regularly and had noted 20 different species at the site, including fungi, bees, insects and butterflies.
- Establish what is needed to further enhance biodiversity at the site:
As the re-wilding of Pocket Park had only begun in April, it was agreed that the working group would continue to catalogue the emergence and growth of wildlife until April 2023. This would help give a baseline picture and a clear indication of what was needed to develop biodiversity in the long-term.
- Consider the work needed to make an application within the specified timeframe:
This would need to include a Management Plan for Pocket Park i.e., what the working group wanted to achieve/objectives; how it wanted to achieve this and how it planned to maintain the programme. It would be necessary to obtain quotes for any work to be undertaken, for example the clearing of any harmful species or the installation of bat boxes.

4. Agree a course of action

- Apply in 2022 or wait until 2023 when we have a clearer baseline picture of biodiversity in pocket park?
It was decided it was too soon to apply for funding and building a baseline picture over the next few months would be a more useful course of action. CB would advise Sussex Lund of the working group's decision.
A meeting at Pocket Park was arranged for 21st June to discuss next steps in more detail. It was also agreed to consider starting to catalogue the wildlife in Shadwell in parallel with Pocket Park, so that the working group had two potential options for funding in 2023.

5. Any other business

CB advised that a local resident was likely to attend the next working group meeting on 11th July to talk about the parish council's use of Glyphosate. She would circulate any correspondence in advance of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.53pm.