



KINGS CAPLE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Thursday 20th November 2024 at The Old School, Kings Caple

Present: Cllr Janice Gardiner (Chair), Cllr Pam Apperley, Judy Berry, Jill Fisher, Sarah Petter and Chris Bucknell (Parish Clerk).

1. Apologies: Tom Deards, Fran Keogh, Ali Moss-Davies and Ella Gardiner

2. To Agree Minutes of the September Meeting

It was agreed these were an accurate record of the meeting. All minutes of the Environment Group would be put on the website.

3. To Consider any Outstanding Issues

Wildlife Camera - procedures for using this would be followed up.

4. Update on Activities/Events Programme

Soil / Food / Fork – 10 people attended this event which included discussion about herbs, climate crisis, foraging and permaculture. A very informative presentation given by Judy generated much discussion around the topic as well as suggestions for future discussion sessions including herbs and climate change. It was felt this could be built on, one suggestion being that everyone should pick a herb, research it and bring their findings to the discussion (see also item 5).

Hedgehog Event Follow Up – it was felt there was a need to put something in the review. The AONB had highlighted hedgehogs as a priority species and were asking for information about them. It was felt that collecting information and feeding back to AONB was something that could be facilitated by the group. It was suggested this topic could be broadened to include biodiversity and habitat.

Wreath Making Workshop – 7th December. This would be a family event with activities for children as well as adults. There would be mulled wine and mince pies provided. Janice had purchased some equipment, and some other materials would be provided. This would be funded through the Parish Council and donations.

5. 2025 Programme and Annual Review (exact topics and dates to be confirmed)

It was felt these should include both discussion groups and events with events taking place on a Saturday and discussions on a Thursday.

Community Mental Health – 16th January (confirmed) with Simon Lenanne, author of 'Creating Community Health: Interventions for Sustainable Healthcare'. The talk would cover the community resilience and how that can benefit health and wellbeing.

Seedswap – February

Annual Review – March, possibly around the Spring Equinox (20th March)

Terms of Reference and Aims and Objectives – the original draft had been updated to incorporate parts of the Archenfield document and this had been circulated to the group in advance of the meeting. It was agreed this document should now be accepted and placed on the website.

The following Aims and Objectives of the group should be particularly highlighted

Aims:

To provide information and increase awareness of the issues surrounding climate change to help people progress the Council's vision of a thriving net zero-carbon and nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030.

To support people locally to take action individually and together to reduce the effects of climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and build community resilience.

Objectives:

1. To share information and raise awareness of opportunities to affect positive change locally.
2. To support the community to undertake activities that progress towards a more sustainable way of life.
3. To support work locally to increase biodiversity and restore ecological health.
4. To support activities that increase community resilience.

Farming and Agricultural Talks, How to Keep Your Plants Alive – possibly March before the growing season takes off. Tom Deards to confirm.

Wildflower Meadows – to take place in April before No Mow May. Fran to follow up. This could be an event highlighting why you need meadows and promoting No Mow May.

Plant Swap – April/May

Foraging Walk – Cllr Apperley to follow up with Poulson Court. It was felt the event could take place in late Spring, early May when things were starting to grow. There would be a limit on the numbers that could be accommodated on each walk and there may be a need to run more than one event. The Clerk asked Cllr Apperley to clarify the liability issues.

Herbs – possibly April - everyone to pick a herb, research it and come to the event to talk about it.

Climate Change – what do we feel about it and what can we do??? Possibly in May.

Children's Event – It was felt that one event a year, preferably held in the summer, could be exclusively aimed at children. A suggestion was - **What do you see in your garden??** A treasure hunt type activity where a sheet of some kind could be given out in advance of the meeting so that children could tick off what they had seen and talk about this at the meeting. What can be done to protect wildlife could be incorporated into this.

Action Groups Protecting the Wye

A discussion took place about the various action groups working together to address the issues in the Wye. There was a need to establish the aims and objectives of each group, and which would be best to work closely with. An event could potentially take place in June.

It was suggested that this could be linked with Hoarwithy to work jointly together to find the best person to lead this event.

Save the Wye – it was suggested someone from the group could come and talk about the campaign.

Wyescape Project – there was a need to know what the project was aiming to do and to bring people together to work with landowners.

Friends of the Upper/Lower Wye – the focus was on sewage in the Wye but it was noted that 75% of Herefordshire's pollution was from farming and it was felt this was not fully understood.

In order to progress this Cllr Apperley would contact Jim Buckley, Judy would email friends of the Lower Wye and Cllr Gardiner would follow up on Wyescapes.

6. Agreed Report to Parish Council with any Required Decisions

The next Parish Council meeting would be on Thursday 28th November and Cllr Gardiner would give a brief update.

7. Date and Time of Next Environment Meeting

Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00 pm in The Old School.