

Environment and Climate Change Group



Report to Parish Council

Date of meeting	25th May 2020 via Zoom
Attendees	Chris Morris (Chair), Linda McGill, Terry Prince, Paul Rutter (tree warden), William Wilding (Ward Councillor)
Trees	The main objective is to involve the community in planting new and preserving existing trees throughout the parish. It is known that increasing the number of trees aids in protecting the environment. It was decided as a first initiative for Paul and Chris to meet at Weston playing fields next to the village hall on Thursday 28th May at 2.30pm. The intention is to draw up a planting proposal using native tree species of an appropriate size and suitability. To obtain an estimate of cost we will contact The Tree Shop in Mitcheldean. Terry has agreed to liaise with the village hall committee to seek their approval of the scheme. Once approved it is intended to ask Johnny to liaise with Weston Primary school to encourage the children to maybe adopt a tree and help, under supervision, with the planting. In addition to the planting of new trees we agreed with Paul's proposal that existing trees throughout the parish should be protected and any trees which at present are cut down during the farmers routine hedge cutting programme, should be marked with a stake and the landowner requested to avoid continuing to cut the tree. In this way, trees which are already in existence will be allowed to develop
Wild Flowers	It was decided Chris would again attempt to contact Fiona Miles - Licensing and Enforcement Officer - at Balfour Beatty Living Space and request the utilities map she said was required before the licence for working on the verges can be issued. However the working group queried the need for the utilities map as any preparation of the soil will never be any more than 150mm below the existing soil height. Chris will raise this with Fiona. At a previous meeting with BBLS at the end of February, Fiona took photographs of all the proposed sites and, in her opinion, thought there would be no objection to any of the sites proposed. Paul agreed to assist with choosing the best plants.

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General Requirements	Before either of these projects can be implemented we need to enlist not only the interest, but also the assistance of members of the community to assist with the planting and ongoing maintenance of the verges and trees. Once the verges have been planted out it becomes the responsibility of the residents to maintain them and not Balfour Beatty. In order to enlist the community Chris will contact The Weston News to ascertain which is the best way to advertise for help. Chris will then respond accordingly.
Frequency of meetings	tbc.