

Parish Council Meeting 18th July 2024

Jubilee Meadow Makers Working Group update



The Working Group has not met since the last report to the Parish Council

1. Habitat management

The second plant survey of the year took place on 20th June and from this and subsequent sightings, the list for the Meadow is now over 180 plant species (the baseline survey in May 2022 identified 40 species).

The regular work sessions have continued and tasks have included weed management, re-filling the water tank and preparation for the next phase of green hay.

The weekly UKBMS Butterfly transect recording is continuing and another species, Large Skipper, has been added to make it 21 species.

NWT have confirmed that they can provide another delivery of 'green hay' in August which we intend to use for the new 'bare soil' area that will be available when we lift the weed membrane. We will also be able to use 'green hay' from our own wildflower area. The intention is to attempt to cut some areas of wildflower by hand using scythes while the contractor will be employed to cut the larger area including a cut of some of the 'forage' areas.

2. Promotion

As past winners, we had a stand at the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards day at the Forum in June at which Gill was awarded runner-up in this year's awards in the Nature for Health and Wellbeing category. Thanks to Liz Dack we also had a presence at the Loddon Summer Fete.

The 'green hay' interpretation board that Norfolk Rivers Trust have funded has been installed at the far corner of the Meadow. Clip Frames are being used to provide changeable information boards.

The first school visit was a success when the Nurture Group visited and another visit is scheduled this week. We are exploring opportunities for pre-School visits. Equipment for 'mini-beast' events is being acquired

We will be considering future public events which might include events around removing the weed membrane and 'green hay'.

3. Helping Our Swifts project

We have confirmed which householders on the Long Lane colony are willing to have nest boxes installed and permission forms have been submitted to Saffron Housing. Information from the Norwich Swift Network including nest box designs have been added to our website.

Opportunities for extending the provision of nest sites in the village, links with Poringland and the Men's Shed and nest sites in churches will be explored..

4. Issues

A concern is the continuing problem of dog mess on the Meadow especially as we try to encourage use of the space by children and families and our volunteers and visitors are exposed to the potential risks. Thankfully there are evidently some people who regularly collect the mess left by others. Some residents have previously raised concerns about this on social media but they have attracted derision and haven't been officially supported or recognised. The Parish Council is asked to consider how this can be addressed.

Dave Jones 14th July 2024