Notes Natural Environment Group meeting 22 November 23 at 6.30

Present: Alison Street (AS), Rhiannon Young(RY) from Wild Oxfordshire, Doug Williamson (DW), Phil Wyse (PW), Fiona Mawson (FM)

1. **Update on management plan for The Phelps**
   This follows from complaints of antisocial behaviour in a small green space owned by KPC off the Phelps, as discussed at last meeting. DW and AS visited the space with RY on 16 Nov. The area has four dead apple trees and one sickly one. There is a range of flowering ground cover. There is potential to enhance the space and to encourage pedestrians to use the informal pathway, thereby providing a managed area, rather than a neglected space.
   Action:
   - RY to do a survey of the ground cover to identify flowers in Spring 24
   - RY to draw up a draft planting plan incorporating shrubs and trees and a means to define the pathway - to implement Autumn 24
   - Members to liaise with outdoor team to remove dead trees (Spring 2024)
   - Members to check the whole space is under the no mow May regime.

   Axtell Close

   This area also needs a management plan as there are brambles and elder needing to be kept under control.

   Action:

   RY to consult with colleagues in WildOxfordshire on how to keep the elders but manage the undergrowth surrounding them, with a view to emphasising the natural copse structure and maintaining the area for nesting birds and wildlife habitat.

2. **Hedge planting**
   At the Coronation Gdn and Lyne Rd Green on 23/11. 85 hedge saplings (17m) to be planted with all native species including guilder rose, hawthorn, hazel and buckthorn.

3. **Community growing spaces**
   Ruth who runs Harvest at Home has left Cherwell Collective. Current plan is that she is not to be replaced. She is honouring the projects with which she was involved , continuing on a voluntary basis.

AOB Community tree

Discussion on the prospect of a hibernaculum and a community tree to be planted in Lyne Rd Green.

Action:

- DW to liaise with Cllr David Thurling who has an English oak that may be suitable
- Consider how to construct a hibernaculum in the next stage of developing the environmental agenda in Lyne Rod Green.

AS 27/11/23