Notes Natural Environment Group meeting 30 January 24 at 1.30

Present: Alison Street (AS), Rhiannon Young(RY) from Wild Oxfordshire, Doug Williamson (DW), Phil Wyse (PW), Fiona Mawson (FM), Ruth Hutty (RH) volunteer, Graham Kearney (GK) facilities manager

22 Nov 2023 notes update

The Phelps green space: RY to create a plan of layout to present to local residents to inform of KPC intentions to manage area. Plan to be ready by June. Outdoor team to remove dead trees around this time and place notices informing public of intentions.

Axtell close – corridor from Chorefields: to create two copses, with new tree planting among elders to be scheduled for Autumn 24. To involve local volunteers and Tim Green at CDC in terms of management. RY to seek advice on species from colleague at WildOxon.

Hedging – as scheduled. Hedging completed at LRG and Home Close. More plants available (RH) and FM – could be used to fill gaps in Orchard rec in Croft Ave side. Action: FM to offer hedging to Megan at Cherwell Collective.

Cherwell Collective has appointed Megan Keate as Harvest@Home manager. This group to keep in contact with her over initiatives in green space planting and management.

RH confirms the small group of volunteers managing three plots at Hazel Walk allotments is keen and very loyal. She continues to support this group as a volunteer herself.

1. Lyne Rd Green hibernaculum and community planters

RY has sourced funding from CDC and designer of large planters to replace several Lego blocks. Friends of LRG to fill with pollinater friendly plants and oversee painting of the remaining blocks. GK to advise on sourcing masonry paint. Hibernaculum to be a project for Oct 2024 – ie outdoor team to dig area in SW of LRG as a habitat for slam amphibians (area is low and damp).

2. A community tree for LRG

Decided: the community tree should be a young English oak: MY to discuss with friends of LRG and advise on sourcing a viable specimen.

3. Coronation Garden friends - maintenance plan

AS to initiate a whatsapp group for regular maintenance from local residents and KEG

4. Our community growing spaces (especially Park Hill)

Park Hill volunteers continue to meet 10-12 third Sat of every month to maintain planters. KPC to liaise with Megan at CC to ensure continuity of maintenance.

5. Liaising with St Mary's Fields.

DW has confirmed, via Iain Osenten that a map of all trees in the reserve is available. DW to follow up on obtaining a large scale print out x2 – for St Mary's Fields Committee and for KPC (via Seacourt priners). AS confirmed a budget head has been created for St Mary's Fields expenditure. RY working on final details of illustrated information board including all paths. Noted: new explorer paths produced by the Healthy Place shaping team at CDC which is running wellbeing walks using the zoo trails.

6. Alexander Close

FM and Cllr Ian Middleton have inquired to Andy Lederer at Ox Co Co as to the viability of opening up the small woodland at Honor Close, owned by Ox Co Co. This was previously to be the subject of a management plan by Ox Co Co in 2022/3 which has not materialised. Discussion centered on how wild the area should be left. Local residents' views to be sought. RY will ask Faringdon Council how they went about developing a similar wood, with minimal public access.

7. RSPB bird watch

Opportunities for bird and butterflies count are spread via Cherwell Collective social sites, KEG and through ongoing work with local schools (ie RY at N Kidlington).

AOB: FM sought advice for stands of sunflowers. To follow up at next meeting.

AS 30/1/24