

## Minutes for Transition Town Wellington: Food and Wildlife meeting

Date: 9 March 2022

Present: Helen Gillingham, Adrian Rose, Elizabeth Aveline, Hilary Young, John Young, Rowena Marrow, Steve Saunders, Jackie Witt, Sue Rickard, Stewart Hill, Andreas Hofmeyr, Anita Roy, Philip Knowlman,

Apologies: Kate Holloway, Vanessa Ruhlig

| Agenda item       | Discussion points   | Actions  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 1. Westford Field | <p>Following recent purchase of by Wellington Town Council: Some of us met with Dave Farrow, WTC clerk, last week on site to discuss future plans. HG showed photos. SS arrived from WTC EOS meeting earlier with council's decision to plant 2 Wellingtonia trees on site, supplied by Wellington in Bloom. After long discussion about TTW's preferred options – importance of retaining open ground esp for butterflies &amp; concentrating new planting around edge to thicken hedgerows – the mtg agreed that there was sufficient space to plant additional trees (160?) without the large pines causing difficulties.</p> <p>Imp to consult residents on what they want to see on site, and TTW best placed to work with WTC to do comm consultation. Combination of FB and SurveyMonkey. Importance of seeing this as an way of educating people, not just asking them for their personal favourites.</p> <p>SS also noted WTC idea of creating an avenue of trees from kissing gate to level crossing.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HG to create FB post to set out plans for comm consultation &amp; share as email prior to posting.</li><li>• HG to write series of posts on benefits of particular trees.</li><li>• Work towards better understanding of the site &amp; its ecology in order to come up with a short-term management plan and vision for the future.</li></ul> |
| 2. Green Corridor | <p>Detailed discussions to be deferred to next meeting due to lack of time, but AR clarified position on lease, which will be held by the town council rather than Wellington Mills CIC. Everyone agreed this was the best option for the long-term security of the forest garden and field etc.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep on agenda for next meeting</li></ul>  |

|                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>3. Fox's Field</p>                | <p>HG, Kate H and AR have submitted an application for a grant of £8500 to the RHS community gardening fund. HG explained that this would cover the construction of a shed, with propagation bench, whiteboard – basic meeting place/hub from which to run activities, plus paying people to lead gardening/nature/crafts sessions, and poss scything/grass cutting event day. We should find out if we're successful by end of month and all money to be spent by end 2022. Signage: grant for signs to be spent by end March. HG and AR working on FF info board currently.</p> <p>Photo op with Dixie Darch/Mark Lithgow for Queen's Jubilee canopy on Friday on field at 11am</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG/AR/KH to report back on whether grant has been successful or not.</li> <li>• HG/AR to complete work on sign by end March &amp; submit final grant forms etc.</li> <li>• Steve (and Ella!) to attend representing TTW.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>4. Other sites</p>                | <p><b>Longacre</b> – more or less done for the time being. AR showed paper proof of sign. HG has pruned some of the fruit trees.</p> <p><b>Trinity Orchard</b> – Simon Ratsey said ownership and therefore access still unclear. New wording included in foraging booklet</p> <p><b>Gay Close</b> – HG to plant apple trees this week.</p> <p><b>Post Close</b> - continue to scythe nettles, paddy to mow paths round the edges</p> <p><b>Coram's Lane</b> add some more herbs</p> <p><b>Burrough Way</b> - add some rosemary and sage plants to replace gooseberries due to poor soil.</p> <p>Sport's Centre – Kate (?) to move herb sign to Corams?</p>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AR to finish design work</li> <li>• HG to complete grant form</li> <li>• Any volunteers to help, pls contact Helen asap.</li> <li>• HG to fix date for this on Whatsapp.</li> <li>• HG to buy more herbs for Coram's and Burrough Way.</li> <li>• Kate to move signboard.</li> </ul> |
| <p>5. Foraging Booklet &amp; map</p> | <p>Booklet now done. JY fulsome praise for it and others very much agreed!</p>  | <p>Get printing done but hold off 'release' and promotion until Simon Parkin has finished re-doing map design</p> <p>HG to redraw map, including new sites – FF, Gay Close etc.</p>   |
| <p>6. Schools</p>                    | <p>AR showing around group of 6<sup>th</sup> formers from Wellington School next week. Sue happy to organise walk/talk events with St Johns and IKB schools when weather bit better.</p> <p>This led to discussion about whether we can do regular TTW tours in the summer.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate to continue building good connections with Beech Grove primary.</li> <li>• Sue ditto with St J &amp; IKB.</li> <li>• Keep TTW tours idea on agenda for upcoming meetings.</li> </ul>  |

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| 7. SCAN      | AR reported that Somerset Climate Action network wanted ttw to help with project for students at Strode college.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AR to take this forward and report back.</li> </ul>   |
| 8. Team Tree | Flip noted that he has had feedback from Simon R on this proj & asked for everyone to send in their favourite trees. Hilary noted that landmark tree on Westford Field is Lucombe Oak. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone to send a note (plus pics if poss) to Flip to include on the Wellington's fave trees map.</li> </ul> |
| 9. Book Club | Stewart and Sue offered to host first gathering at their house – poss late April/ early May. Maybe focus on Benedict Macdonald's 'Rebirding' as first book.                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS to take this forward and let everyone know once date(s) fixed.</li> </ul>                                  |
| 10. AOB      | John Y suggested writing about TTW for Resurgence & Ecologist magazine. AR has an article on the Ashbrittle Yew coming out in the next issue   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AR to send editor name to John and Sue to follow up with pitches.</li> </ul>                                  |

**Next meeting: April 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85126401910?pwd=RHdpZ0V6dENTdjhNb21WU25Mc1hOQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 2640 1910

Passcode: 985429