

Cheriton Conservation Volunteer Group Meeting No:15

10 April 2024 at 16 Markhall Close Cheriton

Present: Barry Frampton BF (Chair), Martin Hendry MH, Pat Lawrence PL, Jane Hendry JH (Sec), Chris Joyce CJ, Pete Reay PR, Pete Williams PW

Apologies: Ann Gunn

Minutes: Agreed

Matters arising: none

1 River Improvement

The Watercress & Winterbournes partnership have agreed to fund river improvements. Ground water levels are high and it's probable that another wet winter will see Cheriton flood. The area has been on flood alert from the EA for the last 5 months.

Mud Lane: Initially rewilding advisors from the NT came from London and spent 2 days reviewing the area, unfortunately during the summer, when Mud Lane and the Itchen source were virtually dry. It was noted in 2 surveys over November 23 and March 24 that there's been a drastic change in the area, BF supplied photos of flooding as evidence. BF met with the new NT Hinton Ampner manager and the chair of Kilmiston Parish Council to review.

Water survey: the stream is regularly tested for flies, trout redds, nutrients (nitrates, phosphates, ammonia) with the results sent to Southampton and Portsmouth universities. Identical tests are carried out in the Arle, upper Arle and Candover streams.

Soil sumps: since the sumps in Dark Lane and the bottom of Lower Lamborough Lane were upgraded and maintained the water levels have improved.

2 Tree program for 2024

The tree project sponsored by HCC Tree Strategy and 2050 Tree Planting programme (contacts: Emily Roberts & Sarah) has been running 2 years and as Cheriton was the first to agree to planting in the area it has been offered more mixed hedging and trees with the aim of joining up hedge lines to encourage wildlife. Every tree planted so far has been logged on a database, so far 40 disease resistant elms in 2023 and 60 in 2024. Other native hardwood trees have been planted and interspersed with the elms. Emily and Sarah are keen to sponsor a community orchard. It was suggested that the land above Freemans Yard houses, potentially the 106 land and the recently acquired portion to the east could be planted with an orchard or spinney, if agreed by the owners. All trees and hedging are supplied free currently.

Recreation ground: a 3m strip of the Cecil's land was given to the church for a graveyard extension but the persistent high water table has scotched that. It's now agreed that trees and hedging will be planted instead.

Tree survey: Emily has requested a tree survey be carried out. Jan Crowhurst with her extensive tree knowledge may be able to help.

3 Village oil leak

A consequence of the oil leak near Cheriton/A272 crossroads is that while contamination clearance continues no weed can be cut from there to south of the white railings. The insurance company has identified more oil contamination from the old Crossroads garage so there is an extension of no weed cutting for at least the next 6 months.

The Husky redevelopment may uncover contamination when the current building is demolished. Permits from EA and Natural England should be sought by the owner. Application SNDP/24/01030/FUL 11 March 2024 refers.

4 Wildflowers

The wildflowers will be managed this season by Jan Crowhurst and Janine. The carrier strip to the north of the village green (Alison and the Farrers frontage) will be mown up to the river boundary.

5 Equipment requirements

Following the overnight flooding down Hill Houses Lane on Jan 5, it was agreed by CPC that LED site lamps should be purchased. PL has supplied details.

An inventory of equipment and where its stored could be useful.

6 CCVG website

Simon Newman manages the website and is keen for it to be expanded to include updates and general information. Examples could be water test results and committee minutes.

7 Pump and generator relocation

Following the Chapel going on the market there's a requirement to find a new secure home for the pump and generator. Middle Farm has offered storage and the Pots to be approached as it's a more suitable location.

8 Summer BBQ

Decided to stick to the annual Christmas meal.

9 AOB

PL: has produced a Community Emergency Plan document, 2 versions, one with contact details included and one without. Plan to be held by police and HCC.

MH: the tall poplar in Kennets Cottage is leaning towards the road. Details have been sent to the Highways Authority.

JH: It's understood that Cheriton House are to fell diseased trees over the summer months along the Back Lane boundary.

Meeting closed 12:30