

## Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Paul Cassidy (Twyford Together), Chris & Gerry Wise (Twyas & Twyford Historical Society), Rohan Abeywardana (Twyford Parish Council), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council, TRHA & TATA), Prabha Lacey (Allotment holder & local resident), Rebecca Howard (Twyford Forest Project Leader), Nikki Ochtman (RG10), Emma Donald (Twyford Together & Wildflower Initiative), Gemma Alford (Wildflower & Bee Friendly Project Leader), Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford Historical Society) & Diana & Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Stanlake Copse Initiative).

**Minutes:** Mrs Lynn Povey (Assistant Clerk, Twyford Parish Council) & Mrs Lucy Moffatt (Clerk, Twyford Parish Council).

1. **Welcome & introductions** – Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone & provided an explanation as to why Twyford Parish Council (TPC) were hosting the evening & why TPC were taken the lead going forward. Mrs Ditcham also advised that the agenda was as a guidance & does not necessarily need to be rigidly stuck to.
2. **Apologies** – Lady Elizabeth Godsal, Caroline Norris (Headteacher, Colleton School), Gordon Storey, Alexander Barfield (David Brownlow Foundation), Nick Barnes, Twyford Snooker Club & GWR.
3. **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Stanlake Copse – Stephen Loyd & TPC.
  - Fruit Tree planting – Muelle & TPC.
  - Millennium Garden – Stephen Loyd & TPC.
  - Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas – Gemma Alford & TPC.
  - Twyford Forest – Rebecca Howard & TPC.
  - Adopt-a-Street – Chris & Gerry Wise.
  - Twyford Gateways – TPC.
  - Colleton School – Request for trees (rear of Colleton near Verrey Close) Bridget Ditcham & WBC.
4. **Wish List:**
  - Additional support needed in the run up for Village maintenance – suggestions include give shops a leaflet asking them to weed & sweep outside their premises, get TPC & WBC to arrange road, gutter & street cleaning & any noted repairs & to speak with Cathy Peck (local DofE organiser).
  - Polehampton Close (garden at the side of the Duke of Wellington) – More planting & colour.
  - London Road Gateway – Clean & paint the water pump & potentially place a planter underneath (The pump falls within Ruscombe therefore Mr Cassidy to take the request to Ruscombe Parish Council. Mr Starkie also gave permission for the Belfast Sink on his allotment to be used as the planter).
  - Make a feature of the Milestones.
  - Ruscombe Parish Council have organised a Bee Highway along the London Road to be planted – To investigate the possibility of extending this beyond the boundaries.
  - Combat the use of Plastic.
  - TPC to ask WBC to replace the tree on the London Road side of Waitrose.
  - Polehampton Infant School – To consider as one of the tour venues. Grandparents have taken on a garden area (multi-generation involvement).

- Would WBC handover ownership or permit some areas of the Village unmown (re-wild) such as the green in Kibblewhite Crescent & Hermitage Drive to promote wildflowers and bees. Emma Donald to liaise with Tilly Lesley-Anne Harris. TPC to liaise with WBC. It was wished to be noted that the flip side to this initiative is that if the grass is kept too long the it becomes difficult to pick up rubbish & dog excrement.
- Stanlake Meadows (Twyford Forest & Wildflower Area). Since this project started, the Crowd Fundraiser set up by Rebecca Howard has raised £1,200.00. This will provide 35 to 40 indigenous trees of which 10 will be dedicated. Planting will take place on 28/11/20 – To consider how to make it more of an event and if edible nut trees could be included within the selection.
- Green Prescription Initiative. TPC are currently working on this initiative to assist anyone dealing with mental health or loneliness issues. Twyford Together are also looking at these issues and would like to support TPC & work together.

**5. Theme for 2020 – Bee Friendly (#supportthebees).**

**6. Discussion on 2020 projects to showcase**

- Colleton School has 2 Beehives.
- Thriving Allotments - Prepare & cook some produce for the Judge's to sample.
- Kids Photographer Competition. Twyford Together (Emma Donald) to organise a photo competition for local children to capture moments in Twyford. Winning entries to then be made into a calendar. TPC to set up a drop box for competition entries.
- Bee Friendly Garden Tours. Anyone can open their gardens to promote biodiversity. Possible Treasure Hunt in the gardens. Ask local businesses & garden centres if they would like to sponsor the event. Lucy & Lynn to provide Nikki with wording to put into the RG10 magazine. Open gardens to take place the week after the Donkey Derby.

**7. Contributions / involvement from:**

- Garden Centres – Hare Hatch Sheeplands. Happy to donate some plants.
- Schools – Colleton School has expressed an interest.
- Residents – Give Twyford Residents the opportunity to purchase a hanging basket. Nikki from RG10 to advertise this in the next instalment.
- Retail – Opportunity to purchase hanging baskets. Lynn & Paul liaising with shop/business owners.
- RG10 Magazine. Nikki to promote the event. Lucy & Lynn to provide Nikki with some wording.
- Twyford Adopt a Street – Call for volunteers nearer the time to assist with tidying the route. (NOTE: Twyford's spring clean will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March).
- Twyford Allotment Tenants Association – Produce tasting during the tour?
- Twyford & Ruscombe History Society – To have a stall at the presentation location showcasing the society?
- Twyford & Ruscombe Horticultural Association – Happy to open the store and provide details of activities on the judging day. They are also helping Gemma with her wildflower & bee friendly projects and will be organising a planting session for children.
- Twyford Rethinks its Plastic – To have a stall at the presentation location showcasing the initiative?

**8. Funding opportunities:**

- Waitrose – Green Token Scheme (any money raised could be put back into Bee Friendly projects).

**9. Actions:**

- TPC – Set up an Instagram Account (#twyfordinbloom).
- TPC – Keep a diary of all the In-Bloom events & initiatives.
- TPC – To create 'Blog' entries for Bloom 2021. To commence in August 2020 until the day of the judging in July 2021.
- TRIP – Gather material to showcase at the presentation.
- Emma Donald – To provide TPC with the past In-Bloom literature.
- Lucy Moffatt & Emma Donald to arrange a meeting to discuss the promotion of the event.
- TPC to liaise with Twyford Station (GWR) to see how they can assist in the event.
- TPC to investigate the possibility of extended Ruscombe's Bee Highway into Twyford.
- TPC to ask WBC to replace the tree near Waitrose.
- TPC to ask WBC about keeping areas of any greens unmown to promote wildflowers & bees.
- Rohan Abeywardana – To liaise with Twyford Together on the Green Prescription initiative.
- Malcolm Bray – To liaise with TATA about the possibility of cooking up some produce for the judges to try during the tour.
- Emma Donald (Twyford Together) – To organise the children's photography competition and calendar.
- TPC – To set up a drop box for the photo entries.
- TPC – To provide Nikki (RG10) with wording for residents to sign up and allow entry into their gardens (Bee Friendly Garden Tours).
- TPC – To provide Nikki (RG10) with wording informing residents how they can purchase hanging baskets.
- TPC – To provide Nikki (RG10) with wording regarding the 'In Bloom' event.

**10. Considerations:**

- To consider leafleting shops/businesses asking them to keep the front of premises clean & tidy.
- To consider more planting & colour in garden at Polehampton Close.
- To consider making a feature of the Milestones.
- To consider Polehampton School (Grandparent's Garden) as a tour venue.

**11. Date of next meetings:**

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm at Loddon Hall
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 7.30pm at Loddon Hall

Meeting Closed at 21:00