

Minutes of Hanley Environmental Group (HEG) meeting on Monday 15/7/24

Participants: Jackie Bass (JB), Suzanne Bennett (SB), Malcolm Fare (MF), Janet Lomas (JL), Alan Rogers (AR). Apologies: Sue Adeney (SA)

1 Feedback from meetings:

- Bat Evening: 29 May 2024: good weather, 10 people. We would like to run this in 2025.
- Womens Institute, 11/7/24: SB and JL discussed the work of HEG in last 5 years. Questions about grubbing up hedges and muntjac deer, discussion of biodiversity lost in recent years.

2 Trees: a few Scots Pine trees are available. MF is working with Path Warden and local landowners to offer trees locally.

Orchard: a meeting is needed re the access path. Action: JB to set up. JL explained fruit trees are susceptible to fungus so plastic tree guards are not recommended.

3 Habitats:

- i. Verges: eg near St Gabriel's Church: JL to speak to SA and Nigel Hawthornthwaite.
- ii. Wild orchid seeds: Janet and Jane Jordan to plant locally and report back
- iii. Yellow Rattle: Janet to enquire about local sourcing of seeds.
- iv. Discussion about opportunistic wildflower seeding: best sown on bare earth, but they may not appear the following year.
- v. Earth Watch water quality survey (Nitrogen and Phosphorus nutrients) sampling: 2 surveys done. Malcolm to work with Rivers Trust and Parish Councillor(s) regarding a further sampling survey in September using sampling kits.
- vi. Pond dipping: Janet to work with Malcolm, Rivers Trust and Steve Pennant (Parish Council) as a means of analysing biodiversity in local watercourses.
- vii. Coppicing at the Nuttery, (by site of the Hanley Castle): JL looking into coppicing in Jan-February 2025. This could include a demonstration. Janet to keep Malcolm involved.

4 Grant Funding

- i. Hedging at the Glebe/cricket field, Hanley Castle: Jackie to invite Path Warden regarding next phase of Severn Trent Water (STW)-funded work on coppicing and hedging. There could be hedging for the path alongside the Glebe (6th Form Alley): work potentially starting Nov 2024.
- ii. Jackie to ask Charlotte at Severn Treescapes to write a Parish Link article re the STW work with dates for volunteer involvement. Could be for noticeboards/3 Kings, Facebook, website.
- iii. Severn Trent Water are likely to offer grants for ponds in March 2025: HEG to apply for a grant
- iv. Action: Suzanne to resubmit Pond article for Parish Link in advance of the application.

5 E-bikes: both currently loaned out, one with local business XL Lidar. Currently stored at Albion Lodge. Action: JB and SB to write a one page instructions for use sheet; create sticker for adding to existing leaflet; to arrange a further meeting with Sue Adeney.

AOB

i. Welland Footpath. The footpaths are being improved for parishioners. Contact is Mike Whaley.
Action: SB to contact to arrange site visit

ii. Public Relations: Publicity for HEG's work would be beneficial. All to consider next steps

iii. Green Dog walkers: SB has a stock of dog poo bags for helping to keep the parish clean. SB to approach MHDC re new/replacement dog poo signs.

Agenda items for next meeting: Report back on:

1. Trees/Habitats/Verges
2. Grant Funding
3. E-bikes
4. Procurement
5. Budget: activities to allocate current budget

Actions Summary

1.	JB to set up a meeting re path near community
2.	JL to report on verge near St Gabriel's Church.
3.	JL to report back on wild orchid seed planting.
4.	JL to enquire about local Yellow Rattle sources.
5.	MF to work with PCC and Rivers Trust on water quality sampling kits for September survey.
6.	JL to work with Malcolm, Rivers Trust and Steve Pennant (Parish Council) on pondI think we were talking about watercourses not ponds surveys.
7.	JL to find a contact for coppicing at the Nuttery.
8.	JB to invite Path Warden regarding next phase of Severn Trent Water (STW)-funded work on coppicing and hedging.
9.	JB to Woodlands Trust for an article re the STW work with Volunteer dates.
10.	HEG to apply for a STW grant for ponds in March 2025:
11.	SB to resubmit Pond article for Parish Link in advance of the application.
12.	SB to contact Welland re their path improvements.
13.	SB to approach MHDC re new/replacement dog poo signs.
14.	JB and SB to meet SA re e-bike work.

Next meetings: Monday 2/9/24 at 4.30pm;Monday 4/11/24 at 4.30pm.

[ends]