

Wonersh Parish Council

BLACKHEATH • SHAMLEY GREEN • WONERSH

www.wonershparish.org



15 September 2021

Dear residents,

Proposed wildflower project near the playground.

We have had great feedback from the successful wildflower planting trial on the bunds on Barnett Lane and the new tree planting near the playground. In addition, the new mowing regime across the commons with long grass left to promote biodiversity with paths mown through key areas has received lots of positive feedback. We will be considering minor changes for next year such as mowing frequency and width of paths.

The wildflowers have exceeded expectation, and whilst the tree planting was not such a success - with the supports and biodegradable protection inadequate and removed by children playing - it has been wonderful to see the visible impact on local biodiversity, with an array of species enjoying the wildflowers and long grass, from bees and Small Heath Butterflies to Wasp Spiders and Alder beetles.



We had a visit from the Surrey Botanical society, who were pleased to document over 70 species of plants, whilst Plantlife – the charity who launched the “no mow campaigns” - were so impressed by the effort in the village, they will be featuring it in their magazine.

Made up of resident-volunteers, The Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group (WEAG) has plenty of ideas to improve the commons area in general, and has proposed the next stage of wildflower and planting, continuing to focus on the area between the playground and Barnett lane. Follow WEAG on www.facebook.com/WEAGSurrey. The proposal has four elements:

1. Two small areas between the mown paths to be planted, the first with wildflower plugs and the second with meadowmaker seeds. The planting techniques will be based on advice from Professor Hitchmough’s visit to us earlier in the year
2. Further wildflower areas planted using native wildflower seeds adjacent to the bunds following guidance from Plantlife
3. The native trees planted last year which failed would be replaced alongside improved protection, with small areas of additional hedging planted specifically for their positive impact on pollinators
4. A new sign board be installed for Environment and Climate notices.

The attached map shows the proposed outline, with the details of exact location and native plant specification to be confirmed. If agreed by Council, the planting is proposed for October/November after the grass areas have been fully cut back. Funding has been secured from a Corporate Sponsor, with the planting to be undertaken by WEAG volunteers.

The Parish Council will be reviewing the detailed recommendations on 14 October. Residents are accordingly invited to send comments to the Clerk at clerk@wonershparish.org by the end of September.

clerk@wonershparish.org

The Parish Office, Wonersh Sports Pavilion, The Common, Wonersh, GU5 0PJ

Tel: 01483 892601