

NOTES OF WILD LIFE PROJECT
MEETING 2 MAY 2018

Present: Cllr D Furness, Cllr J Boryer, James Newmarch (ESCC Highways), volunteers: L Beddis, L Blackwell, A Gavin, A Henson, A Kerr, J Kiley, L Scotcher, K Thomas

A warm welcome was extended to all volunteers.

James Newmarch gave a brief introduction and spoke of the County Council's new mowing regime that comes into effect in 2018. This means that mowing will occur only twice a year in urban areas. Rother District Council will pick up the mowing shortfall in 2018, and thereafter it will be at the discretion of Town and Parish Councils if they want to pick up the short fall.

If properly managed, cutting of grass verges only twice a year could be a blessing for wild flowers. Battle Town Council have yet to reach a decision on these options

Parish Assembly

No adverse comments were made on wild flowers at the Assembly and everyone who attended were thanked for their support.

Photographs.

Fergus Garret's advice was that it would be useful to have photographs taken from static positions every month. Liz Blackwell agreed to do this and forward photographs to Jane at Battle Town Council and volunteers.

Web site.

A new wild flower section has been added to the Town Council's web site. It shows location of sites and photographs can be added. It would be useful if details of wild flowers were also added when seen.

Management of sites

John Boyer agreed to take on the responsibility of managing sites. John will liaise with Keith Datchler about the best type of management for the individual sites.

Publicity

It was considered that there was a need for publicity to inform people what was happening. Wild Flower Meadows was considered not to be a good description of these areas and they should be renamed 'Wild Life Areas.' It was acknowledged that they may take years to establish. In order to inform the public what is happening there should be metal signs added to the yellow flower signs given by East Sussex Highways. These should read Wild Life Areas in progress, with the web site and twitter hash tag.

James Newmarch agreed to this and will allow re positioning of 'yellow flowers' on Caldbec Hill. David Furness will try and get these signs ordered as soon as possible.

Press Releases will be given at regular intervals and Keith's discovery of a Snake Tong Fern will hit the press this week!

Education

It was realised that education is key in encouraging children to take part in this project, and a visit would be made to Battle and Langton School by a volunteer to see what projects could be undertaken.

Dock Plants

These are a problem in Virgins Lane and Caldbec Hill. James suggested spot spraying by a Battle Town Council worker. He was not adverse to normal weed killer being applied if done by their staff.

Twitter

A new twitter account will be opened.

Monthly Inspections

Volunteers agreed to monitor sites once a month and record findings and submit to [the](#) web site.

Perhaps Keith could assist.

Volunteers will wear high visibility waistcoats when undertaking surveys at the roadside.

(A very warm thank you for attending today's meeting, it was lovely to meet up and I am sure we can make a big difference. I am sorry that I have not been able to put individual names to actions, but after a few meetings we will know everyone's names.)

Notes compiled by Cllr D Furness

Date of next meeting: tbc