

## **Danbury Parish Council Environment Working Group Notes 13 September 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs A Chapman (ex officio), B Hallett, S Berlyn (ex officio), G Chapman, A Keeler, N Orange

**In attendance:** Ms M Harper (Clerk), Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk).

1. Items on the Environment Action List were noted.

### **2. Parking Issues at The Heights**

Members discussed whether to make a Local Highways Panel Request for a one-way system with signage at the Service Road to the Heights from the Local Highways Panel (LHP).

After the Working Group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr Spence had been informed that the Parish Council would prefer double yellow lines to be installed at the Heights, or failing that, a one-way system with signage. Cllr Spence had expressed concerns about residents who objected to the double yellow lines even though they were in the minority but he would consider backing a one-way system.

Cllr Orange explained that he had had a discussion with Cllr Spence. Fewer people seemed to be parking on the pavement since potholes in the road had been repaired. A sign asking people not to park on the verge may also deter pavement parking. It was suggested that there should be double yellow lines at the junction of the Heights and the Service Road to prevent people parking too close to it.

Members requested that the Clerk consider asking Cllr Spence to amend the existing LHP request to remove the proposal for a lay-by, retain the request for the one-way system, and add signage discouraging pavement parking and double yellow lines at the junction of The Heights service road with The Heights (to prevent parking too close to the junction).

### **3. Tree Survey Quotations**

Members considered quotations to survey Parish Council Trees 3 times over 4 years and provide guidance for the Clerk when commissioning the surveys. By undertaking the survey every 18 months, the arboriculturist would be able to assess the trees in both the winter when there are no leaves and, in the spring/summer when in full leaf.

Members requested that the Clerk consider commissioning Underhill Tree Consultancy Ltd.

### **4. Unplanned Tree Works**

i) To consider the removal of 3 Ash Trees along the Pedlars Path Bridleway.

As recommended in the 2020 Tree Survey Report, Ash Trees along the Pedlar's Path Bridleway had been monitored for the affects of Ash Die Back Disease by Underhill Tree Consultants, now that they were in full leaf. The Ash Trees were showing signs of the disease 3 that would impact the Bridleway and/or surrounding gardens, were they to fall, were deteriorating. It was recommended that they be felled and members agreed. Two quotes had been requested and one was still

awaited. The Clerk would consider both quotes up to £550 and commission the least costly as both firms had undertaken works for the Parish Council previously.

ii) Members discussed felling and treating the stumps of Laurel Bushes along the Pedlars Path Bridleway.

A number of large Laurel Bushes were growing along the Pedlars Path Bridleway and changing the woodland character of the affected areas. The advice of the Chelmsford City Council Tree Officer was that the bushes that were large and dense would inhibit undergrowth and should be removed. As Laurel Bushes regrow quickly, it was advised that stumps should be treated to prevent regrowth. Members agreed that the bushes should be removed but were concerned about treating the stumps if they had grown from suckers from a private residence.

As the requested quote had yet to be received, this item would be deferred and the Assistant Clerk would investigate whether they were likely to have originated from suckers.

## **5. Replacement Trees**

Members discussed the species of tree, and location, to replace the one felled on Dawson Field in 2020.

Suggestions for the replacement species from Tree Consultants had been for a field maple, elm or lime and members expressed a preference for a Field Maple.

## **6. Army and Navy Consultation**

Members discussed the Army and Navy Consultation and gave guidelines for the Clerk to formulate any response. Concerns were raised that the cycle and pedestrian aspects complicated the schemes and it was suggested that the underpass should be reinstated. Overall, the 'Hamburger' design was preferred but there were concerns about signage, sightlines and motorists inadvertently becoming held up in hatched areas. If any members attended the exhibition, they would feedback any pertinent information to the Clerk.

## **7. Local Highways Panel**

i) Members noted that the scheme requested for improvements at the B1418 Maldon Road/Hyde Lane junction had received a Red RAG rating and would not be recommended for progression, for the following reason:

*"Junction includes paved area used by School busses and deliveries. No history of accidents at this location in last five-year period, recommendation is to not change junction layout"*

## **8. P3 (Parish Paths Partnership Working Party) – Appendix 5**

Members noted the draft notes from the P3 Working Group Meeting held on 1st September 2021.

## **9. Bulb Planting at Runsell Green**

Members considered bulb planting at Runsell Green. Cllrs A Chapman and Hallett would investigate locations and types of bulbs for the next meeting. The Scouts and local groups could be asked to volunteer to assist with the planting. It was suggested that there be a variety of bulbs, preferably low growing ones that would be neater and that other locations could include Eves Corner, Copt Hill

and Elm Green. Volunteers/residents could be asked to led bulb planting tools but it may be necessary to purchase tools suitable for harder ground.

Wild flower areas were also discussed. Test strips of land could be left unmown to see what wild flowers self-seed.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 8 November 2021 at 7.30pm.

After the meeting, Cllr Hallett volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the Sustainable Danbury Committee and this was welcomed by members.