

## **Danbury Parish Council Notes from the Environment Working Group Discussion Meeting Held Remotely on 10 May 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Apologies: Cllr Berlyn

In Attendance: Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk), Ms M Harper (Clerk)

### **1. Items for noting**

1. Cllr G Chapman was making progress with the Circular Map walks.
2. As Mrs L Anstee was no longer a Councillor there was no representative from the parish Council on the Community Energy Group but Stuart Bird from the group had been in contact with Cllr Berlyn. Members requested that the the CCC Climate Change Ambassador to the next Environment Meeting in July.
3. The forms for the Heights Double Yellow Survey had been distributed by Cllrs Orange and Sutton and some responses had been received.
4. There had been a P3 sub-committee meeting. There were some updates for the Footpaths Issues sheet; Bridleway 25 – completed; Bridleway 56 – has a new way marker sign but needs a new finger post; Footpath 4 was now visible but it needed a new fingerpost. Possibly can be done by the P3 group.

### **2. Resident's proposal for a new cycle route:**

This was discussed at length and would not be supported by Cllrs. The route took in a number of Public Footpaths on which cycling is not permitted and crossed some private land and the quarry. ACTION FOR CLERK TO CONSIDER AND MAKE DECISION: The Clerk would consider a response and a copy would be sent to members and County Cllr Spence.

### **3. Ideas for the Environment Committee 5 Year Strategic Plan**

Items to be considered for strategic priorities:

- Hedges instead of posts at Runsell Green, Eves Corner and Elm Green. Also a hedge outside the Old Pavilion and by the entrance to the Co-op car park. The hedges would be slow growing and kept low.
- Wild flowers – elm green/runsell green – designate areas and mow to encourage wildflowers and see what comes up. Yellow rattle helps get rid of the grass.
- Bulb planting at Runsell Green, Elm Green, Along Well Lane and at the top of Copt Hill.
- Plant fritillaries in wetter areas, for example by the balancing pond, the bank by the tennis courts and/or where the land slippage is being repaired
- Allow leader trees in hedges to grow up.
- Consider an ecological survey and bird boxes. Maybe not bat boxes due to issues caused by bat protection when needing to maintain the land.
- Log piles to attract insects.
- Educate residents about creating natural environments and trees and hedges.
- Linking with the schools – with community engagement.

- Links in to what neighbourhood Plan is saying – promoting hedges rather than fences and walls.
- Also engage with local Businesses in this respect.
- Engage with neighbouring parishes to strengthen green wedges between Danbury and them.
- PROWS – improving signs. Have until 2025/26 to declare new public rights of way. Need to consider whether there are places to be made official public right of way that falls in the net 4 or 5 years.
- Progress the P3 group and improve the PROWS and consider conflicts with cyclists. Promote the country code.
- Highways once the route based strategy comes through, consider which schemes should be requested. Create an ear marked fund to contribute towards schemes if this helps to progress them.
- Community buses – do more to publicise the Chelmsford Community Transport.
- Verge parking – not easy for Parish to enforce as pavement parking is currently legal as long as there is no obstruction or parking restrictions – The Office has discussed this with the rural Engagement Police Officer.

#### **4. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on 12 July at 7.30pm.

The discussion ended at 8.35pm