

CCPC Environment Group Action Notes
In Person Meeting 20 October 2022 7.30pm
Mortons Manor Hotel

Present – Helen, Luke, David, Richard and 3 members of the public (Sue, Sharon and Vivienne).

1. Introductions

Apologies received from 2 people.

2. Quick feedback on EG Meeting Minutes

Steve had previously offered yellow rattle seeds, **ACTION** Helen and Luke to arrange a working party to sow the yellow rattle (possibly Saturday 19th November), having first cut the grass short and scrapped some areas bare (see later minutes).

Meeting held by zoom between LL / HS / TC as the independent OSF Group, and a possible opportunity for use of Our Secret Field for the benefit of the community managed by NT was tentatively tabled by TC. This could also incorporate biodiversity improvements such as the planting of a couple of small copses of trees. LL / HS thought this would be a good option, so TC to follow up within NT. TC to also investigate a potential site for a tree nursery.

Open actions

ACTION Helen to compare Jim White's 2022 survey of the no-mow areas of St Edwards church lawns with last year's survey.

3. Feedback on recent events and info about upcoming EG events

Luke and Helen briefed how the event at Corfe Castle Primary School went on Monday 17th October. Alex Brenton, Dorset Councillor and Kingston Maurward Tutor, came and led an assembly about the importance of trees. The assembly was interactive, with children encouraged to answer questions about trees in their gardens, and why they thought trees are important, for example. This was followed by a session of trees seed preparation and planting, and a trees species quiz, in the playground. The children who were able to stay for this enjoyed planting different types of seeds, some of which needed no preparation, some which needed mashing to separate the seeds from the fruit flesh, and some which need to be fooled into thinking winter has started, e.g. by storing in the fridge for a few weeks.

Luke and Helen also advised that they are also organising a follow up event at the play area, on Saturday 19th November, to comprise the following activities:

9.00 EG helpers set up PP gazebo and tables (PP & HLS) near the youth shelter.

10.00 to 14.00 event open to the public.

- Tree giveaway
- Plant your own tree / tree seeds, using seeds left over from school event
- Plant your own mini tree nursery, using copse in a box root trainers
- Info about trees, including different trees from David, plus seeds / nuts.

10.00 to 16.00 if possible, scarifying of the agreed no-mow area and sowing of yellow rattle seeds from Steve Churchill, and planting of hedge on South West fence line using Woodland Trust trees and some of David's tree saplings / seedlings; both require a motion agreed by Council to authorise this

16.00 take down gazebo, tables, etc, to finish by 17.00

Richard raised a concern that on one hand we are asking for donations of trees for our trees planting and one the other we are giving away trees; this could be misunderstood. **ACTION** Helen to make sure we are clear that the donations of trees are from places where they are not appropriate, and that the tree giveaway are for people who have space in their gardens / land for the free trees. Advertising to including tree donations for us.

Luke is also booked to give a talk at the Library on Friday 11th November at 2pm on the subject of "What's the local response to the climate emergency and other local environmental issues?" Helen will also be present to help with answering questions.

Agreed that we will switch for second Thursday to third Thursday to allow Tom Clarke to come to some meetings.

- **17th November** - Review of 2019 Action Plan only
- **15th December** – Adam Evans, NT Purbeck Net Zero Coordinator, talk to cover initiatives in Purbeck, including progress with a possible the Boar Mill turbine.
- **19th January** – Ben Pears, topic to be advised, **ACTION** Richard.
- **ACTION** Luke to ask Guiseppe to see if they would be interested in giving us a talk in Spring
- **ACTION** Helen to follow up to see if we can get someone lined up to do a talk from Butterfly Conservation for a meeting next spring, and tie in with someone familiar with the Corfe Common transect.

4. Sharing your ideas, including spending of allocated funds, including PEG leaflet

All agreed we support a contribution towards the PEG energy saving leaflet, request to go to the Clerk to prepare a motion, **ACTION** Luke / Richard.

David raised that an initiative is being trialled for a free soup and a pudding session at the Village Hall, volunteers are requested.

Viv mentioned this is also being offered by St Edwards of a Friday lunchtime.

Helen advised she and Luke had recently been to a meeting about a Swanage Community shop / supermarket. This winter due to the time required to set this up, there may just be a Fareshare van dropping off supplies to Swanage.

Sharon said she still wanted to get the seed saving circle up and running. This would involve the following:

- Public engagement
- A logo for the Corfe Castle Seed Circle – a few ideas came out during the meeting, **ACTION** Sharon to follow this up with individuals, and about having the logo made into a stamp by the English Stamp Company
- A site for the seeds swap – Norden / Sandy Hills / phone box
- Brown envelopes and glassine packets would be required to collect the seeds in, all agreed that Sharon could approach the Clerk with a request for funding.
- Longer term there would be a need for a picture of each type of plant to go onto the envelopes, as well as the Corfe Castle Seed Circle logo. This could be by running a school competition, with artwork exhibited at Sandy Hills.

5. Review of Jubilee Tree Planting sites landowner responses, and next steps

Helen talked through the outcome of the landowner responses, and advised that another of the trees, site 40, also needed to be removed from the site listing following an email received that day. She also briefed a paper prepared for the meeting, which detailed the history of the project so far this year, and some indicative proposed costings assuming we plant feathers. Helen explained the difficulty she was having finding any information about costs / hours spent on tree maintenance, with the only costings found being £197 per year for maintenance of a standard tree, compared with 14p each for a feather or whip!

There was general disappointment about the number of sites not deemed suitable, and especially about the lack of the shared cost element that had previously been indicated by our Ward Councillor to be on offer. Having discussed our options it was agreed to progress with the 16 trees, and a box bush, on land owned / leased to Corfe Castle Parish Council, purchasing feather sized trees for these sites (indicative cost in the region of £100 per tree), and with the hedges. It was also agreed that monthly tree inspection are not necessary, and that an estimate of 20 hours per year for a tree warden for any required maintenance work on these trees and hedges would seem to be a reasonable estimate of the time required. Any significant work identified as required, e.g. replacement, thinning, extensive pruning, etc, would then be undertaken by a volunteer working party.

The site on The Halves (NT) and the land north of Gods Acre also are still to be followed up, and if acceptable, these will be planted using David's trees / Woodland Trust Trees / OVO Trees.

ACTION Helen to prepare a paper to progress the project on this basis for Council, along with suitable motions.

ACTION Richard / David to try to find out who owns the land north of Gods Acre.

6. Review of 2019 Action Plan

To be the only agenda item covered at November meeting.

7. AOB

ACTION Helen to suggest Tim Lee, Parish Caretaker, is introduced to parishioners at the 2023 APM.

CCPCEG Core Group members; Josey, Helen, Tom, Luke, David, Richard

Contact us via the clerk (Michelle) at: environmentgroup@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Environment Working Group

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Project Review October 2022

Project History since March 2022

March 2022

In March Council passed a motion to support the Environment Working Group progressing with their Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree planting project. This project is comprised of two elements:

1. 70 trees for 70 years.
2. 70 x 70 trees, with the target of planting 4,900 trees across the Parish in association with local residents, landowners and organisations.

April 2022

At the April Parish Council meeting Cllr Brooks indicated DC would be unlikely to support planting of trees on DC land, due to the on-going maintenance as this would fall to the landowner. However, DC might be open to working in partnership to plant trees on such land as was undertaken between DC and Sustainable Swanage

It was also suggested by the Environment Group that a Tree Warden might be required. David Kemp drafted a proposal, including potential sources of funding for this Tree Warden, such as a grant from Wessex Water and private donations / sponsorship of trees.

An email was received from on 26th April Cllr Brooks, indicating that a 50/50 joint venture with Dorset Council would be the best approach for trees on Dorset Council sites. This way the right trees would be planted in the right places, and ongoing maintenance should be less of a problem.

The Environment Group would need to raise the 50% funding for this joint venture, but we did not consider this to present a problem, as Sustainable Swanage were successful in raising their fundraising target (the original offer for tree sponsorship trees was over-subscribed), and the Environment Group already had £1,000 donated via Planet Purbeck.

May 2022

At the May Parish Council meeting a motion agreeing to the Environment Group planting up to 5 trees in Gods Acre on the Eastern boundary, on the raised mound next to the ditch / stream, and 2 trees on the grass verge on Holland Close adjacent to the public conveniences, was passed, subject to further information being provided on the proposed types of the 2 trees by the public conveniences.

June 2022

At the June Parish Council meeting, the Environment Group submitted a number of recommendations regarding moving the project forward. However, Council agreed consultation with the residents was required for tree planting around the parish.

A consultation was subsequently launched to seek parishioners' feedback on all tree and hedge planting sites, closing at the end of July ahead of the August Parish Council meeting.

August 2022

At the August Parish Council meeting, following a review of the feedback Council agreed that the Environment Group could progress with the project by contacting the landowners of the proposed tree planting sites, via the Clerk, to seek permission for tree planting on their land. Council also required the Environment Group to report back to Council with further information on tree types (type / species / shape / final growth height for each tree), finance arrangements and aftercare provisions.

September 2022

In early September, details of the sites were forwarded to the landowners, apart from Corfe Castle Parish Council, these are Dorset Council, National Trust and Aster Housing Association.

On 13th September, Aster replied to raise a number of queries, including about future and ongoing maintenance of the tree, but did not confirm ownership of the land identified for trees 13-15.

On 29th September, we received a response from National Trust granting permission for three trees to be planted within the playing field (trees 44-46), but with no response about trees 41-43 and the hedge in the play area, nor about the trees on the Halves (trees 29-36). Tree 39 is not considered suitable due to highways visibility issues.

October 2022

On 13th October, Cllr Brooks replied to advise that none of the suggested sites on East Street and roads off are possible because of sight lines and health and safety, and the site at West Street Car Park itself is also unsuitable because of the close proximity of solar operated parking meters.

The West Street / Holland Close sites that are acceptable are site 40 next to 1 West Street, sites 77-84 on the verge along Holland Close and site 85-90 on the West Street verge opposite numbers 70-80.

Cllr Brooks stated that Dorset Council has approached this project specifically to Corfe Castle, and don't feel it is comparable to the Swanage trees previously mentioned. Therefore, the hoped for 50/50 joint venture between the Parish Council and Dorset Council has not been followed through.

The Dorset Council response is a considerable set back to our project. The lack of a shared cost project approach means our Council will be responsible for the maintenance of the trees on Dorset Council land. This is of concern because not only is there a budget impact, but the maintenance of the surrounding grass cutting will be the responsibility of Dorset Council's contractors with whom we would have no contractual arrangement.

Aster have also replied to confirm they own the land identified for trees 13-15.

Also on 13th October, Cllr Helen Sumblar and David Kemp took a detailed look at Gods Acre and think it might be possible to increase the number of trees to be planted there from 5 to 9, and identified suitable species for each of these nine trees.

The field to the North of Gods Acre was also looked at as this is the fall back site, and this might be suitable for an avenue of trees on the field side of the stone wall.

The planting sites at the play area were also looked at, and identified suitable species for each of the six possible sites there.

Initial Costings

Purchase of "feather" size trees (height 150-175cm with side branches) £65 - £84 (pot grown retail prices at Ornamental-trees.co.uk)

Staking kit £9.58, or planting kit with irrigation and rabbit / strimmer guard £19.79 (retail prices at Ornamental-trees.co.uk)

Mulch mat 2 x roll 1m x 25ms 2 £81.44 per roll = £162.88, biodegradable bamboo fixing pegs 15cm long, 10 per tree = 700 @ 5p each = £35, delivery £40. Total £237.88 plus VAT, cost per tree £3.40 (prices without VAT from britishhardwood.co.uk)

Total average cost £75 + £15 + £3.40 = £93.40. Allow £100 per feather tree.

I propose we plant 6 feather trees in the play area, 8 in Gods Acre and 2 outside the toilet block – total 16 trees, in the region of £1,600. If agreed we will ask Michelle to approach Holme for Gardens for prices.

We could also apply for a Tree Council Grant from their Branching Out Fund for all / some of the costs (£200 - £2,000, <https://treecouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/planting-and-care/our-grants/>). Key requirements of this fund are that there is strong community involvement, and that children and/or young people up to the age of 21 are involved in the planting, and ideally the planning and aftercare of the project.

If we go apply, we will need to follow the funds Plant Purchasing Guidelines, buying from one of the "local" nurseries below:

Nurseries in South West England	Nurseries in South East England
Perrie Hale Nurseries, Devon Exmoor Trees, Somerset WeeTree Nurseries, Somerset Moor Trees, South Brent	Oakover Nurseries, Kent Botanica, Suffolk Hillier Trees, Hampshire

I also propose that any other sites are planted with whips, which will come from David's stock, Luke's Woodland Trust trees, or the new batch of TCV / Ovo Trees I applied for on 19/10/22. These will have zero planting costs associated with them.

Maintenance / Aftercare

Parish Tree Warden Proposal - David Kemp, 20/04/22

It is proposed that a single post of Parish Tree Warden be established, to take responsibility for all the trees planted and proposed for the Jubilee tree planting scheme in the Parish. Such a post would be for a notional number of hours, and would inevitably vary from month to month and year to year. It would suit a local person with appropriate skills and interest, either with an existing job which was flexible enough to accommodate occasional parish tree-related work, or was unemployed or retired.

Funding

Funding such a post could be achieved by various means.

- One organisation could take responsibility for the post and its salary, on the understanding that the work extends beyond the normal limits of that organisation's land;
- All organisations and individual land owners with trees planted on or proposed for their land could contribute part of the cost of the post;
- The post could be funded from an appropriate grant, such as the Wessex Water Foundation Environment Fund (see attachment).

Salary

An hourly rate similar to that paid to the parish caretaker is proposed. A salary of £1000 - £1500 per year is suggested.

Aftercare regime proposal – Helen Sumbler 20/10/22

Monthly checks of all trees (_____ minutes per tree):

- Check the condition of the tree, checking for any vandalism, accidental damage, animal or insect damage or disease.
- Check any tie isn't damaging the tree.
- Check the condition of the stake / cane, leaving it upright and pushed firmly into the soil.
- Check the tree guard for damage and that it is still pushed into the ground to discourage pests.
- Check the mulch mat is still in good condition and secured to the soil.
- Remove any weeds growing inside the tree guard.
- During drought months, check if the tree appears to need water. If watering is necessary, saturate the ground to ensure water soaks deep into the soil. This may be needed more often than monthly.

Annual checks at start of years 2 and 3 (10 hours total, assuming volunteers do replacement work):

- Annual survey of all new trees, recording the size and condition of each tree.
- Replacement of any dead, severely damaged or diseased trees
- Replacement of severely damaged canes / stakes / ties and tree guards.
- Regular monthly checks carried out at the same time.

Annual checks at start of years 3 – 9 / 11-14 etc (14 hours total, assuming volunteers do replacement work and help with pruning) - as other years plus:

- Carry out any pruning or coppicing as required.

Annual checks at start of years 10 / 15 etc (20 hours total, assuming volunteers do replacement work and help with thinning) - as other years plus:

- Carry out any pruning or coppicing as required.
- Check if any thinning of trees if required to reduce competition for light, water and nutrients.

Total year 1 = _____

Total year 2 = _____ +10 = _____

Total years 3-9 / 11-14 etc = _____ +14 = _____

Total year 10 / 15 etc = _____ +20 = _____

No.	EG Map Ref	Site location	Proposed species	Landowner	Services or other issues	Next steps
1	Map 1	East Street / Higher Filbank		Adopted Highway verge - DC	Services need investigation. Sighting impact to be assessed	Declined
2	Map 1	Halves Cottages East, verge on LHS when going from East Street (outside Nos 1 - 6)		Adopted Highway verge - DC	Confirm gas main on other side of road and investigate other services.	Declined
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13	Map 1	Halves Cottages West (opposite No 31)	Mountain Ash	Aster Group (was Synergy Housing)	Pole and overhead wires but could site clear of those by planting at top of slope.	Not yet committed to, requires lots of conditions to be satisfied
14			Mountain Ash			
15			Mountain Ash			
16	Map 1	East Street South of Halves Cottages bus stop (Northbound Carriageway)		Adopted Highway verge - DC	Salt bin	Declined
17	Map 1	East Street North of Halves Cottages bus stop (Northbound Carriageway)		Adopted Highway verge - DC	Electricity sub-station. Bus stop pole	Declined
18	Map 1	Colletts Close (by No 23)	New	Adopted Highway verge - DC	Telecoms or soakaway	Declined
19			Replacement		Not applicable	
20			Replacement		Not applicable	
21	Map 2	East Street / Mead Road (Southbound Carriageway)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
22	Map 2	East Street / Tilbury Mead (Southbound Carriageway)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
23	Map 2	Battle Mead South (West Verge)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
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25						
26	Map 2	Battle Mead Cross Roads (East)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
27	Map 2	Battle Mead Cross Roads (South)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
28	Map 2	Battle Mead Cross Roads (West)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
29	Map 2	The Halves (between Nos 126 and 130 East Street)	Proposal now for a row of small trees, e.g. crab apple, hawthorn and bird cherry	National Trust	None obvious	Seek agreement of National Trust to replace mown poplar with alternative species
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37	NOT USED					
38	NOT USED					
39	Map 4	A351 / Churh Knowle road junction (Northbound verge)		National Trust	To be investigated	Declined
40	Map 3	West Street (Southbound carriageway by No 1)		Adopted Highway verge - DC	Telecoms, to be investigated	Declined
41	Map 3	Playing field next to Western boundary fence	White Hawthorn	Leased to Corfe Castle Parish Council	Assume none, but to be investigated	Seek agreement of freeholder, National Trust, to planting site
42			Hornbeam			
43			Pink Hawthorn			
44	Map 3	Playing field next to Southern boundary	Acer Rubrum	Leased to Corfe Castle Parish	Assume none, but to be investigated	YES
45			or Fagus			

No.	EG Map Ref	Site location	Proposed species	Landowner	Services or other issues	Next steps
46		fence	Sylvatica	Council	investigated	
47	Map 5	Hollands Close, rear of 46 West Street	Mountain Ash	Private owner	Not applicable	Owner to plant trees, no EG action
48			Mountain Ash			
49	Map 5	Gods Acre East Boundary	Bird Cherry	Corfe Castle Parish Council		Site agreed by Parish Council
50			Grey willow			
51			Rowan / mountain ash			
52			Rowan / mountain ash			
53			Hornbeam			
92	NEW	Gods Acre East Boundary	Bird Cherry	Corfe Castle Parish Council	Some clearance of the spoil mound required	New sites, to be put to Parish Council
93			Holly			
94			Dog Rose			
95			Box Bush (in garden of remembrance)			
54	Map 5	Hollands Close verge by WCs	Crab apple	Corfe Castle Parish Council	None obvious	Site agreed by Parish Council
55			Crab apple			
56	Map 5	Gods Acre Extension	Oak (Jubilee tree)	Corfe Castle Parish Council	None obvious	Being progressed by the Jubilee Committee, no EG action
57	Map 6	Hollands Close West verge (opposite West Street car park)		Believe Adopted Highway verge - DC	None obvious	Declined
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62	Map 6	West Street Car Park		DC	No services obvious. Need to be tall, skinny tree species, or more mature standards	Declined
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77	Map 6	Hollands Close West verge by Sportsfield boundary fence		DC / Sports Trust	No services obvious. Standards in hedge. Talk to Andy Beale about which trees can go on the identified sites.	YES From an Estates perspective I would have no issue in the trees being planted where you have suggested in Holland Close - Ben Lancaster. Talk to Andy Beale about which species / size.
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81	Map 6	Hollands Close West verge adjacent to existing hedge area		DC	None obvious	YES Whilst highways have no objection to site 82-84, we would not want the trees to go too close to the house shown in the picture because of light blocking. Talk to Andy Beale about which species / size.
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84	Map 6	West Street verge, southbound carriageway (opposite numbers 70-80)		DC or NT?	Manhole, to investigate	YES Trees planted outside of the Allotments will need to be back towards the fence because of visibility. Talk to Andy Beale about which species / size.
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90	Map 6	Junction Hollands Close / Toms Mead (non-preferred site)		Corfe Castle Parish Council	None obvious	Site agreed by Parish Council but non-preferred, agreed only if needed to hit the target
91						