

Notes for Bainton and Ashton Nature Recovery Meeting

3rd July 2024 at Sandpipers Ufford Road Bainton

Present: Susie Lucas, Hilary Smith, Cliff Stanton, Julie Stanton, Martin Lucas

1. Nature Recovery Working Group

A draft with changes to Working Group Terms of Reference to include monthly grass cutting plans for Bainton and Ashton, dated 30/5/24 had been received from the PC Clerk. Nature Recovery Group discussed and suggested:

'Responsibilities to include, but not limited to'

Remove items 7 and 8

Item 12 - add 'May advise Parish Council of additional maintenance work eg. sweeping leaves on footways'

'Membership'

The Nature Recovery questioned the practicality of always adhering to this requirement.

'Record of proceedings'

The Nature Recovery questioned the practicality of always adhering to a meeting quorum of at least 4 members which must include 1 Parish Councillor.

2. Highfield Road CWS –

PCC managed grass cutting

A June cut and collect was expected on one side of the road. This was a new scheme introduced by PCC last year to help maintain and increase species diversity. The June cut has not happened. **Action: Julie/Cliff** to write to Darren Sharpe to ask why.

Update:

PCC were unable to find a contractor able to undertake this work in June. Aragon has no spare capacity to undertake the June cut on CWS verges. The annual September cut and collect on CWS verges will go ahead as normal. Cliff Stanton has since contacted PCC to suggest Steve Bighi as a possible contractor for the June cut and collect of CWS verges.

Parking Issue

Susie reported that the PC is not happy with the bollard suggestion put forward by Peterborough City Council at the site meeting in April. Irene Walsh and Susie met with Richard Astle to explore options. Duncan Bridge, newly appointed at Nene Park Trust, has previous experience of controlling visitor parking on verges in Suffolk.

Action: Susie arranging a meeting with Frances Payne PCC, Duncan Bridge Nene Park Trust, Richard Astle Langdyke Countryside Trust.

2024 Flora monitoring survey

Due to be carried out this summer. Volunteers from Bainton and Ashton assisted with initial survey in 2021.

Update: Will take place next year as Sarah Lambert was unable to commit time this summer.

3. Bainton Green Road CWS – PCC takeover of grass cutting

PCC have agreed to take on the grass cut and collect on Bainton Green Road CWS. This will be an early summer cut in June and a late summer cut in September.

The June cut has not taken place – see notes above about grass cutting on Highfield Road CWS.

Action: Cliff agreed to cut around the CWS signs and flower sign. Done.

4. Sheepwash area –

New fencing update

Progress continues at a slow pace.

Update: Arrangements were made for Gary Archer to remove the grid with voluntary help on the 5th August but this has not taken place due to contractor being in hospital. All fencing work has temporarily stopped as the contractor is still unwell; he is expecting to be able restart mid September.

Bench update

The donor family have decided not to provide a bench due to reports of memorial benches being vandalised in other locations.

Mini meadows

Vegetative growth is exuberant particularly in the right hand mini meadow. A change of management is needed for subsequent years – introduce cut and collect in April and again early to mid June to control grasses and Hogweed and other pernicious weeds. This should keep the sward height much lower while still giving the desirable species time to flower later in the summer. **Action: Julie and Cliff**

Bainton Brook/ Washdyke

The root plate of the tree that came down in high winds about two years ago has slumped back into the watercourse, blocking at least half the channel width. This is causing the flow to be directed towards the bank on the Sheepwash side, which may undercut the bank. The obstruction could also cause flooding upstream on both the main Bainton Brook and the tributary watercourse alongside the road to Ufford.

Update: Cliff Stanton has met on site with Malc of Welland and Deepings Drainage Board. They will attend to the problem later in the year.

Nettle beds along bank of Bainton Brook between corner of

See notes in email sent to B&A PC on 31st July about nettles here and in Ashton. **Action required.**

Remaining agenda items c/f to 15th July

Notes for Bainton and Ashton Nature Recovery meeting 15th July 2024 at Gamekeepers Cottage, Ashton. Present: Susie Lucas, Hilary Smith, Cliff Stanton, Julie Stanton, Andrea .

5. **Ashton - adding plug plants.** Seeding Snowdrop verge
October Planting Day for Ashton. **Action: Julie and Hilary**

6. **Around our patch:**

Poors Land

Susie reported that Bainton Poor's Estate trustees have asked for detailed proposals.

Conservation Area

It is hoped that it will be possible to meet the new owners at some point in the nearish future.

7. **Barnack Field edge paths –**

Discussed the loss this year of non-statutory footpaths between Barnack, Bainton and Ufford, following changes in management of the land. These paths connected Bainton to Orchard Road in the centre of Barnack and around field edges creating a network of paths linking up to Public Rights of Way. The paths have been walked frequently and regularly by local residents (including residents of Bainton and Ashton) for many years. The land is owned by Burghley Estates.

Update: A detailed account of the problems and the steps being taken in Barnack to liaise with Burghley Estates, with the help of Lee Moore Peterborough City Council Rights of Way Officer, can be found on the RESTORE BARNACK FIELD PATHS Facebook Group. Proposals have now been made by Burghley Estates and a public meeting is planned in September: Consultation and Decision on Proposal from Burghley, Wednesday 18th September, 7.15pm, Barnack Village Hall

Action: B&A PC to consider what support they can give particularly concerning the path that links Bainton directly to the centre of Barnack and also whether to send a representative from Bainton and Ashton PC to the meeting on 18th Sept.

8. Our local nature recovery – going forward for next 6 years?
Not discussed.

9. First annual JCC Conference 17th July 2024 in Peterborough
Susie will be making a presentation about the work of Bainton and Ashton Nature Recovery over the past 4 years.

Update: Event very well attended. Milton, Burghley and Walcot Estates announced major plans for landscape nature recovery network across John Clare Countryside linking the estates. A follow-up event is being organised for later in the year.

10. Other matters:

- Replace damaged Nature Recovery sign on the Green in Ashton. **Action Cliff and Julie**
- Last JCC Steering Group Meeting – Susie reported that Destination Management, Visitor Access and Economy were discussed.
- Nettle Problem alongside the dykes in Ashton. High nutrient levels and regular disturbance cause nettles to grow abundantly along the tops of the dykes. Uneven ground mean these stretches cannot be mown. Several residents have expressed concern. **Action: Meeting to be arranged on site to look at the problem** done.
- Information signs for the Sheepwash. **Action: Julie and Hilary during the winter.**

Meeting to look at nettle problem in Ashton, Friday 26th July. Susie Lucas, Martin Lucas, Julie Stanton, Cliff Stanton, Hilary Smith, Brian Smith.

Outcomes and recommendations from this meeting were set out in an email to the Parish Clerk and Chair of the PC, dated 31/7/2024