**Hammond Garden and Ratcliff Garden Working Group Meeting**

**17th April 2023**

**Update from PC meeting**

The Parish council are happy with the final plans and agreed to small amounts of flexibility to make the space work.

**Volunteer Groups**

Implementation

We need to source more volunteers to help us put plans into action.

We have a kind volunteer (James Sheairs) who has offered to make the planters. We will need to meet with him and explain what we are trying to achieve. We will then need to arrange two community days to

Day 1) Move soil into the planters

Day 2) Do the planting, building of wildlife boxes, compost bin etc.

We will serve refreshments (not a meal) at both events but day 2 will be more involved with talks on wildlife and plants.

Maintenance

To keep the area looking nice, weeding done, plants watered and in Hammond Garden, the crop harvested we need a maintenance group. We agreed at a previous meeting that we would set up the Hammond Garden Committee, chaired by Mike Annells, which would be responsible for both Hammond Garden and Ratcliff Garden. However after further discussion it was decided that two chairs would be appropriate, one to focus on Ratcliff Garden (Mike) and one to focus on Hammond Garden (Pam Maskell). The chairs will keep an eye on the site and if work needs doing will act accordingly. Sharon Tricerri is happy to be on the Hammond Garden Committee as the link to the Parish Council. Jason Papworth has kindly agreed to be on the Committee to do specialist pruning.

Having the chairs in place is not enough and we need a list of people that can be called on if bits and pieces need doing. The more people on this list the more the workload can be shared. It’s probably best served by people near to the sites but any help is welcome.

Action: **Rachel** to set up a doodle poll to find dates for the two community days.

Action: **Rachel** to arrange people to do talks for the community days.

Action: **Rachel** to put together a flyer to inform people about the two sites and what help is required.

Action: **All** share the flyers with friends and neighbours to encourage people to attend the community days

Action: **All** share the flyers with friends and neighbours to encourage people to sign up to the Hammond Garden Committee.

**Making the Plans Happen**

Preparing the area

There is still some things that need clearing from the Ratcliff Garden site.

Action: **Rachel** to talk to Mike Annells to see when they can be moved.

Wildlife Boxes/ bug hotel

We can use off cuts to make these but it would be useful to have an idea of how many of these we should put up, where would be best to place them and what size holes we should make for the birds.

Action: **Rachel** to ask Colin Day our Local naturalist for his thoughts.

Action: **Rachel** to contact the owner of the fence at Hammond Garden to see if it would be ok to have a small hole for hedgehogs to pass through and to put up bird boxes.

Access

It was agreed that the planters should be at a height which allows wheelchair users to utilise them.

Action: **Pam** to find out what an optimal height is.

Procurement

Currently the exact quantities of materials are unknown. We will start with buying what’s needed for the planters (wood, lining/mypex, screws, ironmonger, staples) and then move on to the soil.

Plants/shrubs/seeds etc will come later along with picnic benches and any interactive elements (like a weather station), water butt etc.

Action: **Rachel** to arrange a meeting with James and Jason to discuss the building of the planters.