

DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 21 June 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 17. Working Groups

Report to Council

Dated: 15 June 2021

Subject: Environment Awareness Working Group

Report prepared by: Cllr Allen Corcoran

Reason for report: Monthly update – Report 11

Members are requested to: Please see recommendations below

Tree Planting Project

Background: DPC agreed to plant 125 trees to mark the council's 125th anniversary in 2020. This project has been on hold but the relaxation of some Covid restrictions will allow us to reinstate it. Planting sites will follow the original plan submitted to council in 2020 which will be added to.

Suggested ways forward: Because of the logistics involved, planting in smaller batches would allow this important task to be completed more easily. EA Group to work with Katy Jones and Wild About Datchet to establish a working procedure; selecting and sourcing the right trees for the right location, securing quotes for planting the first batch, and arranging follow-up maintenance and care.

Recommendation: To approve the suggested way forward and Cllr Corcoran to return to the council with the plan and projected costs for the first batch.

LCWIP & Active Travel programme

Background: RBWM has invited Parish Councils to contribute to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Active Travel programme. This is an opportunity to put forward residents' views about enhancing our existing footpaths and cycle paths, about new paths outlined in the Cycle Action Plan, and ways to reduce traffic congestion and pollution. (This subject has been covered extensively by Datchet Neighbourhood Plan surveys with residents.)

Suggested ways forward: Two councillors have been invited from each Parish to join virtual sessions on Friday 25 June (13.00–14.30) or Tuesday 29 June (15.00–16.30).

Recommendation: Cllr Corcoran and Cllr Buckley have volunteered to attend these sessions.

Environment Survey

Background: Having received a good response from residents to our DPC Environmental Survey, a project short-list is being drafted for council's consideration. This list will divide projects into separate areas of responsibility providing a great opportunity for all councillors to contribute. This list is nearing completion and should be circulated over the next few days.

Suggested ways forward: When you receive this list, could councillors please comment on the document as soon as you are able adding details of which particular projects you are interested to pursue. It can then be requested for inclusion onto the next meeting agenda for full discussion.

Recommendation: The EA Working Group to take in councillors' comments before the July meeting following circulation of the document. Councillors are then requested to approve the final version at the July meeting and proceed with agreed action points.

Cllr Allen Corcoran & Cllr Ian Bacon

DPC Environment Awareness Working Group