**KPC Appendix 9**

**Environmental action plan: update on progress with application for funding**

1. Following several discussions with the Ouse Valley CARES project it transpires that the focus of their bid for lottery money is on community involvement. Whilst the outcomes of the project we envisaged might fit their criteria the background mapping work did not. So this source of funding is not being pursued.
2. However the University of Sussex, in line with their new Sustainability Plan which aims to make the campus the most biodiverse in the country, is currently in the process of setting up twelve monitoring stations across campus to determine the progress of nature recovery over time. This will include some habitat mapping and biodiversity monitoring, including but not limited to mammals, birds, ground beetles and plants. Students will be monitoring these stations as part of their Masters research projects.
3. We are currently exploring the possibility of working with the University of Sussex to see if we could replicate some of these methods for determining a baseline and monitoring biodiversity in Kingston village. Villagers, including the school, could be involved in setting up and monitoring these stations. The outcomes of the project could include engaging villagers in a greener gardening project which involved garden observations as well as setting up a nature trail (similar to Tingles Way Nature Trail in Lewes). We are also keen to explain to others how we approached the project so that it could be replicated.
4. If we can develop a viable project we would want to engage with the SDNPA which has recently launched its re-naturing programme and seek their advice on any funding that may be available. We would set up a small steering group to oversee the project. Currently there have been discussions / emails with Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, Ellen Rotheray (University of Sussex), Grahame Mayo (Chair of Kingston Hill Fields), Louise Holloway (who set up the Tingles Way Trail), all residents of Kingston, and Jan Knowlson our SDNPA ranger. All have expressed a willingness to support /be part of the steering group.
5. This could be a very exciting project for Kingston which would gain a lot of support from villagers. KPC is asked to note the action taken so far and to support further development of the project.

Christine Moulder

Vice Chair

Kingston Parish Council

28 October 2021