

## Kingston Nature Recovery Group

Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00

Attended: Chris Moulder, Helen Sida, Steve Berry, Louisa Adams, David Hoare, Jan Knowlson (Biodiversity Officer, SDNP)

CM convened the meeting to finalise the Parish's comments and way forward on Wild Business's report "Nature Recovery Opportunity in the parish of Kingston near Lewes". Currently we have a nearly finalised draft form, final version due by 22 May. The report was funded by the SDNP as a mapping exercise to highlight the opportunities within Kingston parish for nature recovery. Many individuals, with much expertise, were unable to attend, it was decided to go ahead to maintain momentum in the hope they will continue to be involved.

It was agreed :

- The report provides an excellent baseline detailing the state of nature in Kingston.
- The challenge is to take the information provided forward into concrete actions for supporting nature recovery in Kingston.
- Engagement with landowners, both large (eg farmers) through to small (eg garden owners) is essential to address the parishes nature recovery.
- More detail is needed on who actually owns land within the parish and what nature recovery work is already taking place
- There are opportunities to develop specific projects on land owned by KPC
- While Land App is a potentially useful mapping tool, its not something anyone at the meeting is familiar with. Until a specific use has been identified within the project there is no reason to commit time to.
- Chris Moulder will present the report for approval at the next Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Next steps agreed:

- To create the Kingston Nature Recovery Group, this will be a subgroup of KPC.
- The group will ideally have 5-8 members including a Kingston Parish Counsellor, and a group of Advisors willing to provide support.
- Helen Sida to Chair
- A list a landowners will be collated, attempting to capture all land within the parish, with the exception of individual private gardens. HS with support from SB
- Once collated the group will explore how each type of landowners might be best engaged in the project. It was recognised that many landowners are taking measures already. Others are looking for support or may benefit from awareness raising.
- Projects proposed in the report for KPC land (St Pancras Green, Village Green etc) will be further developed using local knowledge. SB
- Private garden owners potentially have an important role in this project. Focus on education, awareness and engagement. Maybe a pledge scheme for adopting nature friendly gardening practices. HS with support from LA

- The Village Fete on 8<sup>th</sup> July is an opportunity to raise awareness of the project, launch a garden pledge scheme etc. HS and LA
- Information about the report and project plans to be posted and updated on the KPC website. Julie with support from HS.
- Ellie Rotheray to present the report at the Parish meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June. HS to contact ER after 2 May
- SDNP (who funded the report) would like the project progress documented so that a Case Study can be written up. HS and CM
- Date, time, regularity, and venue to be fixed for future meetings. HS once others have expressed interest and availability.