



6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 2022

A **CLIMATE AND NATURE DISCUSSION MEETING** will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6.30pm -8pmm ONLINE on ZOOM. All Committee Members and members of the public are invited to attend. Everyone is welcome.

**ZOOM Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84026607995>

Kind Regards

*Daisy Finniear*

Daisy Finniear (Climate and Nature Officer).

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Wessex Water: update on Underground Storage Tanks to reduce storm overflows to rivers:**  
Presentation by Joo Foo, Wessex Water
3. **Inclusive Access to Nature- using a bat walk as a test case p3-8**  
-To discuss the proposal for inclusive bat walks from FCPC volunteer and to make recommendations to approve project and costs to Climate & Nature Committee.
4. **Tree branch trimming around the floodlight at The Park p9**  
- To recommend to Finance and Governance committee that the trees around the floodlight at The Park be trimmed by the Woodland Contractor to reduce the distortion of light across the rugby pitch. To delegate spend approval to the Clerk.
5. **The Park Conservation Plan p10-16**  
-To receive the results from the consultation and discuss any changes to the draft plan.  
-To consider proposal on current management of The Park.
6. **Tree Planting Scheme Draft p17-20**  
-To discuss the draft tree planting scheme and recommend planting zones to Climate & Nature Committee and PARCS Committee.  
-To recommend Full Council approve utilities checks on all sites before tree planting at a cost of £140.70 + VAT per site.  
-To consider recommending the Climate & Nature Committee allocate spend from EMR 332 (Climate & Nature pot) to fund the tree/hedge planting scheme.
7. **Hedgehog Project**  
-To discuss the creation of a Hedgehog Project Working Group and to work with Westerleigh Parish Council on a joint hedgehog project.
8. **Rockwell Wood**  
-To discuss damage to the riverbank at Rockwell Wood.

- 9. Community Assets Plan**  
-To discuss next actions in declaring land as community assets in the parish.
- 10. Pesticide policy amendment recommendations p21**  
-To consider the proposed amendments to the pesticide policy and recommend any changes to Finance & Governance Committee.
- 11. Perrinpit Solar Farm p22-23**  
-To consider the proposal to implement monitoring at Perrinpit Solar Farm.
- 12. Perrinpit Drainage p24**  
-To consider the proposal to approach landowners regarding contaminated water.
- 13. Items for next agenda**
- 14. Date of next meeting**

## Inclusive Access to Nature- using a bat walk as a test case- for discussion

Ruth Cowell August 2022

### **Background**

The benefits of experiencing contact with nature should be available to all but enabling this contact for people who find access difficult requires planning and resources.

The Bat Conservation Trust have considered the issues of access to bat walks for those with mobility, hearing and sight issues and have a number of case studies on the following links.

[Bats for All resource pack - Education & outreach resources - Bat Conservation Trust](#)

[Visually Impaired People \(VIP\) - Education & Engagement - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#)

[Deaf and Hard of Hearing People \(DHOH\) - Education & Engagement - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#)

Another link to one of these case studies can be found below

<https://www.wildlifeacoustics.com/customer-stories/living-options-devon>  
[General accessibility - Education & Engagement - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#)

Some of the walks were for a single group of people and others included people with mixed accessibility issues.

South Gloucestershire also have Bat Audio Trails which should be available from libraries. The downloadable pack has useful information in it.

[Microsoft Word - UPDATED TRAIL PACK INFO 2010 Bat Audio Trails.doc \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

### **August 2022 bat walk**

Having agreed to run a bat walk in the community and attended a Bat Conservation Trust course on running a bat walk I decided that I needed to make it as accessible as possible within the constraints of any resources needed. This is what I planned for:

1. I contacted two trustees at the Bristol Centre for Deaf who were involved in the visual impairment and deaf and hard of hearing case studies above and was told that the best equipment to use for a profoundly deaf person is the Echometer touch with an 8 inch Tablet. I also contacted 2 different companies who both agreed that the Echometer touch is the most cost effective equipment for these circumstances
2. I personally possess an Echometer touch bat detector and plan to use this for the event with a view to obtaining funding for a Community owned device.
3. I reviewed different ways of inviting community members to the group including the following sentence that is used by Avon wildlife Trust.

Accessibility requirements (please give details of any accessibility needs/learning support/other needs we should be aware of) \*

I chose an invitation that implied accessibility without promising to meet all needs because the nature group do not have the resources as follows:

*Come and join us for a half mile walk to look and listen for bats as they fly around hunting for insects. We will have bat detectors to allow us to listen out for the bats and to translate the bat calls into something we can see.*

*Date 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022*

*Time 1950 until 2130*

- *All are welcome.*
  - *Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*
  - *Please let us know when booking if you need to bring someone along to assist you*
- *The route will include some inclines, uneven paths and a grassy path through the Glebeland and it will be dark.*
- *It is recommended to bring a torch and wrap up warm*
- *This bat walk is not suitable for dogs. Please do not bring a dog unless it is an assistance dog*

I realise that this has created more than the usual workload in taking bookings and am grateful to David Hanks for taking this on.

4. We briefly discussed accessibility at the Frampton Nature Group meeting and there are 5 volunteers to help people with this at the event.

5. We limited numbers so that everyone can have access to a bat detector

6. I have created tactile bats and weighted bats to scale for people to touch

7. I chose a part of the village where I knew there are different types of bat within a short walk and where the ground is fairly level. I planned to liaise with a wheelchair user to ensure that this was accessible but he was unable to attend.

8. I visited the walk area nearer the time to review the walk risk assessment in case weather conditions had affected accessibility and checked the provision of street lights for lip reading etc.

### **My evaluation of the event**

1. The Echometer touch would be a useful tool for the Hard of hearing but there would need to be some training first. Unfortunately I was unable to test this with a user on the day. I have been advised that the cost of a British Sign Language Interpreter would be prohibitive for one user.

2. We will need to bid for an Echometer touch and tablet
3. Using an accurate description of the route did initially put someone off and the accessibility invitation needs to emphasise what we can do to help. It may also be easier for the bookings to go through the Parish Council to avoid extra workload for Frampton Cotterell Nature.
4. It was useful having people who knew about bats on the periphery so that the group was alerted when a new bat came in.
5. Participants appear to get more from the event if they can all use a bat detector. It would be useful to get some feedback from participants about this. The Parish Council only has 3 detectors and we will not be able to borrow the SGC detectors more than once or twice a year. I think I could have explained how to use the detectors better and a prompt for each of the 4 bat frequencies would have helped
6. The tactile and weighted bats worked well
7. The Glebeland is the most consistent and accessible site for bats in Frampton Cotterell and we saw 4 types. There are some hard surfaces available too which helps. However there would need to be a few modifications to make it truly accessible.
8. Having assessed the site several times for different needs I think it is important to know in advance about any particular needs the participants have. However we would need to be able to meet these needs in some way if we invite people to ask.

Overall I think that a Bat walk can be accessible and used to enable people to learn how to use a bat detector and take part in simple surveys.

#### **Follow up Plan for a community bat event that is accessible**

1. Purchase an Echometer touch bat detector and tablet to use it with and this could then be used for sound recording/analysis too. **SEE appendix 1** Continue discussion with the Center for deaf and Hard of hearing about BSL. Avon bat group is looking into running sound analysis workshops and there is free training / cheap training available.
2. Enquire from RNIB how much a set of tactile nature diagrams would cost **Appendix 1**
3. I suggest that a bench in each section of the Glebeland, a boardwalk over the rough tree routes and a platform for viewing the river at one point would be useful additions. The access at each end needs to be considered. South Gloucestershire council has a public advisory group that could help plan this. The Equalities officer is Daniel Wood **ASK NATURE AND CLIMATE GROUP TO LOOK INTO THIS**
4. I think that it may be better to call it a Bat Event rather than walk if some people are not walking **DISCUSS**
5. The Bat Conservation Trust suggest several accessibility statements to be included in the invitation. The following is a good goal to aim for  
*'This bat walk will take place on level paths and will be wheelchair (and pushchair) accessible. We will be happy to provide information in large print or in braille and we*

*can book a BSL interpreter. We can provide sighted guides or personal assistants. If you have any access requirements please let us know before the day and we will do our best to meet them.'*

But I think that at the moment this one is more realistic until there is some funding in place

***'We will try to meet the access requirements of any disabled person who wishes to attend this event. Please contact us before the day to let us know what you would like.'***

6. **Discuss with David Hanks and Daisy Finniear** which is the easiest way of taking bookings, especially as some people may prefer to use a telephone or touch phone
7. Obtain feedback from participants (including those supporting) asking them if they felt that sharing a bat detector would/ did affect their enjoyment and what a comfortable number of participants is **Appendix 2**
8. Finish the PC bat detector instructions with an audio recording of text, bat sound recordings and provide simple bat frequency guides for Noctule, Serotine, Pipistrelle and Myotis for community bat events (laminated for durability)

#### Issues that can be transferred to other nature activities

1. Possibility of British sign language support for BioBlitz
2. Pursue need for nature tactile diagram books
3. Glebeland and Centenary field accessible for Wheelchairs
4. Consider inclusive wording of events
5. Adopt common booking invitation for accessible events
6. Discuss booking method for accessible events

## Appendix 1

Suggested bid for funding to cover extra bat detectors

| <b>Item</b>                            | <b>purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Cost (£)</b> |          | <b>Total cost (3)</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|
| <b>Echometer touch</b>                 | <b>records sonogram of approaching bat for deaf</b><br>( can also be used to record file which can be transferred to computer for sound analysis to identify bat)       | <b>185</b>      | <b>2</b> | <b>270</b>            |
| <b>Amazon Fire 8HD</b>                 | <b>Displays sonogram for user to see</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>90</b>       | <b>2</b> | <b>180</b>            |
| <b>Case</b>                            | <b>Protect tablet from damage</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>30</b>       | <b>2</b> | <b>60</b>             |
| <b>Magenta bat 5</b>                   | <b>Heterodyne detector to enable those who find it difficult to share to detect bats ( eg learning disability, poor vision, impaired reaction time, wheelchair user</b> | <b>100</b>      | <b>5</b> | <b>500</b>            |
| <b>Braille/Tactile bat information</b> | <b>Enable visually impaired to feel bat outline and information NB RNIB quote rounded up to include courier costs</b>                                                   | <b>200</b>      | <b>1</b> | <b>200</b>            |
|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |          | <b>1210</b>           |

## Appendix 2

Participant feedback

Walk was amazing. Very informative and good props to see and touch. I had my own detector. Have been on bat walk before (with a different group) without and felt like I missed out a bit. Felt like a good number of people. Previous Bioblitz walk had 36ish and was good but much more interaction and questions this time.

I really enjoyed the bat walk Brilliant visual aids at the beginning and brought the topic to life I had a bat detector and that really enhanced my understanding and engagement I think the group was about the right size I was given the leaflet 'What bat is that' which is excellent

Thank you for putting this on for us Fascinating

The overall experience was excellent.

I felt the number of people was just about right.

I liked having my own detector but if I was with a partner then sharing would be fine.

We both thoroughly enjoyed the Bat Walk. Having 20 people was fine and I would not have minded sharing a bat detector. I particularly liked seeing Ruth's detector and her knowledge and delivery were excellent.

Many thanks.

I think it went well and it was essential that everyone who wanted one, had a detector. The numbers were about right and I think keeping it to this size is ideal.

I really enjoyed the bat walk & felt I learned a lot. I think sharing a detector could be frustrating as bats move so fast & I found myself very reliant on picking up a sound before quickly trying to spot the "trigger". The group size worked on Saturday but I doubt that a greater number would be viable. Even with 19, I was aware that Ruth had to waste precious time "herding" us & / or checking that nobody was missing - not that easy for a leader in the dark! I particularly appreciated the lack of dogs - just as an added potential trip hazard & feel circumstances would have to be pretty exceptional to alter that rule & if a dog had to be involved, the group number would need to be much smaller. Thanks for organising this - & other recent events!

We really enjoyed the bat walk, thanks for organising it.

I think the number of people was probably the maximum, I think somewhere between 15-20 would be a good number.

I was really impressed with the number of bat detectors available, I hadn't thought we would all get a chance to use them. We did share one, mainly because my eyesight isn't great, so I couldn't see what the display showed, but also I thought it would get my son more interested, gadgets and all that. I could clearly hear the noises being picked up, so I don't feel I missed out.

I thought the bat walk was excellent. I think it was more enjoyable to have my own detector, but sharing would be okay. The number of people felt comfortable, but it might have been easier to stay together as a group with slightly fewer people. I loved the props that Ruth made to show the size and weight of bats, and the information given and the answers to questions really added to the experience. Thank you!



### **Tree Trimming at The Park**

The Rugby club have expressed concerns over the overgrowth of trees causing a distortion to the light emitted by the floodlight. This is posing a potential health & safety risk of reduced visibility during evening practice.

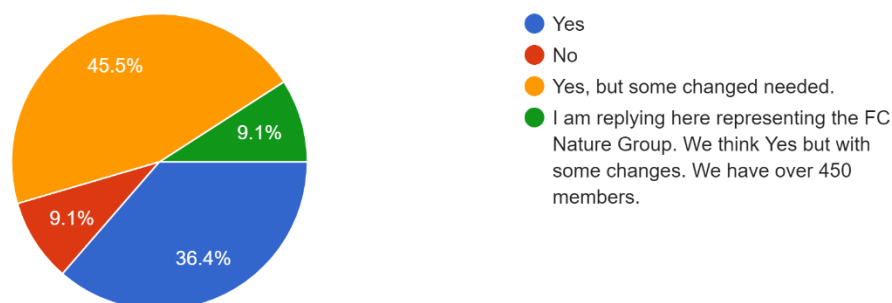
Image below of the overgrowth.



# The Park Consultation results

Were you happy with the proposed actions within the Park Conservation Plan?

11 responses



**Do you feel any changes should be made to the overall proposed conservation plan? If yes, please elaborate below.**

- The maintenance schedule needs to be more specific in line with best practice and to avoid contractors deciding to do things in ways that are not best practice. It is essential that no pesticide or herbicide is used on the site at all, as contamination of the rewilded areas will be inevitable and the use of such chemicals contrary to the aims of ecological improvement. Bats visit the margins of the field so this needs to be considered. Hedgecutting needs to be pruned right down (no pun intended) to every 2 or 3 years and not pruned back too much - especially in height - follow best practice here. the best place for the compost (grass mainly) from the management of the fields is in the location marked near Frampton Court. this margin also has some rough grass areas and scrub which should be left and not cut back unless it encroaches too much onto the pitches. also some small trees along this margin could also be considered .
- Ensure that all dead wood and tree and hedge cuttings are left on site and used to make brush piles and dead-hedges. -Create habitats for reptiles including hibernation sites and a bank of composting grass -Identify more opportunities for planting native trees and shrubs -Include a small pond or water feature in the plan
- Tweak the maintenance schedule to reflect best practice and make what we want crystal clear to the contractors. No herbicide/pesticide or artificial fertilisers to be used on site. The margin alongside Frampton Court from the basketball court to Court Road also has potential to be developed a bit e.g. with the addition of some small trees and keeping the edges rough. The compost bin could go along this edge. Make best use of cuttings and prunings on site rather than disposal, for brush piles and dead hedges. Create reptile habitats including hibernation habitats and a composting grass bank (maybe near the compost bin itself?). Native trees and shrubs - look for opportunities to put these in. A small pond or water feature would add considerably to biodiversity of the site. A marked trail around the perimeter of the fields to record the distance for walkers, habitat and species you may see day and night. Functions as encouraging exercise, education about

habitat and signposting species to look out for. Consider advice for dog owners about keeping dogs under control and the reason for this.

- I do not think a community compost facility is best placed here. It does not mix well with the activities already there. I would like to see a marked trail of posts with distance/habitat/ ;likely wildlife descriptions. This would help people use nature to increase their fitness.
- I see The Park as a recreation area and the definition of recreation is an activity done for enjoyment when not working. It is the one place in the village that has a car park so can be accessible to all. I would therefore like to see a better balance between the needs of the sporting organisations (who seem to hold a lot of power) and the needs of others who prefer to exercise non competitively and enjoy themselves by experiencing plants and nature. The plan gives a good framework for doing this and the zones identified which are safeguarded for non competitive activity could be expanded. I also think that adult Gym/exercise machines would be good- I think they have them in Winterbourne. It would then be possible to use equipment and enjoy green space/fresh air. Finally, I do not think that the use of chemicals is compatible with Conservation and I would not want myself or my family to be walking across or sitting on ground that is contaminated with chemicals or dog faeces.
- There should be provisions made available in the public accessible zones that have pathways for wheelchair accessibility There is no mention in the proposed plans of wheelchair accessible bathrooms/changing spaces with radar key lock. - this is in my opinion of high importance! There needs to be at least 2 of these accessible spaces in my opinion for the size of the area.
- Consideration to properties that border the park. Lack of previous care and maintenance to borders by the parish council has caused damage to property boundaries. I can support this having lived next to the boundary for 20+ years, and of being a life long user of the park and its amenities.
- What happens after the 5 years? Will there be funding to continue or will it all get left as waste land and allowed to overgrow and damage residents properties that have boundaries with the park? Please see my previous response regarding the zones - I realised I hadn't commented on the time and cost of this plan

### Comments on Zone 1

- Very good. Be as generous as possible with the margins rewilded and make sure that the intention to leave some grass/scrub over winter is adhered to. I would say a high cut just once a year in October.
- Possible opportunities for tree planting.
- Possible opportunities for tree planting. rewilded margins - be as generous a possible Over winter leave some scrub/grass uncut - define this clearly for the contractors. great idea.
- I am not in agreement to this zone. Most part of the area identified is used by the rugby club for training of young members (touch rugby) and for warm up of other sports teams. A recent walk around the park I noted property owners in the park cutting back hedging that was not maintained

### Comments on Zone 2

- Good ideas. Leave as wild as possible and maybe add to the copse if possible.
- Opportunities for native tree and shrub planting - manage as small woodland?
- Leave as wild as possible and expand with more trees/shrubs and/or wild margins. Manage as a small woodland.
- As already knee high grass and trees, seems it is already being used. The properties bordering the area may have some input.

### Comments on Zone 3

- I don't think a community compost scheme is feasible or advisable. Leaving this area as a wild margin with the addition of some trees towards the front of the area - rowan, fruit trees etc. I think no to paths winding through as it is best to leave the area undisturbed and it should not be mowed. A small sensory garden near the car park would be a good idea with raised beds. Adding some extra wild flowers is a good idea - in moderation. Also, allowing some bramble patches and scrub is very good for biodiversity. There are bats along all the margins so this sort of area is great for many species.
- Instead of a sensory garden, could zone 3 be a wildlife garden? We really need to encourage gardening for wildlife, and the creation of a model wildlife garden here with signage could help promote that. This could include a variety of habitats such as a small pond, fruit trees, a herb garden, a nectar rich butterfly flower border, mini-meadows, log piles, etc
- Instead of a sensory garden, this area could include a wildlife garden with a variety of habitats, modelling the features with signage to educate e.g. a pond, fruit trees, herbs, mini-meadows and butterfly flower border, log piles. Keep the area bat-friendly as well with brambles and scrub as it is now, Trees no too near the boundary and no winding paths through so that disturbance is minimised. No mowing of most of this area. No to community compost heap.
- This area mentions a sensory garden which I assume means raised beds? If the area is accessible to wheelchairs there needs to be a raised bed somewhere so that users can feel the plants which is part of "sensory"
- Zone 3 - 'Community orchard and sensory garden' Pathways need to be made sure they are fully wheelchair accessible and wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass each other and perhaps some raised planters in this area for those who have mobility issues. Regarding the "Hoggin pathway" in section 3.2.3 - If this pathway is going to be gravel this needs to be as compacted and level as possible as a manual wheelchair would find gravel very difficult to navigate, perhaps a different surface would be more suitable for all mobility aids. i.e. tarmac, resin, paving slabs... Regarding fruit trees providing food for people and wildlife - the fruit needs to be accessible for those that are in wheelchairs/have mobility issues, especially if this is going to be a "Pick your own" fruit thing.
- My main concern would be for the boundaries with neighbouring property knowing the lack of care and maintenance actioned by the Parish Council in the last 20+ years whilst I have lived in the immediate area of the park (and of being a life long resident of the village and user of the park).

- Whilst we are in favour of the proposals for the park on the whole we do have a few reservations. Our property is on School Road & backs on to zone 3. We have a few concerns regarding some of the proposals for this zone. 1) How the compost bin will be managed & what exactly will be going in it & who will control what goes in it? 2) The closeness of the sensory path to the boundary wall of our property? 3) The maintenance of the trees. We have a very large Ash tree outside our property in zone 3. We have lived here 26 years and have never seen any tree maintenance on this tree or any others in the park. It is now very large & casts large shadows even in the summer months.

#### **Comments on Zone 4**

- Good idea but no need for soil stripping - leave the soil where it is please. The hedge behind has been cut back far too severely and should be allowed to grow out along with the brambles which produce excellent blackberries. The other side of the hedge has ditch infill that needs to be carefully removed to avoid flooding of the area in the winter.
- Good idea but no need to strip the soil. Allow the hedge here to grow up and out more. Carefully remove the fill from the ditch the play area side of the hedge to prevent flooding.
- I would like to see the hedge/brambles and ditch restored as well as the proposed wildflowers on the plan. This is an important link between the hedges around the car park and the main area
- Zone 4 - I really love the idea of the crossbow verge in this area to signify the importance of that area. If this area is going to be accessible to the public, wooden/tree stump bench would be nice so that the public can benefit from the area.
- Already a natural 'bank' of grass and greenery. The cricket club are the main culprit for discarding their grass cuttings in this area, but if dealt with properly would not be such an eye-sore.

#### **Comments on zone 5**

- Yes looks fine. No mowing is important as well along with no herbicides or chemical treatments used in the park as these are toxic and can cause health problems, especially in children. We need to apply for a change of footpath route around the play area. The zone can be widened quite easily.
- It would be good to work with the school on plans for this area. Not sure about the proposed hedgerow mix - Hawthorn usually recommended as basis for native hedge.
- No mowing or use of herbicides/pesticides in the park is essential. The zone can easily be widened. We could involve the school in the work on this section. Hawthorn as a the basis for the native mix hedge.
- Zone 5 - The children's play area should include equipment for children with special needs/mobility needs and wheelchair access for parents who ARE wheelchair users themselves as well as children who use mobility equipment.
- Part of this section - bordering the school fence would be up to them to state. The part behind the properties I would totally object to, again for having experience of the lack of maintenance supplied by the parish council, although they state they do. Having lived in the area for 20+ years I have not seen any maintenance or care of the hedges / borders, and only when damage caused to bordering properties did the parish council (reluctantly) take action



### Comments on zone 6

- Leaving the grass and adding some wildflowers - good idea and also not mowing the area or using herbicides as this zone is especially rich in bats. One high cut per year in October of some of the meadow would be sufficient and leaving some islands of grass over the winter. Some sections of hedge should also be planted over several years with spaces between. The existing hedge also needs to be cut in line with best practice as discussed above.
- Leaving the grass and adding wildflowers is a good idea. Not mowing and keeping free of pesticides/herbicides also important for biodiversity and this stretch has lots of bats frequenting it. Some sections of freestanding hedge could be added and leaving islands of grass over winter. Manage the hedge behind very sensitively in line with best practice.
- Please please please can we have a compost bin in this zone? We get loads of leaves in the lane of park row. We cleared them this week & filled 7 green bins just with leaves! It would be great if there was a compost bin nearby that we could put them in to make leaf mulch
- This is the only area that I give my full approval to. The zone borders ark Row, so would not interfere with properties and is not an area used by any sport team or walkers

### Comments on Zone 7

- This can be extended up to the edge of zone 4. It should be left to grow and managed as zone 6 and some extra hedging introduced. This is already a good scrubby margin and should be left as such but cut back in the autumn if it is encroaching onto the path or pitches. No herbicides or pesticides to be used on pitches as the spray will reach these margins and also the chemicals are transported through the soil.
- Could be extended up to zone 4. Leave a rough edge here and manage as for zone 6. Just cut it back a bit in the autumn if it is encroaching on the pitches.
- The public footpath with ditch are adjacent to the boundary with frampton court. I do not think we need a path alongside the tennis courts and more of this could have different layers of grass
- Zone 7 - Pathway should be widened for wheelchair access if this area is to be open to the public.
- As long as the Parish Council do maintain the area, and it won't affect the use of the tennis court and its users

### Email consultation comments

#### **COMMENT 1**

Zone 1      The proposed area for biodiversity adjacent to the carpark and the area bordering Court Road encroaches on the area used by the sports clubs. The area requires redefining.

Zone 2&3    The impact on neighbouring properties needs to be taken into consideration. Planting of trees and hedgerows can have a negative impact on residential properties such as leaf litter encroaching into gardens and contaminating guttering and drains. Ivy and bramble can invade gardens. Light and water can be deprived impacting gardens and

properties. This can impose additional maintenance costs and impact quality of life for neighbours.

How are the council going to ensure there is a budget to maintain these areas in perpetuity? Where is the money coming from?

Zone 4 Who pays for the “Green Bin”? The cricket club? Access to empty it needs to be considered. Can grass cuttings be spread in the biodiverse areas?

Zone 5 Planting of trees and hedgerows can have a negative impact on residential properties such as leaf litter encroaching into gardens and contaminating guttering and drains. Ivy and bramble can invade gardens. Light and water can be deprived impacting gardens and properties. This can impose additional maintenance costs and impact quality of life for neighbours.

The impact on neighbouring properties needs to be taken into consideration. I strongly recommend trees and hedges are not planted adjacent to residential properties in the north east corner of the Park. This would starve existing well-established hedges of light and water which are a wild life haven. There is a history of rambling species, such as ivy and bramble, invading residential gardens in the north east corner.

How are the council going to ensure there is a budget to maintain these areas in perpetuity? Where is the money coming from?

## **COMMENT 2**

Dear Daisy, a few weeks ago you kindly took us around The Park one evening to explain to us 'who have gardens backing on to this space', what you are proposing. Thank you for going to all this trouble.

(in zone 1) I wonder what space will be left between the hedges and the proposed Wild Flower plantings. Also, although we, and other neighbours, have always kept the hedges trimmed, we have assumed it is really the responsibility of the Parish Council, being a farmer's cattle proof fence originally? If you have any information regarding this we would be pleased to hear. If the hedges are not kept trimmed, the blackberries soon take over and start rooting across the field. I can also see the ivy laden elder flower tree in our hedge being blow down into the field because it is leaning that way and we would like to know who will be responsible for removing it.

Personally, having watched the Orchard down by the river Frome having its branches broken and fruit picked before its ripe, I'm not sure they are a good idea, similarly a Sensory Garden, as no one seems responsible for continued maintenance ,of 'those sort of things' , on a permanent basis.

## **COMMENT 3**

Hedging near the dry stone wall under the floodlights will unlikely survive due to the ground quality. Wildflowers may be a better option.

The plan should include adding a new fence in the car park where the exiting beech hedge is dying.

## **COMMENT 4**

Also whilst you are having a walk over of the park it maybe worth looking at the over hanging trees on Park Row (...) and over grown hedge which was cut early and layered for ease with a reassurance they would return for trimming during summer.

## **COMMENT 5**

A fire break should be considered around the perimeter of the park.

**Title:** The Park maintenance schedule

**Author:** Julian Selman

**Status of the report:** For immediate and urgent action

### **1. Outline/Proposed motion.**

We revise the maintenance schedule of The Park in line with the best possible outcomes for biodiversity and climate change.

### **2. Detail.**

The current ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT Specification is not fit for purpose and does not comply with our objectives to improve the ecology the park. Therefore we need to revise it for the short-term to avoid a repeat of the hedge-cutting and complete removal of all marginal plants that occurred in July. We also need to revise it for the long-term to align with the ecological enhancements that we are planning to make. All this is urgent and should be high priority.

### **3. Recommendations.**

We make changes to the existing maintenance contract and make sure that the contractors have a detailed understanding of their responsibilities. If they decide to change the specification when they do work at the park then we should look for new contractors. We need to get the public consultation running ASAP about the ecological plan for The Park and construct a revised maintenance contract for the long-term as soon as we can.

### **4. Environmental/financial /legal implications for the council.**

Apart for the finding for the ecological improvements which is a separate issue, we need to make sure that the contractors we use have a full understanding of what we want and why our specification is as it is. Otherwise any ecological gains will be easily wiped out. Costs should remain the same or even be reduced by a change of approach. We need to consider changing contractors if they are not willing to abide by our schedule.



## Tree/Hedge planting scheme

NOTE tree whips and hedging whips can be obtained through free tree planting schemes (woodland trust, TVC). Mature trees would require purchase at a cost starting from £40 up to £300 depending on size and species. Grants could be sought to fund this. Utilities checks will be required for each site (excluding Cent Field) prior to planting at a **cost of £140.70 + VAT per site.**

### Ridings Road

New play strategy being implemented so recommendation need approval from PARCS committee.

Hedging could act as a natural barrier, making ball games safer near the road. Dual functionality for nature.

Approx 5 mature trees or 20 whips.

Hedge plants to fill perimeter.



## Beesmoor Road

Any recommendations would need to be made to the Beesmoor Playing Field Committee for approval.

Approx 20 mature trees or 80 whips.



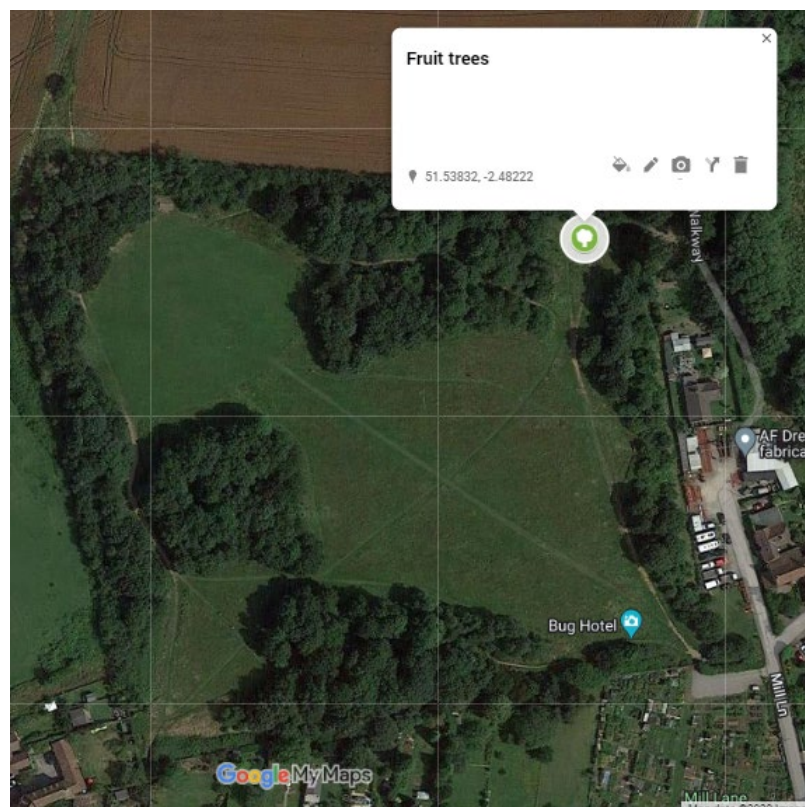
## Centenary Field

Over 300 trees were planted in 2021/22.

The community orchard at the Centenary field could be expanded with 4 more fruit trees in the centre of the existing orchard.

We have £500 reserved to purchase fruit trees for the Centenary Field (minute CN/2021/18iii), which could go towards fruit trees in this location.

A mix of dead hedging and living hedge is also being considered for around the proposed pond site.





## The Park

The draft conservation plan for The Park includes tree, shrub and hedge planting. This planting is subject to approval of the final draft plan.

Hedging to be applied for from the Woodland Trust or TCV. Fruit trees shall require purchasing and should be of local original.

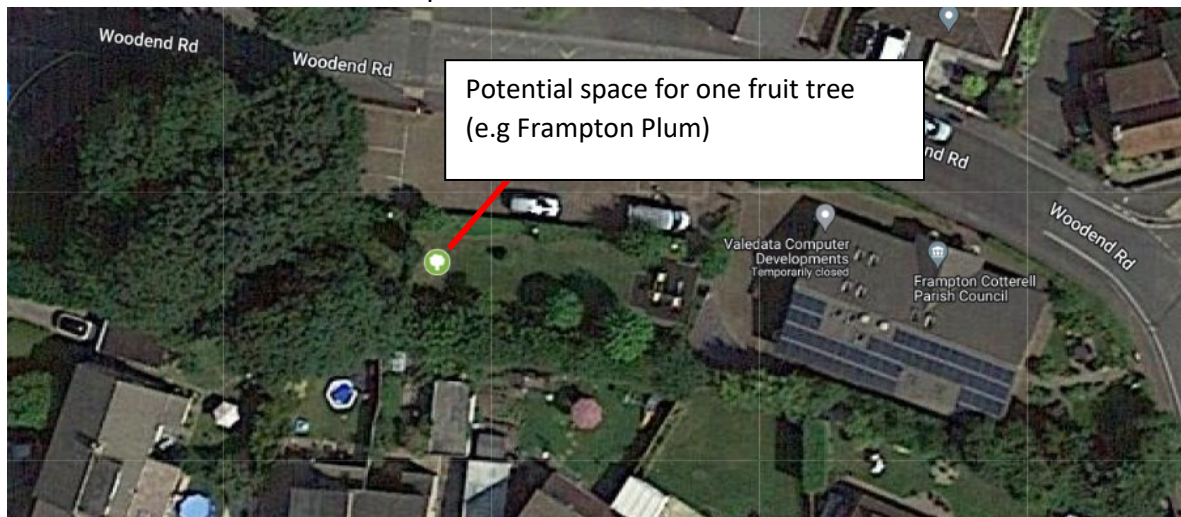
Approx 10 tree whips could be planted amongst the fruit tree area to increase diversity.

A crab apple tree should be purchased and planted near the fruit trees to promote pollination of new fruit tree plantings.



## Brockeridge Centre

Lack of space for additional trees. Potential for one additional fruit tree outside of the play area zone. Consider native Frampton Plum.



### **The Piggeries**

Little opportunity for tree planting due to existing trees and dogwood dominance.

Management plan for dogwood to be established for 2023. If planting trees, clearance of some dogwood will need to be arranged.



### **South Glos Council Owned Land**

It is recommended that South Glos Council is approached to seek permission to plant trees on their land within the parish.

### **Private Farmland**

Frampton End Farmer open to small tree planting areas near the river. Number of trees to be discussed. Other local farmers and landowners to be contacted.

**Title:** The use of pesticides and artificial fertilisers on council land

**Author:** Julian Selman

**Status of the report:** For action / For recommendation and policy change

### **1. Outline/Proposed motion.**

The Parish Council will not use pesticides, herbicides, and artificial fertilisers on land that it owns and manages, and policy will be altered to reflect this. If there is a problem with an invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed then professional advice will be sought and solutions discussed by the climate and nature committee to determine what is done (which may as a last resort include the use of herbicides).

### **2. Detail.**

We need stop using chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides on council owned land in the Parish. The soil is the basis of our ecosystems and within it are billions of microbes and micro-organisms that sustain a healthy network of life. Once we degrade the soil and destroy these organisms through the use of chemical treatments, biodiversity suffers as a result and so, ultimately, do we. Once the diversity of species declines within and around the area given chemical treatments, there is be a reduction of plant and animal species, including insects, birds and bats. Because an application of pesticide or herbicide stays in the ground for a long time, it can also migrate to areas outside of the treated area through the movement of water within soil and also end up in watercourses where it does a lot of damage. The impact of these chemicals on humans and our pets is also significant. Residues that get on skin or paws can be absorbed into the body and there is growing evidence that chemicals such as glyphosate are carcinogenic. Since we are trying to take climate change and biodiversity decline seriously and SGC have declared a CC/N emergency, it would be inappropriate and inconsistent if we allowed the use of any of these chemicals on our land. If there is a problem with an invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed then professional advice will be sought and solutions discussed by the climate and nature committee to determine what is done (which may as a last resort include the use of herbicides).

### **3. Recommendations.**

We change our policies to remove all discretionary use of pesticides/herbicides and artificial fertilisers and make it our official policy to not use pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilisers on land that we own.

### **4. Environmental/financial /legal implications for the council.**

There is a huge environmental gain to be achieved for us and we could avoid any claims against us for using dangerous substances in areas used by the public.

**Title:** Perrinpit Solar Farm

**Author:** Julian Selman

**Status of the report:** For action and discussion

### **1. Outline/Proposed motion.**

In the event of the Perrinpit Solar Farm being approved the climate and nature committee will monitor the Perrinpit Solar Farm in its construction and operational phases and raise any issues of concern with the solar company, Perrinpit Farm and SGC.

### **2. Detail.**

As the solar farm application has gone to appeal and is likely to be approved, we have to recognise that this huge industrial complex will cover a considerable area of The Parish (up to 90ha or so). If it is to be a feature in our area for the foreseeable future it is important to hold the company to account for what they say they intend to do, to monitor the impact of the solar farm on biodiversity and habitats, to highlight any problems or concerns, to report any positive effects of the development and to check the management of the farm against the stated specifications.

### **3. Recommendations.**

We will nominate one or 2 people to regularly visit the solar farm and report back to the committee. We will raise any issues of concern with the solar company, Perrinpit Farm and SGC, and if necessary, inform full council with recommendations for further action.

### **4. Environmental/financial /legal implications for the council.**

It is important to monitor the effects of developments in the area on climate change and nature, especially when land changes use and there could be significant impacts from that land use.

#### **NB Comments from Cllr Clark comments regarding the Perrinpit Solar Farm:**

The preliminary Landscape and Ecological Management Report (LEMP) addresses monitoring on page 28 - "Monitoring is required in order to assess the efficacy of the management set out above. A review of all habitats and landscape features at the site will be undertaken by a suitably qualified Ecologist and Landscape Architect in summer of years 2 and 5 following commencement of management and thereafter every 5 years. This will allow a review of the soft landscape elements against the intended outcomes and an

informed assessment of the quality of maintenance operatives services on site. [...] A report detailing the survey findings shall be submitted to the LPA to include an assessment of the condition of each habitat, positive and negative trends and recommendations for amendments to the LEMP where considered appropriate".

At the planning committee we managed to get an informative added that means these monitoring reports on the ecological mitigations and enhancements will be sent to Frampton Cotterell Parish Council. As a parish council we can feed any comments or concerns in to South Gloucestershire Council. Whilst there is no guarantee with any of the proposed enhancements and mitigations these reports mean the finalised LEMP will be more of a living document as, over the 40 year lifespan of the site, any failures or underperformance can be addressed.

Most of the 99 new trees (27 in the two orchards and 72 elsewhere) are to be planted outside of the green corridors with many being along Perrinpit Road itself. From brief discussions [...] pesticides won't be heavily used as sheep will be grazing underneath the panels; in areas where they need to introduce fresh planting pesticides would be used to ensure the planting takes hold before being tapered off.

I fail to see why any trees would need to be removed as the permissive bridleway would follow the path of the current footpath, until diverging at the eastern end, with suitable gates for walkers and horse riders replacing current stiles and gates where it is too narrow. The small amount of hedgerow removed to facilitate this would be more than compensated by the additional hedgerow being planted (in light green on the map). If I remember rightly the buffer/gap between the different fields of panels is approx 12 metres so there would be ample room for the security fencing, the additional hedgerows and the permitted bridleway. Whilst there is the potential for conflict between walkers and horse riders if there are pinch points this is arguably manageable and a lot safer than requiring horse riders to use Perrinpit Road between the existing bridleways in the area. These won't be hard paths so I don't envisage there being a high demand from cyclists to use this route particularly in the winter when drainage could potentially be poor after heavy rain (hopefully this will be less of an issue after SGC's drainage work in the area). I would envisage most cyclists will stick to the national cycle network and adopted highways.

I recognise that the planning process can be highly frustrating for residents. There was no evidence that the applicants had not followed government guidelines for calculating Biodiversity Net Gain. As the SGC ecology officer presented no objections to the application there was insufficient evidence to justify refusing the application on ecological grounds. Planning applications should only be refused when they conflict with planning policies and when identified harms cannot be addressed through attaching reasonable planning conditions. If the committee had either refused it, or approved it with unreasonable conditions, it could be overturned at a planning appeal and the council could potentially have to pay costs if the inspector felt SGC had cost the appellant money through its unreasonable action.

**Title:** Perrinpit Road drainage

**Author:** Julian Selman

**Status of the report:** For action and discussion

### **1. Outline/Proposed motion.**

That where possible we work with local landowners, Stormwater Shepherds ([Environmental Not-for-profit Organisation - Stormwater Shepherds](#)) , BART and Frome Reconnected, to reduce the amount of contaminated water feeding into our water courses, including the River Frome.

### **2. Detail.**

Having discussed the Perrinpit drainage works on site with Daniel from SGC, it is clear that we have a huge problem with the current system of using natural water courses to channel away our contaminated water, which is why our rivers are so polluted and it also adds to sea pollution. There are solutions (see the Stormwater Shepherds site) but SGC do not routinely use those methods and no ecological assessment is done before works are carried out (using the old established system). Daniel thinks this will change eventually but until then it is up to us to monitor what is happening and try to influence local landowners to make improvements. Examples of mitigations would be reedbeds, reducing/eliminating the amount of artificial fertiliser, herbicide used on farmland and also putting in more ponds to absorb the runoff from fields and roads. Tons of plastics from car tyres are washed into water courses along with toxic materials from fly tipping and plastic waste thrown from cars. So if we do nothing it is unlikely that our rivers will improve in water quality that much. The Grange Hotel is one place that has a water course going through it from Perrinpit Road and it would be good publicity for them to introduce a reed bed and have a mini-reserve on site.

### **3. Recommendations.**

We will approach landowners to see if they are aware of the problem of contaminated water in ditches and water courses and see if they are amenable to taking some action to reduce or prevent this from happening. We will contact Frome Reconnected and BART to seek advice, support and assistance.

### **4. Environmental/financial /legal implications for the council.**

There could be major improvements in water quality in our rivers and streams if this approach is adopted throughout S Glos