



Pond Task & Finish Group Meeting

29th June 2022 (Zoom)

1. Historical investigations/Feasibility

Councillor J Selman raised concerns over the proposed location of the pond from the feasibility report. Centenary Field may not be self-sustaining, particularly without a liner.

Cllr L Williams raised that concerns over drainage in the area needs to be addressed before marking out the area of pond to obtain a sense of the size of the pond. The size of the pond needs to be confirmed.

A member of the public raised whether the stream under Church Road could be used to fill the pond. Need to find where it feeds back into the Frome.

D. Hanks raised that it is normal for ponds to see droughts in summer and can act as successional habitat throughout the year, therefore rainwater could sustain the pond.

ACTION: to investigate the stream under Church Road and where it feeds back into the Frome. To assess the suitability of this water source to fill the pond.

2. Users of the Field

Cllr Selman raised that the proposed location of the pond would not disrupt Frampton Festival vehicles, but the parish council may want to consider additional fencing around the pond if the festival takes place at Centenary Field.

Cllr Selman added concerns regarding dogs and flea treatments that could contaminate the water. Therefore, the pond should be secure and fenced to protect it. Further concerns regarding viability throughout the year due to drainage.

Cllr Goodwin raised that the barrier in the plan would not stop dogs, and a 360-degree barrier would be required.

Cllr Williams shared that the pond should go ahead but communications with the public would be required.

D. Hanks raised that public should have some access, e.g. with a gate to allow engagement with the pond. Cllr Goodwin and Cllr Selman were concerned with providing access to all due to dogs. A removal section for maintenance could be created.

Cllr P Hockey raised that a notice could be put near the pond requesting dog owners use the river instead to cool off their dogs.

Cllr Selman suggested facilitating guided visits with schools to the pond.

Cllr Goodwin suggested raised boards/bridges to give viewing platform to the pond and make it accessible without disruption to the water and species within the pond.

Cllr Bolton shared an example of a community garden with several ponds and regular dogs visiting. The ponds had wooden fences around and walk ways that went into the middle of the pond. No incidents were reported of people climbing over or letting the dogs into the pond. This allowed the ponds to be undisturbed whilst allowing members of the public to enjoy them.

Cllr Bolton continued that clear signage and education will be key in the installation of the pond.

ACTION: to continue to invite the Frampton Festival to pond meetings and discuss any concerns with Festival organisers.

3. SWOT analysis

Volunteer created SWOT analysis for Centenary Field Pond.

Cllr L Williams raised that the Heather Avenue Pond is not responsibility of the Parish Council and is not maintained, however the Centenary Field Pond would be maintained by the Parish Council, such as with volunteers.

Cllr Goodwin praised the SWOT analysis as it highlights the groups concerns clearly.

4. Pond Project Plan

D Hanks raised that it would be worth considering multiple locations for the pond and consult the public.

A member of the public added that the field adjacent to the Centenary Field is very wet and would make sense to consider locations closer to adjoining fields.

Cllr P Hockey added that consultation would be required before installing the pond, online, in Frome Valley Voice and noticeboards. The pond should not just appear out of nowhere. Consultation should include findings from this meeting.

Cllr Selman recommended a consultation in early autumn.

A member of the public attended an Avon Wildlife Trust My Wild City Conference and is awaiting a response from the trust regarding pond creation and empowering parish councils.

ACTION: to start investigations to install the pond in Winter 2023 and install a dead hedge in late autumn/early winter 2022.

ACTION: Cllr D Goodwin to create a pond plan with actions. Plan to include site visit and consultation plans.

5. Involvement of schools

D.Hanks is working with the local schools on nature projects and suggested schools would have little scope in designing a pond due to limitations on what can be done for design. If access is restricted to the pond this could spoil the educational benefits of the pond, and access needs to be carefully considered.

6. Estimated costs

Cllr Goodwin shared that the pond costs were not clear yet, but grants may be available.

ACTION: to look for grants to fund the pond, e.g. South Glos Council.

7. Volunteer base

Frampton Cotterell Nature Group would be able to help maintain the pond as part of the monthly conservation activities.

D.Hanks suggested dead hedging over late autumn and winter and creating the pond in February.

D.Hanks suggested a digger would be required for a larger pond. Dead hedge materials can be obtained from work at Centenary Field or from South Glos Council. Christmas trees could also be used for dead hedging.