



Local Environment Action Frampton (LEAF) Working Group Online Meeting Notes, 5th July 2023

Councillors present: Cllr Lankester (Chair to LEAF), Cllr Goodwin, Cllr Bolton

Volunteers present: 3

Officers present: Daisy Finniear (Climate & Nature Officer, note taker).

1. ELECTION OF GROUP CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Cllr Alan Lankester was nominated to be Chair of the LEAF working group.

2. Q & A WITH RIPPLE ENERGY

Ripple not available to attend and shall be invited to a future meeting. Cllr Goodwin summaries the Ripple Energy investment process. The Council could invest a set amount of money with Ripple Energy to join a wind farm cooperative. A Q&A shall be held at a future meeting to address concerns and questions.

3. PUBLIC CONCERNS/IDEAS

The Frampton Festival

The Frampton Festival was raised and plans for it to continue in 2024. It was suggested that the Council should aim to reach an agreement with the festival about how the site is managed during the event and for nature to be considered. It was raised that the Council should address key questions to work with the festival on, including use of fireworks, the beacon, vehicles, protecting long grass zones/the pond, noise pollution and food sources (e.g. food vans and sustainability of produce offered).

Cllr Lankester responded that fireworks cause problems for local livestock, horses, dogs and wildlife in the immediate vicinity. Dry grass could also pose a fire risk. It was suggested that a survey is undertaken to obtain residents views on the use of fireworks. A phenomenal number of butterflies have been recorded on the meadows at Centenary and an early July cut could impact this.

Cllr Bolton agreed that fireworks should not be encouraged due to the impact on the environment and the council must consider its stance on the promotion of their use.

Cllr Goodwin added that the committee had made previous commitments and comprises with the Frampton Festival Team and developed a management plan for the Centenary Field based on these discussions. It is important to understand that the biodiversity of the fields have developed since these discussions were first held, but the committee must also recognise previous resolutions regarding the management of the site and the festival.

Land Management

It was raised by two volunteers that recent land management by South Glos Council was not beneficial to nature, including strimming under hedges at Blackberry Park, clearing the verges at Mill Lane.

Bin Strikes

A volunteer raised that the current recycling collection strike may have an impact on nature such as hedgehogs being trapped in plastic waste, tins, crisp packets. And general litter.

Action: To work with the Communications Officer to raise awareness of wildlife during recycling strikes e.g hedgehogs stuck in crisp packets and tins. Request online and on social media that residents check recycling and to make use of garden waste, such as creating log and branch piles.

Recommendation: for the Climate and Nature Committee to discuss the Frampton Festival's use of the Centenary Field, to develop key concerns and recommended outcomes for approval by Full Council.

4. BIOBLITZ REVIEW

The group provided feedback on the 2023 BioBlitz, including the following:

- Stalls should not be held at Centenary Field on the day.
- Either have stalls at a different event or at Brockridge Centre.
- Require more advertisement and earlier. Include banners outside Church/pub in advance of the event.
- Publicise accessibility/lack of accessibility of walks in advance.
- To hold guided nature walks with iNaturalist support only on the day of the BioBlitz.
- To sprea
- Reduce manual handling undertaken by Nature Officer (solved by no stalls).
- Engage more people in advance. Would like a bigger turn out.
- May need more activities that are not solely nature related in order to reach a wider audience. E.g. music, more crafts.
- Timing of city nature challenge weekend difficult as it's a bank holiday. Could have a few nature walks on city nature challenge weekend, but save other BioBlitz walks for other times of year such as Butterfly Walk in June/July when there are more butterflies around.
- No sweet stall – had plastic items on.
- More volunteers required.

Recommendation: Climate and Nature committee agree to take part in the City Nature Challenge in 2024, running guided nature walks with Frampton Cotterell Nature. To not have stalls at Centenary Field and to stagger some of the walks across the year (e.g. Butterfly Walk in summer instead).

5. CENTENARY FIELD POND

Cllr Lankester summarised their research on clay liners finding that bentonite is mined in the US and China, therefore would not be the greenest option in terms of carbon footprint. Could try puddling clay and recycle as much of the clay we have on site. Bentonite is effective but need to assess environmental impact of its use. Should try puddling clay first either from the site or purchased locally and undertake a puddling clay session with volunteers. Try and complete the pond from within our own resources.

The issue of not having heavy machinery to smash puddling clay down was raised by a volunteer. Small ponds around the edges should have mix of liners to try as agreed at a previous meeting.

Action: group members to send Nature Officer any research, concerns or ideas regarding pond liners before the next Climate & Nature Committee meeting.

Recommendation: for Climate & Nature Committee to decide on whether to use bentonite clay or puddling clay.

6. SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL LAND MANAGEMENT

It was discussed that the Mill Lane verges were cut harshly by South Glos Council after a complaint that they were messy. It was felt that this was not necessary and detrimental to nature.

The Glebeland should not be mowed so regularly and a wider wildflower margin should be created. Mowing equipment has recently caused damage to the orchard tree.

Recommendation: that Full Council agree to write a letter to South Glos Street Care/Maintenance team regarding the changing the management of Glebeland, Mill Lane and Park Farm (Blackberry Park) to more nature friendly methods.

7. CLIMATE AND NATURE POLICY AND EMERGENCY DECLARATION

It was raised that the group could use other Council's declarations and policies for inspiration as lots of other councils already declared.

A document was previously created to begin the declaration process and should be used as a basis.

Cllr Goodwin raised that the council should have a clear plan in place and what it means to the council to declare a climate and nature emergency. Need to agree what the council is going to do, e.g. net zero, scope 1 and scope 2 emissions.

Action: group members to send Nature Officer items for the climate and nature policy and declaration wording.

Recommendation: With support and input from the group members/councillors, Nature Officer to draft a climate and nature policy and declaration and present the draft to the climate and nature committee to review. To recommend to Full Council support the declaration.

8. LEAF LITTER

Nature Officer summaries that a complaint was received from resident adjacent to the Park that the Parish Council trees caused leaf litter to accumulate in their garden. To consider providing resident with hessian/jute bags for the leaves and to collect for mulch, leaf piles and the Brockeridge pallet compost bins. To recommend climate and nature committee allocate up to [£50 for jute sacks](#).

It was raised that the importance of the trees for bats and the new conservation plan should be discussed with the resident.

Cllr Goodwin raised the concern of setting a precedent as other houses may want to have bags supplied and the council provide a leaf collection service for all houses affected by leaf litter.

Recommendation: That Full Council to agree to purchase jute bags up to a value £50 from EMR 332 to collect leaf litter caused by the Parish Council's tree from one residents garden adjacent to the Park (resident to bag litter, council staff to collect for mulch and composting).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TBC