

**WILDFLOWER PLANTING**  
Report to Parish Council Meeting  
2 August 2021



**BACKGROUND**

In January 2021 the Parish Council agreed to set up a Working Group to consider the possibility of wildflower planting around the parish. An advertisement was placed in the Parish Magazine for volunteers to help with the planting, and a number of areas were planted with spring plugs. Unfortunately, some of these may have been lost due to the extremely dry weather we have experienced since planting.

In order to extend wildflower planting to other areas of the parish, a schedule of possible locations was drawn up and permission to plant obtained from land owners, mainly Worcestershire County Council and Community Housing. An application was made to Worcestershire County Council for funding from Natural Networks, a European Regional Development Fund. Our initial application was approved and they carried out a Biodiversity Enhancement Assessment of the chosen sites in April 2021. This report has previously been circulated to Councillors.

**COSTINGS**

A full costing exercise has taken place and an agreed planting schedule prepared, a copy of which is attached. The total cost of the project is estimated at £3,280. It is hoped that up to 45% of this cost could be covered by the grant from Natural Networks. We have also received a £500 donation from a resident for the trees on Briar Hill.

Costs include plants, trees and ancillary equipment, including grass cutting and land preparation. Actual planting will be undertaken by a team of volunteers.

**COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

This land is owned by Worcester Diocese and leased to the Parish Council as allotments. It has been suggested that the area at the back of Hemming Way should be planted with wildflowers, but for historical reasons this has not been included in the application to Natural Networks. The cost for this work would need to be paid for by the Parish Council and is estimated to be in the region of £500.00.

**ONGOING MAINTENANCE**

Under Natural Networks sponsorship on-going maintenance and update reports will be required with possibly subsequent planting in future years. It is suggested that the existing Working Group, consisting of some parish councillors and local residents, should undertake this work.

**PLANTING**

It is proposed that in addition to the Volunteers we also involve Chaddesley School in the planting work. It is anticipated that planting will take place in the Autumn of 2021.

We will also ask the School to prepare a time capsule to go under the trees in Briar Hill – which will be planted to commemorate the fundraising work of Captain Tom. A date for this will need to be agreed so that the Community can also attend the commemoration.

It is requested that Councillors agree to these proposals and to meet all costs not covered by the grant.

Cllr Sue Smith