

MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP MEETING
Held on Wednesday 18 August 2021
At 3:00 pm



Attending: Chairman, Cllr D Thomas, W Mack, Mrs D Dolley, Mrs Y Scriven
Steve Bloomfield – Wildlife Trust

1. **Wildlife Corridors**

Steve Broomfield, Conservation Officer, of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust joined the meeting to brief the Steering Group on Wildlife Corridors and their possible inclusion in our Neighbourhood Plan. WFDC Local Plan which is currently under review by the Inspector will include a Green Infrastructure Plan which would cover our Parish. This would include information available from Worcestershire County Council Biological Records, which had already been supplied to us. These records are constantly being updated and residents are encouraged to notify the County Council of any new information they become aware of.

A plan of existing biological records was studied in detail and it was noted that 3 wildlife corridors already existed with many other scattered assets which could be linked by green corridors. New planning legislation would require developments to achieve net ecological gain which could be focused on these green corridors.

There were a number of useful documents which would assist in preparing a Policy for the Neighbourhood Plan and Steve Broomfield undertook to send a link to those documents. SB stressed that District and County Councils had extensive information on this and the Parish Council did not need to repeat this work. However, they did have a lot of local knowledge which could be added to the existing plans.

Reference was made to our existing project to plant trees and wildflowers in local grass verges and spaces and for which a grant application had been submitted to Natural Networks. This work would take place in the Autumn of 2021. The type of trees suitable for planting around the parish was discussed, as well as bee lines and hedgerows.

It was agreed that we did need to cover this in the NP and that DD would suggest possible members of a working group. DD/DT would work on Terms of Reference and a Scope of Works for this group.

2. **NFU – Greenspaces**

On behalf of Mr C Rowberry, the NFU had raised a number of points regarding the draft Green Spaces policy. It was agreed to respond saying that the consultation for our draft NP would probably take place in early Spring 2022 when everyone would be invited to engage in that process.

In the meantime, comments made would be retained and reviewed prior to issuing the draft NP for consultation.

3. **Viability Assessment – AECOM**

Since their initial email we had not had any further information and AECOM were being chased by Locality and ourselves.

4. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 20 September at 3:00 pm.