

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Assets Committee, 7th October 2024
Agenda item: AS24/020
Report subject: Habitat and Species Restoration 10 Year Management Plan for Ivybridge Town Council's Parks and Open Spaces
Report author: Julie Gilbert, Assistant Town Clerk

PROPOSAL:

To consider proposals for creation of a 10-year management plan for habitat and species restoration of town council sites to include an outline work schedule, and for the delivery of the plan involving volunteers

Background

In November 2022 the Town Council engaged with Devon Wildlife Trust Consultants to produce a habitat management plan, however the Town Council does not have the expertise to implement this plan.

Officers have approached an environmental consultant and presented them with the plan, however the consultant felt that the plan was very basic and for a plan to be implemented the consultant would need to create a more detailed plan of their own.

As part of the discussions they confirmed that they would survey and record data for all sites, assess biodiversity habits and species observed, prepare a 10-year management plan for the habitat and species restoration outlining general condition and management recommendations with vision and objectives for the sites. As part of the discussion it was also proposed that a design be included for the Nature Garden in Victoria Park.

The consultant could provide additional support to help deliver the plan and this would involve our parks officers and volunteering groups.

If members wish to proceed with the creation of a new management plan with a view to delivering the plan through teaching volunteers, quotations will be obtained and brought back to the next meeting.

The parks officers are keen to work with volunteers, and other potential volunteering events are planned for the planting of the hedge in the cemetery in the new area for the soil pile, and clearing the large amount of weed growth on the boundary bank which was recently cleared. A planting plan will need to be developed in order to control the bindweed.

Resources/implications

Financial

Funds for this work to come from Climate Initiative budget and reserve.

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Staffing

Staffing will involve the Assistant Town Clerk liaising with the environmental consultant, and the two Parks Officers to work alongside the environmental consultant and volunteering groups to help deliver the plan once completed.