**KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr Martin Brocklehurst

Clerk: Mrs Arin Spencer ▪ Tel: 07484 619582

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Website: [www.kempleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.kempleyparishcouncil.org)

19 July 2021

Councillors are hereby summoned to attend an ordinary meeting of **KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL** to be held on **Tuesday 27th July 2021** at **7:30pm** in Kempley Village Hall for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.

Arin Spencer

Parish Clerk

**AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive any declarations of interests and consider written requests for dispensations.

*Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Kempley Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.*

1. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 May 2021.
2. Clerk’s Report including update on actions log.
3. To receive reports from District and/or County Councillors
4. Public Participation

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included on the agenda. A total time of 15 minutes is allocated with individual representations limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Standing Order 3(e)-(k). Alternatively, questions/comments can be sent to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org) who will ensure these are considered at the meeting.

**Planning**

1. To respond to planning applications:
   1. Friar’s Court, Kempley, GL18 2AT (P1139/21/FUL)

Erection of agricultural canopy for livestock.

* 1. Stonehouse Farm, Kempley ([P1254/21/FUL](https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QVVMA1HIKLY00))

Installation of ground source heat pump for space heating of poultry unit, to include pump housing and associated work.

1. To note planning decisions.

**Highways / PROW**

1. To note and accept progress report on Highways matters including public rights of way. (Attachment 1)
2. To discuss correspondence received from Gloucestershire Highways regarding the condition of the road surface in Kempley. (Attachment 2)
3. To consider applying for funding through the Highways Local Initiative and agree a suitable project.

**Kempley Village Hall Trust**

1. To authorise the purchase of a wall clock and brass plaque for Kempley Village Hall at a total cost of £54.00.
2. To consider donating a sum of £1,500 to Kempley Village Hall Trust for the purchase of a dual section noticeboard to replace the noticeboard outside Kempley Village Hall. One of the sections to be reserved for use by Kempley Parish Council.
3. To consider allocating £500 in the 2022/23 budget towards an event on the village green to mark the Queen’s Jubilee in June 2022. Event to be co-ordinated with the Kempley Village Hall Committee.

**Climate Emergency**

1. To note and accept reports on Climate Change Programme of Work. (Attachment 3)
2. To discuss draft biodiversity strategy. (Attachment 4)

**Parish Meeting**

1. To receive a progress report on arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Annual Internal Audit 2020/21**

1. To receive the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2020/21 and note the recommendations contained therein.

**Financial Matters**

1. To receive the following financial reports as at 30/06/2021:

* Bank Statement
* Bank Reconciliation
* Receipts and Payments Summary
* Reserves Statement

1. To consider subscribing to Scribe accounting software for Parish and Town Councils with effect from 1 June 2021 at a cost of £180 plus VAT per year.
2. To approve the following online payments made since the last meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | PAYMENT TYPE | DESCRIPTION | POWER | AMOUNT |
| 12/05/2021 | Direct Debit | Website/IT – Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | £ 7.20 |
| 26/05/2021 | Standing Order | Staff Salaries – Clerk’s Salary | LGA 1972 s.112 | £ 207.40 |
| 11/06/2021 | Direct Debit | Website/IT – Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | £ 7.20 |
| 28/06/2021 | Standing Order | Staff Salaries – Clerk’s Salary | LGA 1972 s.112 | £ 207.40 |
| 12/07/2021 | Direct Debit | Website/IT – Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | £ 7.20 |
| 26/07/2021 | Standing Order | Staff Salaries – Clerk’s Salary | LGA 1972 s.112 | £ 207.40 |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **£ 643.80** |

1. To approve and sign the following cheque payments:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | CHQ NO | DESCRIPTION | POWER | AMOUNT |
| 18/07/2021 | 435 | Village Green – Grass Cutting |  | £ 650.00 |
| 27/07/2021 | 436 | Subscriptions – Accounting Software |  | £ 216.00 |
| 27/07/2021 | 437 | Professional Fees – Internal Audit |  | £ 175.00 |
| 27/07/2021 | 438 | Various – Clerks Expenses |  | £ 168.05 |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **£ 1,209.05** |

**General**

1. To receive items for the September meeting agenda / councillor submissions.
2. Date and time of next meeting **Monday 20th September 2021 at 7:30pm**

**Kempley Village Hall**

Kempley Parish Council is no longer receiving hard copy planning applications. All planning applications can be viewed on the Forest of Dean District Council website at: <https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/online-applications/>

All meetings of the council are open to the public and press with

the exception of items considered under Standing Order 3(d)

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise

of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability),

Crime and Disorder, Biodiversity, Health and Safety and Human Rights.

**Attachment 1**

**Kempley Parish Council – Highway Matters**

**Report on progress to the July 2021 Parish Council Meeting**

**Introduction**

Kempley Parish Council has on ongoing working relationship with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department covering works within the parish to maintain:

* the road network;
* Public Rights of Way; and
* roadside verges including those where we have an agreement on management methods.

This report is an update on where we stand on each of these issues with outline issues for discussion at this stage. The Parish Council will need formal resolutions to adopt these recommendations.

1. **The Highway Network in Kempley Parish –** 
   1. The surface of the road network in Kempley Parish, continues to deteriorate as the micro- asphalt experimental surfacing, which was applied within the parish about 8 years ago, continues to deteriorate. Having met with the Gloucestershire Highways Authority some 2 years ago to highlight this issue and seek a cost-effective solution no action has been taken by the County Council to replace the micro-asphalt surface, nor is any action planned within the next 2-year spending plan.
   2. The surface of access roads to Kempley from Much Marcle and the M50 lies in Herefordshire and we have written to the Highways Authority in Herefordshire highlighting the problems on the road access to Much Marcle that have existed for at least 5 years. This road has become a patchwork quilt of pothole repairs that now make up more than the original surface of the highway in many sections of this C class road.
   3. The predicted consequences of repeated surface failures of the roads within the parish are now a reality with numerous shallow potholes appearing as water ingress into the sub-base takes place. Periodically deeper potholes appear that meet the **County Council definition of a pothole as being wider than 30cms and deeper than 4cms.**
   4. Potholes and other highway problems can be reported on the County Council “Report It” website (<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>) but it is not possible to report shallow potholes on this site as unless they meet the definition of a pothole as specified by the County Council they do not officially exist ! A similar system operates in Herefordshire – Report a pothole ( <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>) but with no restrictions on pothole sizes, as is the case in Gloucestershire
   5. We have met and written repeatedly to the Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department and we are making progress (see letter from Jenny Goodson – Highways Operations Manager 01 July 2021). A meeting is now planned with the Local Highways Manager Andrew Middlecote to discuss our concerns and to share plans for works in our area.
   6. We have also written repeatedly to Herefordshire County Council about the state of the road from Much Marcle, but as yet without success.

**Draft recommendations for discussion.**

**Kempley Parish Council will:**

1. Create a digital layer for highway matters on the Parish Online Digital Map to add detailed reports about highway conditions within the Parish. This will allow all road surface failures to be recorded and to build an evidence base to support our argument for higher maintenance standards for rural C class roads.
2. Promote both County Council Highways “Report it Portals” and encourage villages to log all highway complaints on these portals.
3. Encourage public reporting of highway defects to the Clerk so that details can be added to the Parish Online Digital Map when it is not possible to add these to the Gloucestershire County Council portal.
4. Maintain pressure on the Gloucestershire County Council for a higher standard of maintenance on C class roads in the Parish with priority given to:
   1. the main access roads to the parish from Dymock and Newent;
   2. the Newent cycle route.
5. Maintain pressure on Herefordshire County Council for a higher standard of maintenance on C class roads into the parish from the M50 Junction and from Much Marcle.
6. Seek support from all Parish and Town Councils, the Forest of Dean District Council, the GAPTC and the NALC for higher standards of maintenance on critical C class roads within the Forest of Dean.
7. **The Public Rights of Way Network in Kempley**
   1. **Court Farm – Footpaths GKE 2/3/15/16/17/18/19**

Kempley Parish Council has been consulted on diversion orders affecting all the footpaths in and around the farm buildings at Kempley Court and footpaths leading away from the farm. The Parish Council has supported the final proposals which should improve the walking experience for visitors and reduce conflicts with farming activities. These changes affect two promoted routes, the Daffodil Way and the Three Choirs Way. This is a good outcome for all concerned. The County Council will now move to complete the formal diversion and footpath closure orders over the next few months which the Parish Council has agreed to support.

* 1. **Lower House Farm – Footpaths GKE33/35**

Agreement has been reached with all parties to make it easier to walk Footpath GKE35 and GKE33 with the installation of metal kissing gates, a new bridge and dual farm pedestrian gates. This will improve the walking experience along the Daffodil Way (GKE33) and re-open a part of GKE35 with a new footbridge which has effectively been closed for nearly 30 years. The works will also improve the entrance to this path next to Wantridge and reduce maintenance costs for the landowner along the popular Daffodil Way. The County Council, the owner and the Parish Council will now meet to finalise the improvements and agree when works can take place. The Parish Council has agreed to part fund these works.

* 1. **Redlands / Felania - Footpath GKE38**

Proposals have been made to divert GKE38 away from residential property to create a new route that would join GKE38 to GKE39. Informal consultations will commence shortly. Assuming a successful outcome this would re-open a footpath that has been effectively closed for nearly 30 years and remove conflicts with residential property

* 1. **Summary**

With the completion of all the above works all registered public rights of way will be open for public use in the Parish of Kempley and the worst conflicts between landowners and users of public rights of way will have been resolved. The Parish Council can then concentrate on working with landowners, the County Council and the Wind cross Footpaths group to improve accessibility for the public, reduce maintenance costs for landowners and reduce conflicts between footpath users and landowners through better signage and interpretation materials.

**Draft recommendations for discussion.**

**Kempley Parish Council will:**

1. Build on the existing public rights of way information on the Parish Online Digital Map and add details on:
   1. Areas for access improvements (new gates, bridges, kissing gates and signage);
   2. Areas for maintenance requirements and repairs to infrastructure;
   3. Locations where interpretive materials could reduce conflicts between walkers and landowners;
2. Invite the Windcross Footpaths group to produce an annual review of the state of public rights of way in Kempley that will be shared with landowners and the Highways Authority; and
3. Establish contact with adjoining parishes where public rights of way cross Parish boundaries to share experiences and encourage co-operative working.
   1. **Roadside Verges**

Roadside verges are important wildlife corridors for the Parish and best practice maintenance can improve their biodiversity value. The Parish Council currently has a management agreement (The Agreement) with the County Highways Authority covering maintenance work on the verge between Wantridge and the village hall allowing its maintenance for wildlife conservation. This work has been promoted by DyFRA.

* 1. The proposed Biodiversity Strategy for the Parish Council (if approved) proposes that we identify further areas where similar agreements can be reached.
  2. The Parish Council has no survey data on the current ecological value of the Parish’s roadside verges or any data to show that the current management regime on the verge that is the subject of a management agreement has improved is biodiversity value.

**Draft Recommendations for Discussion**

**Kempley Parish Council will:**

1. Invite DyFRA to review the effectiveness of the existing verge management agreement with the Highways Authority and to provide survey evidence that biodiversity value is improving;
2. Invite DyFRA to survey all roadside verges in Kempley and assess their current biodiversity value and recommend further management agreements for the 5 verges with the greatest biodiversity value/potential;
3. Invite volunteers to map all roadside verges onto a layer of the Parish Online Digital Map; and
4. Open discussions with the Highway Authority about an integrated and documented management plan for all road-side verges in Kempley that can be agreed with all affected parties.

**Tom Jackson**

**Lead Councillor for Highway Matters**

**Kempley Parish Council – July 2021**

**Attachment 2**

Email from Gloucestershire Highways received 1/7/2021:

“Following your letter to Kathryn Haworth, she has asked me to respond on her behalf.  I am sorry to hear you believe our policies are not fit for purpose and the rural roads are being effected by this directly.  I would like to reassure you that our policies are all in line with National Guidance and we have seen an improvement in overall road condition with the additional money which the council has spent over the past 4 years, I’m sure you would had seen the signs stating £150m investment.

Our resurfacing programme is data lead as we have described before and as such the rural network is included in this and not excluded.  We are a rural county and as such understand that residents rely on our rural network and we continue to ensure they are in a safe condition with regular safety inspections and repairs undertaken in line with our Safety Inspection Policy which again follows national best practise.

Following the elections in May, further money has been promised to highways and we are working with our County Council Cabinet Members on how this additional money will be spent, I am sure this will be shared as soon as it has been confirmed.

Road hierarchy is set in line with national guidance and not something that we can change locally, but we do recognise the priority of the local roads which as you have stated are part of cycle routes or access to communities or attractions.

I would recommend to you and your community to report any highway concerns via our website and I am sure the local map layer you intend to keep will be a useful tool in talking to our local team.

I would like our Local Highways Manager, Andrew Middlecote to discuss your concerns and for him to share our plans for works in your area which could include patching and/or use of a jet patcher machine which would help the road condition.  I will ask Andrew to contact you once he returns from leave in week commence 12th July.”

**Attachment 3**

**Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency**

**Report on progress to the July 2021 Parish Council Meeting.**

**Summary**

The main areas of progress since our last Parish Council meeting in May are:

* Progress on the approval of the EU funded AURORA Energy Awareness Project. We have an expected start date in December 2021 (subject to contract approvals) and can expect to see benefit from the work undertaken by the Forest of Dean District Council as one of the lead partners in the programme;
* A better understanding of the value of reducing residential carbon emissions;
* Progress developing the *Sharing the Benefits* communication campaign; and
* Progress on Superfast Broadband to Kempley.

**We would be able to accelerate progress if we could attract more volunteers to help.**

**Introduction**

Kempley Parish Council (KPC) declared a Climate Change Emergency at our meeting in October 2019. We agreed at our November 2020 meeting that the KPC would move forward towards carbon neutrality by 2030 by taking the following actions:

1. **Baselining our current community carbon emissions**
2. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes**
3. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction**
4. **Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband** [to drive change in the way we work, travel and shop to reduce carbon emissions].

**Progress Report**

We have made the following progress on our four key target areas since our last meeting;

1. **Baselining our current community carbon emissions –**

Base line carbon emissions were reported for the village at our May meeting, using the Exeter University et al Community carbon calculator - [impact-tool.org.uk/](http://impact-tool.org.uk/)

These measurements are based on national data sets and do not reflect local activities already taken by local parishioners and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. We have many stories (yet to be told) of local parishioners taking substantial activity to reduce their carbon footprint. Farmers locally have installed a wind turbine and an anaerobic digester, both of which will produce renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Many households have installed solar heaters and solar panels as well as air source heat pumps. A number of our parishioners have also purchased electric or bi-fuel vehicles reducing their personal carbon footprints. We have as a community therefore started to reduce our carbon footprint.

These changes now need to be factored into the base-line carbon footprint for the village. In order to understand how these changes can be built into the IMPAC model we have written to Exeter University to open a dialogue and await their response.

We have also received a report “Decarbonising Homes – Consumer attitudes towards energy efficiency and green heating in the UK – Olivia Chapman et al; Nesta June 2021”. This report lays out the challenge the UK and our village faces to reduce carbon emissions from residential property. It estimates that:

* Domestic Energy use accounted for 21% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2019;
* The residential sector is the 3rd biggest emitter of UK carbon; and
* To get too net zero by 2050 – the UK’s legally binding target – each home will need to reduce its carbon emissions from heating down from 2,745 kg of carbon to 138kgs per year (based on 2017 figures).

In the NESTA survey work 85% of people agreed that climate change is one of the most important issues we need to address and 84% agreed that everyone will have to adopt energy efficiency

**Our aim therefore over the next few months is to build up an understanding of what has already been achieved with examples from existing residential properties in Kempley and factor that into the IMACT model. Once we understand the journey people are on, we can show case examples of what can be achieved and what the costs and benefits are.**

1. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes** –

**2.1 Sharing the Benefits**

The Parish Council has asked Bob Earll and Mark Warrilow to develop an initiative with Kempley residents. The *Sharing the Benefits* initiative will explore resident’s response to the climate, over-consumption, and nature emergency. These conversations will take place over the rest of 2021.

**2.2 The Forest Climate Group - Joining forces with local Parish Councils**

9 Parish and Town Councils now meet on a bi-monthly basis to share best practice and to pool ideas on joint projects. The Group meet at the 7th June when Chris Bligh talked about Dyfra and its work and will meet again at the end of July /August. It is an excellent forum to share our experiences. Across the UK organisations are also sharing their experiences and a good example is a Trello Board[[1]](#footnote-1) for Local and Parish Councils set up covering Climate Engagement – Best Practice

see <https://trello.com/b/71rrSkH3/climate-engagement-best-practice>

**2.3 Joining Forces with the Forest of Dean District Council**

**Climate Emergency Community Partnership** - We continue to work closely with the Forest of Dean District Council who declared a climate emergency in 2018. We await the formation of the Climate Emergency Community Partnership that is expected to be active in the Autumn of 2021.

**AURORA EU Horizon Europe** - Kempley Parish Council has supported the District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy as partners in the EU Horizon 2020 funding bid for project AURORA. This European wide Energy Awareness Project bid to support efforts locally to move to carbon neutral has passed the first stage evaluation by the EU. The Partner Contracts are expected to be signed in July and the full contract between the EU and the lead Partner shortly thereafter. The project is provisionally scheduled to start in December 2021 and a full press release with all the details will be issued as soon as contracts are agreed. This project will be a major boost for local initiatives to move to carbon neutral.

1. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction**

We intend to monitor what UK Government schemes may become available to support carbon reduction programmes. Project AURORA will, however, offer the Parish Council a chance to get involved in this EU funded research project once it begins in December 2021.

1. **Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband –**

**Current Position**

* 1. **Kempley Airband Scheme –** This programme, supported by the County Council Fastershire scheme went live on January 27th, 2016, and brought fast wireless-based broadband to micro businesses in Kempley. It remains operational and offers businesses and a few residents broad band speeds of up to 40Mbps

**Kempley Combined Solution –** Works to install the fibre optic spine into the northern end of Kempley is now complete and participating businesses are connected and working. To quote one of the business users:

*“I can say that the service so far, with the number connected has appeared 100% available i.e., it’s been there when we’ve wanted to use it. Speed has been typically close to the 150 Mb/s band that we are paying for and sometimes, when I’ve tested it achieved 230 mbs. In summary we’re chuffed with the facility, and it seems to perform better than the level of service that we’re paying for”.*

Additional residential and farm businesses are now being connected and work was underway week ending 2nd July 2021.

Full details can be found in the following leaflet:

<https://kempleyparishcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200312_GD457_kempley-combined-doordrop_leaflet.pdf>

**Fastershire / Gigaclear**; For the remainder of the village Gigaclear have confirmed detailed design work is complete for their Glebe Orchard build (which includes Kempley). Validation work will commence shortly to look at the traffic management that will be required for the build and to ensure they can deliver against the detailed design. The forecast remains work starting in Q3 – though this is likely to be the back end circa September and may slip into the very early part of Q4. Gigaclear expect to delay an online Community Meeting till September 2021.

Once installation is complete, we can explore future events on how to get the best benefits from the new systems and understand how we might reduce carbon emission as a consequence.

**Martin Brocklehurst**

**Chair Kempley Parish Council – July 2021**

**Attachment 4**

**Kempley Parish Council**

**Bio-diversity position statement – Draft for comment**

**Biodiversity**

*The UN Convention on Biological Diversity defines biodiversity as the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. In simpler terms, biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth.*

Source: UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2. Use of Terms (1992)

**The Challenge**

*"The world is witnessing a colossal decline in global biodiversity. One million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction. Most terrestrial biomes are damaged. Since 1970 there has been a 68 percent decrease in population sizes of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. This global picture is reflected in the UK, one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. 15 percent of UK species are threatened with extinction. Of the G7 countries, the UK has the lowest level of biodiversity remaining. At a minimum, the UK has failed to meet 14 of the 19 Aichi biodiversity targets, the global nature goals the UK committed to meet by 2020.”*[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Within the UK,** populations of our most important wildlife have plummeted by an average of 60% since 1970[[3]](#footnote-3). Our natural habitats not only support wildlife but they also provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, flood defence, and carbon sequestration, services which a healthy ecosystem provides for free and are worth millions to the UK economy[[4]](#footnote-4) The latest Government plans to reverse biodiversity decline in the UK were announced in a speech by the Environment Minister George Eustice (18th May 2021) on restoring nature and building back greener.[[5]](#footnote-5)The government has committed itself to “safeguard our cherished landscapes, restore habitats for wildlife in order to combat biodiversity loss and adapt to climate change, all whilst creating green jobs.”

Within the Parish of Kempley we have not collated the evidence base, from a range of voluntary and statutory bodies, to quantify the scale of biodiversity loss or explored the potential economic costs of loss of ecosystem services. We can record, however, that since the 2nd World war we have lost most of our species rich lowland grasslands, and that we have experienced a decline in traditional cider orchards. A simple check on ordnance survey maps also documents the steady loss of hedgerows, small woodland areas and wetlands alongside Kempley Brook and its tributaries. Other losses taking place are more subtle, affected by changes to management practises in woodlands or on verges where the impact of fertiliser and spray drift on insect and plant species composition is evident.

Despite these changes we still possess a mosaic of semi natural habitats, both on the parish boundaries and within the parish which include nationally recognised Sites of Scientific Interest. On our northern boundary with Herefordshire, we also have an area that is recognised by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as locally significant for its biodiversity containing woodland, semi natural grasslands, traditional cider orchards and farmland managed by the Countryside Restoration Trust to demonstrate current best practise in meeting the needs of modern farming and wildlife conservation.

**Solutions**

Kempley Parish Council is committed to play its part in reversing biodiversity decline in the Parish in line with Government policies and consistent with the proper exercise of its functions.

The Parish Council will therefore:

* **Collate existing biodiversity data** onto the Parish Online Records and where information is lacking promote further studies to document the state of biodiversity within the Parish;
* **Support Planning & Development Applications** that:
  + incorporate site and building designs that benefit biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing or provision of new habitats; and
  + protect sensitive habitats from development.
* **Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the land it manages or influences** through the adoption of best practise management techniques for wildlife conservation that are incorporated into agreed management plans consistent with community need.
* **Work in partnership** with neighbouring parishes, local public and private organisations and our local farming community to improve local ecosystem services, and to protect, promote & enhance biodiversity within the Parish;
* **Promote** the development and expansion of wildlife corridors connecting existing protected sites within and across the parish.
* **Support Community programmes** designed to enhance biodiversity, including tree planting, wild-flower planting, and the management of road-side verges.
* **Raise public awareness** of biodiversity issues within the parish through its website and newsletters.

The Parish Council will focus its partnership work with local NGO’s such as the Gloucestershire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and with our own local community group Dymock Forest Rural Action (DyFRA).

Two key priorities for the Parish Council during 2021/22 will be:

* the conservation and expansion of habitats for wild daffodils particularly on and close to the Daffodil Way, a nationally recognised medium distance footpath; and
* agreement with the Highways Authority on a management plan for verges within the Parish that adopts current best practice to enhance their biodiversity.

**July 2021**

**Proposed by Cllr Stafford Cruse**

1. **Trello** is a collaboration tool that organizes your projects into **boards**. In one glance, **Trello** tells you what's being worked on, who's working on what, and where something is in a process. Imagine a white **board**, filled with lists of sticky notes, with each note as a task for you and your team. ... That's **Trello**! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Biodiversity in the UK: bloom or bust? – House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee report published 30 June 2021 - <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmenvaud/136/136-report.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. State of Nature 2019, State of Nature Partnership ( A consortium of 70 scientific and public bodies in the UK) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapital/urbanaccounts> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/environment-secretary-speech-at-delamere-forest-on-restoring-nature-and-building-back-greener> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)