

Dear Tim Dain, Kempley PC Clerk.

**Re: email 13.06.23 Biodiversity # 61 b. - agenda item for the July meeting**

Many thanks for your email of 13 June about July's KPC agenda and the issues concerning the village green and verge management.

We hope the following will help guide the meeting:

**VILLAGE GREEN**

While the Village Green management plan is a matter for the KPC, DyFRA would very much approve of any refinement of the plan which would take account of the council's overall Biodiversity Strategy (2021)<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. Specifically this would relate to the discontinuity that exists in the 5km wildlife corridor conservation verges between St Mary's Kempley and Gwen and Vera's orchards (GWT) at Oxenhall. The Kempley Green byway called Folly Lane was identified by GWT as a prime opportunity

**VERGE MANAGEMENT**

The management of our verges was outlined in DyFRA's report to KPC of 3 September 2022<sup>\*\*</sup>. *'The work is done by GCC Highways, FE subcontractors, our volunteers, and with some payments for labour and our mowers, by DyFRA in Kempley village. This has happened co-operatively with all concerned, through liaison on the ground for some ten years now.'*

Our recommendation was that *'Given the maturity of the verges project and KPC's renewed interest in the matter, this seems a good time for the parish council to assume the requested responsibility for liaison with the Highways contractors, Ringway, and the timing of their annual mowing visit to Kempley.'*

We are not aware these recommendations have been advanced by KPC.

In the meantime Dymock Parish Council and our recently elected District Councillor are planning to form an {Environment and Conservation} secretariat to liaise with GCC for all the parishes in the Dymock Ward. Volunteers, local to the now-designated Conservation Road Verges (CRVs), can then monitor and liaise directly on the ground with the tractor/mower operator for the late summer verge maintenance.

This will allow greater efficiency, economy and integration of each parish's resources; DyFRA can continue to expand the proposition of wildflower corridors within the Golden Triangle visitor destination,; and across the Golden Triangle water catchment cooperatively with all stakeholders address the imperative of adaptation to nature warming and biodiversity renewal.

Tim Rickard, Chris Bligh DyFRA (Dymock Forest Rural Action)