

Catmere End Village Pond Biodiversity Project Consultation Meeting

07.01.2023
11:00 am
Catmere End Pond
Catmere End

Catmere End Residents

Brief notes on the meeting:

For a wet and windy morning, it was good to see quite a few from the village made the meeting at the Catmere End Pond – these included Ann Farrer, Liz Stott, the Foks, Ash Wiseman.

A topics for discussion sheet was handed round followed by a short introduction to the Project, how we might tackle to work load with a work group and where we might have access to funding.

After that the main topics were to decide on going ahead with the project based on the FWAG survey report and who was prepared to volunteer to become involved.

Decision: there was a really positive response from everyone present and it was decided to go ahead with a Biodiversity Project. Also decided was to form a hard-core Work Group with the co-operation and support of the village and Parish Council. The Work-Group is to consist of residents with a Parish Council representative and have the ability to call in help from various quarters including trying to co-opt skill sets from the village as and when needed.

Follow up: An immediate follow up meeting was held on Saturday [7th afternoon] with Rebecca Inman at the pond. After a walk-through of possibilities, Rebecca took note of one or two key issues, particularly the issue of contamination from the Council sewage plant which was raised by Ash at the meeting. Having taken various things on board Rebecca left to start work on a Map and Implementation Plan which will form the nucleus of the project. Rebecca has given this a high priority to meet "Nature's Timetable" for preparation work, planting and other necessary tasks. In the meantime, we need to approach the Council and if necessary, DEFRA to assess and resolve the effluent issue before any work on the project can begin. [Parish Council to advise on contacts and enlist UDC Councillor's help with resolving the effluent/contamination issue].

Post these notes and the preceding Consultation Meeting Topics/Agenda on the Littlebury Parish Website in the Catmere End section.

Communication: There was a general understanding that for the more weighty communications such as maps, plans, grant submissions and the like, e-mails were the prime method of communication with hard copy for those without ready access to the internet, particularly between members of the Work-Group and the Parish Council.

Consent was given to contact as many as possible to check and update e-mail addresses and gain any further consent for their use.

Top level communications would continue to be posted on the Littlebury Parish website, with notice given to visit the website via the Village WhatsApp.

Parish Councillor currently co-ordinating the project is Peter Rieck –
peter.rieck@littlebury.org.uk

Catmere End Biodiversity Project
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- Gauge village resident support for Biodiversity and Sustainability Project
- Collect initial reactions and views and
- Find volunteers from the village to set up a work group
- Identify traceable channels of communication to circulate information –
 - Primary [formal] - Parish Council website and e-mail

Scope

- Biodiversity – pondlife, wild flowers, plants, trees, insect, animal and birds
- Sustainability – community and resident interaction,
- Setting up and maintenance
- Investigate and progress other community facilities that might fall under the Sustainable umbrella

Decision

- Support the Biodiversity project
- Turn area into community garden
- Do nothing

Actions given the go ahead for the Biodiversity project

- Feed views and reactions back to Parish Council and FWAG
- With FWAG's assistance draw up action plan, map and timeline
- Work group to action plan with help of village

Parish Council's Role

To act as a facilitator and co-ordinator

With changes in policy and approach towards Sustainability and Biodiversity, Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council are making increasingly interfacing and engaging with local communities through their Parish Councils for these activities.

Parish Councils are being looked to to co-ordinate activities and facilitate funds, either direct or through grants from various local government bodies, NGOs and other recognised groups

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Appendix i

FWAG East Report – December 2022, author Rebecca Inman