

Local Nature Recovery Plan Working Group 2023/2024 Report for Girton Parish Council Annual Meeting May 30th 2024

Local Nature Recovery Plans are long -term (usually 10 year) frameworks developed under the auspices of local councils for identifying priority sites, habitats, and species within a defined geographical area (usually a parish or local council boundary).

The Plan and a supporting 'Context, Aims & Objectives' document were finalised and presented to a Public Meeting for the Parish in October 2023. They can be viewed on our website at <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/girton-parish-council-2/local-nature-recovery-plan/>

The Group has been busy working on the agreed priorities for 23/24. Highlights of the year to date:

- **Site management improvements for the Alice Hibbert-Ware Memorial Garden** to showcase wildlife friendly approaches to gardening. Following a project plan drawn up by local consultants Purple Flowers & Mosaics , a great deal of work took place in refreshing the Garden including new planting, signage, creation of a Bog Garden and a Hügelkultur (compost) Bed, placement of bird and bat boxes, and finally the installation of an Interpretation Board at the front of the Garden.
- Funds were raised via the generous support of the Parish Council, the successful application to South Cambs Community Chest Grant, and individual and collective fundraising via a Just Giving Page. In addition, new volunteers have been recruited to work alongside the existing Green Team to maintain the Garden.
- The Garden was formally 're-opened' by the British Trust for Ornithology's CEO , Dr Juliet Vickery on May 4th at a joyful village event attended by c.two hundred people.
- **Town End Close nature reserve** - A management plan for the site has been drawn up and an application made to Natural England to award the site 'Local Nature Reserve' status. At the time of writing we have yet to hear whether the application has been successful though we are assured informally that it's just a formality.
- **'No Mow Summer' – aka Parish Council Grass Policy**. An attempt last year to put in place a blanket 'No Mow May' policy on Parish Council managed grass areas (except for the Rec of course) met with objections from some parishioners, so a paper was produced by the Group proposing a more refined approach where only areas likely to benefit most are left unmowed during the summer whilst others will continue to be maintained. It is hoped this new approach will receive a more sympathetic response from the Parish.
- **Data collection for wildlife groups** where existing data on status is poor e.g. invertebrates. Work has been stepped up in contacting County Recorders for groups such as butterflies and moths in order to better understand the historical and current biodiversity mix of the village. We will continue to explore and update the data baseline for the various taxonomic groups within the village boundary.
- A key Strategic Aim for the Group is **'to encourage community awareness** and inspire action to help nature flourish', and one means by which we achieve this is to run and host community events throughout the year. Events run since last May include:
 - A 'Wildlife Walk in Wellbrook Way' to celebrate the King's Coronation
 - 'Gardening for Wildlife' hosted by Purple Flowers & Mosaics
 - Dry Drayton Swift Project Open Afternoon

- Town End Close 'Open' events x 2
- Exploring Wildlife on Our Doorstep talk by Dr Rosalyn Wade, Museum of Zoology
- Moth trapping session
- Hibbert-Ware Garden re-opening
and in addition we have had stalls at the Girton Feast, Xmas Fayre, and the recent Annual Parish Meeting
- Future planned events include a moth trapping session in Girton College Grounds, a village bat walk, and further event at Town End lose

The group will continue to engage the village community via a webpage on the village website, a regular column in the Girton Parish News, and postings on social media via the 'Wild_Girton' X (formerly 'Twitter) and Facebook pages, as well as the aforementioned community events. An email address, lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk can be used to contact the group.

We are grateful to the Parish Council, and to Clerk, Yvonne Murray in particular for all the support received during the reporting year.

Keith Honnor

(Chair, Local Nature Recovery Plan Group)