

## **Report from Councillor Ward on Environmental Matters**

We're making some progress on 3 proposals aimed at environmental programmes in the village

### **1. Nature Trail**

We are still awaiting confirmation of the grant from EDCC for the path below the telephone mast. Once we have received this we'll be in touch with John Maynard so he can start on the information boards. We'll then order a bench and scratch boards and organise purchase of the tree-whips so they arrive in time for planting in the spring. (This needs to be coordinated with CDE). A flyer is in development with photos by David White and information sheets are being planned with Mr Marr.

### **2. Wildflower Planting**

I have spoken with Sue Cooper who maintains the small copse off Middletown Lane which she rents from CDE. She hoped we might be able to extend this wild area along the footpath towards the road. Both Clare James and Jim Pyne have been involved and would be happy to allow some wildflowers to be planted but shrubs and trees would not be possible at this time. Jim Pyne will be putting up a fence along the path to allow for his cattle to graze the field. Jon Roseway would be keen on wildflowers but thinks bulbs (native daffs, bluebells) and primroses would be appropriate as along the hedge nettles, docks and 'other perennial thugs' are prolific which might mean other wildflower plugs might not do well.

### **3. Possible School Allotment Changes.**

I've had a little initial contact with Drakes School and the Village Hall regarding the possibility of moving some parts of the school allotment down to behind the Village Hall. This would make access easier for staff and children and could allow a water butt to provide and conserve rainwater. It might also allow volunteers, PTA, Budleigh in Bloom, etc, to become involved. The village hall seems happy to support the initial idea and Chris Dearsley will put the idea to their committee. I will eventually meet up with Drakes head, Peter Halford, when possible, depending on covid management, to carry on discussions. If part of the allotment could be moved it might allow for wildflowers and shrubs to be planted at the Collins Cross allotment which would be easier for the school to manage and would generally need less watering and regular attendance. It could also allow for bird feeders and boxes, hedgehog huts, etc, and encourage pollinating insects.

Councillor Fiona Ward: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020