

Report on Nature Trail and Wildflowers  
by Fiona Ward. 22/02/2021

### **Nature Trail**

Progress is being made on the nature trail even if rather slowly due to the restrictions of coronavirus and other delays. The trees have arrived and been heeled in awaiting CDE's decision when to plant along the nature trail and field edge. The seat is here, rubbing boards and signs are in hand and can be positioned as soon as possible and John Maynard is in the process of constructing the information boards. Hopefully once the spring arrives and it is a little drier we can get the CDE's team of volunteers out and about helping concrete in the seat, posts, etc. Jon Roseway has generously agreed to add the path to his footpath maintenance programme.

### **Wildflower Grant from OVA**

On the OVA donation, organic plug plants have been ordered for the footpath from Middletown Lane to the main road - this enables Jim Pyne to maintain his organic certification as he is grazing his cows in this area. They will probably need to be grown on a bit before planting. Rowans will be ordered this week as we have just received agreement from Devon Highways - they will be bare rooted so need to be dug from the field and it may take 1-2weeks before delivery. They should be planted as soon as they arrive. We will find out about OVA's bulk purchase of wildflower seed and hopefully do some direct sowing in the next few weeks. We will make further use if OVA's kind donation later in the year with the purchase of autumn bulbs and fresh rattle seed for sowing in the wildflower areas.

Interest has been expressed from residents in Yettington about managing verges for wildlife - contact has been made with Devon Highways and the Devon Council ecologist by the group. We will need to contact EDCC and Streetscene to discuss this once we have met up with the group and informed the parish of the proposal. This would fit well with our Action Plan in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Another very tentative idea that has been raised is the possibility of sponsoring the planting of trees by those who have been effected by covid. This would need further investigation as to whether it would be appropriate, where it might be, etc. The parish would need to be consulted before anything was done.