

## **WEAVERS FIELD COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

**Committee Meeting No:** 3

**DATE:** 27.01.25

**Venue:** Sadar's Café, Salisbury Avenue

**Attendees:** Steve Mason (SM), John Putley (JP), Tony Oliver (TO), Tony Rastelli (TR)

### **ITEMS**

- 1. Apologies** – Graham Beale, Clare Williams
  
- 2. Works to date**
  - a. A successfully work party was held in November 2024, to clear around the new fruit trees and sow an additional area of wildflower meadow.
  - b. Both entrances have now been stoned up to provide a more accessible access to the orchard and field beyond. The pedestrian entrance gate from Farmfield Road has now been adjusted to provide wheelchair access to the site.
  - c. Previous committee meetings had concluded that a link with the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust (GOT) to fall under their umbrella would be the most suitable way forward for the Friends Group. SM to update the proposal document to GOT and circulate for discussion and agreement at the next meeting.
  
- 3. Work party dates 2025**
  - a. It was decided that a monthly work party would be held commencing in March 25. Dates would alternate between a weekday (Thursday) and a weekend (Sunday).
  - b. SM to speak with GB about the potential for linking in the weekend dates with the Warden Hill litter pick (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month) to potentially attract more people to both. If a no from GB, then we will go with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and Thursday of the month.
  - c. SM to issue a list of dates when resolved.
  
- 4. Events 2025**
  - a. The following events were decided.
    - i. Blossom Event – a small local event to be held in early May – actual date to be confirmed following discussions with Pilley Bridge nature Reserve, as we don't want to clash with their blossom day.
    - ii. Apple Day – A larger celebration to be held in October, potentially linking in with the national Apple Day celebrations.

**5. Clearance works to entrance**

- a. It was agreed that in conjunction with the stoning up of the entrance, the area of bramble to the right-hand side of the pathway from Farmfield Road would be cut back to provide a more open and welcoming view into the orchard (see attached plan). The two larger trees will be retained as 'gate keepers' and the reclaimed area will be planted with spring bulbs and woodland flowers etc. A buffer of bramble will be retained adjacent to No 50 to maintain security. SM to speak to the residents to explain the plan. Work to be carried out during February, prior to bird nesting season.
- b. As part of this work the southern boundary of the orchard, as well as the outer boundary to the wooded area, will be 'trimmed' to provide a scalloped edge and create a dynamic habitat (also shown on the attached plan).

**6. Works to existing orchard / wooded area**

- a. The potential to create a 'ride' (wide path) within the existing woodland through the blackthorn was discussed. This will create a dynamic habitat encouraging the existing seedbank to germinate and grow once again, along with providing access for residents / families into the woodland. The ride will be created on a sinuous line, and extend from the northern boundary of the woodland, through to the orchard. This will have the added benefit of creating sightlines through the wooded area, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- b. It was felt that it would be better to carry out this work in the autumn, after bird nesting season, as that would give time to obtain the views of the community and Parish Council and explain the benefits of the work.

**7. Management plan to wooded area**

- a. SM to produce an initial draft Management Plan for the wooded area to circulate for discussion.

**8. AOB None**

**Date of next meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 6:30pm at Sardar's Café, Salisbury Avenue**