# **Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council.**

**Held virtually on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 19.30.**

**Present.**

**Councillors M Wallis (Chairman), J White (Vice Chairman) and J Kennedy.**

**Also, Present.**

**Sarah Kitchener (Clerk and RFO), Wayne Peapell, Councillors R Locke and T Holbrook.**

**112/09/20 Noted Apologies for Absence.**

**Councillor D Webster.**

**113/09/20 Variation of the Order of Business.**

**No variation of business.**

**114/09/20 Declaration of Members Interests.**

**No declaration of members interests.**

**115/09/20 Committee items for Discussion/Action/Update.**

1. **Update on the Ock Brook.**

* **Report received from Derbyshire County Council, ACTION Councillor Wallis to forward the report onto the committee members**
* Four pipe culvert will not be changing to a single culvert as this would cause flooding elsewhere.
* A surveyor has started a modelling exercise to see what can be done to ensure the flow of water is maintained at a good level down to the culvert. A report will be produced.  **ACTION** Councillor Wallis to forward report onto the committee members
* Has asked Environments Agency to walk the brook from Hawthorn Avenue down to Nottingham Road as they are responsible for the flow.
* Erewash Borough Council will remove the tree by the 2nd October 2020 and will look into clearing the banks.

1. Carbon Footprint and Green Vision Policy.

* The Carbon footprint Policy isn’t coming out for another 6 months.
* Councillor Wallis and Wayne Peapell have produced their own green policy for the Parish, see appendix 1. **ACTION** Committee members to look at, sending any comments or changes to the Clerk, then this will go to Full Council in October.
* Councillor Wallis is looking to apply for a grant from the Governments Green Recovery Policy, using the Parish’s Green Policy.

**116/09/20 Date and Time of Next Meeting.**

**The next Environment Committee meeting will be called when it is required.**

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 19.55**

**Appendix 1.**

**Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council**

**Green Vision Policy.**

Introduction.

“Green Vision” is an achievable plan for Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council to improve the Parish as a whole and to make the Parish a green, clean, safe and environmentally friendly area to live, work and visit. A place for residents of all ages to engage with their green spaces around the neighbourhood and to get involved with:

* tree and bulb planting
* bird watching
* bug hunts
* seasonal litter picks
* monitoring water flow through the Parish
* creating wildflower areas to improve biodiversity and to help increase the bee population.

This plan will cover many areas throughout the Parish from walking and checking the water level and flow in the brook and streams to observing drainage systems and the potential impact on the surrounding houses. Also monitoring invasive hazardous non-native weed growth along all water courses and hedge rows and disposing of these safely.

We will Organise four “seasonal pick me ups”. This will involve residents joining the Parish Council, for our Parish wide litter picking days during the four seasons. The Parish Council will provide all the necessary resources.

We will be monitoring the impact of fly tipping with the adoption of a report and remove system.

We will be working with external agencies, such as the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Woodlands Trust to organise tree planting events on chosen areas within the Parish. Reaching out and engaging with local schools and Scout groups to deliver “learning outside the classroom” events.

Compost created from grass cuttings, leaf collections, pruning and hedge trimmings within the Parish (**Recycling 100% of all green waste)** will be made available throughout the year for residents to use on their gardens.

We aim to Reduce our carbon footprint by gradually eliminating the use of petrol on all handheld and pedestrian machinery on site. Powering of machinery will be switched to a reduced toxic emission, none ethanol/benzene based greener alternative called Aspen Fuels. [www.Aspenfuel.co.uk](http://www.Aspenfuel.co.uk).

Managing the Flow of Water.

**Managing the waterflow throughout the parish is in essence a huge task. The Parish has many sites within its geographical area that are maintained by different agencies, these include:**

* **Derbyshire County Council**
* **Erewash Borough Council**
* **Environment Agency**

The water flow through the Parish will be visually monitored and areas of potential flooding hotspots will be walked on a regular basis to establish and monitor the height at certain pressure points. We will ensure the continuous and safe flow of water through built up areas where flooding has occurred over the last few years and will remove floating debris where it is safe and acceptable to undertake, to ensure safe and efficient water flow.

Visual inspections of road-based drain covers/grates will take place on a regular basis, to clear built up detritus. This will be manually removed and jetted to improve the drainage and help alleviate future flooding in hotspot areas. Aiming to work closely with the Local Officer for the Environments Agency.

Sandbags will be provided to help residents steam the flow of water towards their properties. These will be available for collection or delivery upon request, please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Utilising the Alert Monitoring System that is already available on the water flow through the Parish. This gives selected persons a text message when the water levels are rising.

We will monitor and maintain hazardous vegetation along the water flow areas (following guidelines and safety precautions). This hazardous and invasive weed growth includes Giant Hog Weed (Heracleum Mantegazzianum), Himalayan Balsam (Impatiens Glandulifera) and Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia Japonica).

We will keep these areas clean from litter and dumped waste; this will be monitored whilst observing the water flow through the Parish.

We will dig out ditches on Parish land to improve “run off” and enable better drainage.

We will highlight potential erosion on the banks, planting tree species that thrive on or around water courses, this will help to encourage wildlife and to stabilise the banks.

Tree and Bulb Planting, Creating a Wildlife Area.

**Planting trees to improve air quality, encourage wildlife, increase canopy cover and to leave a greener environment for future generations.**

Tree and bulb planting will be undertaken throughout the Parish creating potential woodland areas and bulb displays on designated plots of land. As the Parish has three different landowners situated within its geographical area, permission will be needed from each individual authority, this will mainly be either Derbyshire County Council or Erewash Borough Council.

A consultation between the public and the Parish Council will be required to highlight potential areas for planting, along with engaging schools, scouts and other groups that would like to get involved to help with the planting process.

Any planting event will need to accommodate all interested parties, an ideal day for these events would be a Saturday.

Planting will consist of “whips, standard and semi standard” trees. The planting will be conducted during the Autumn and Winter period, enabling the purchase of bare root trees which will be cheaper and easier to transport and plant.

Training and guidance on tree planting techniques will be given to all attendees on the day with the Parish Council providing all the required resources.

The creation of wildflower areas within the Parish will be undertaken. This will involve working with residents and local groups to highlight and establish suitable areas to plant a variety of species to attract bees and butterflies, giving colour and to help improve the biodiversity. Wildflowers are currently planted within Balmoral Cemetery and the Ashbrook Centre; these will evolve and increase over the next 2-3 years.

Working with local schools, scouts and potential external agencies such as The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Woodlands Trust will help enrich the sites and experience of all involved.

As part of our commitment to working greener and reducing our Carbon Footprint within the Parish, we will plant a tree for every 100 miles that our contractors drive within the Parish. This has already begun with the planting of 15 semi standard trees at the Ashbrook Centre.

Recycling of Generated Green Waste.

**Recycling 100% of all generated green waste to reuse on the land.**

Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council pledge to recycle 100% of ALL green waste generated from sites within the Parish. A large compost area has been created at the Ashbrook Centre where grass clippings, soft growth from shrubs, hedge trimmings and associated green superfluous waste is placed to rot down.

Last year we collected in excess of 11 cubic metres of fallen leaves and debris along with a large amount of unwanted Christmas trees which were chipped, shredded and added to the compost. This growing season the volume of green waste is reaching 30 cubic metres, by recycling all our green waste it has reduced our carbon footprint of transporting the waste to registered sites.

As part of Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Councils Green Vision, all rotted compost will be made available for any residents wishing to collect, free of charge to use on either their gardens or allotment plots. We also intend to use this compost to mulch Rose and flower beds situated throughout the Parish, this will reduce the requirement for chemical-based fertilisers.

Dead wood and logs generated from works within the Parish will be collected and stored safely. Log piles are to be made at the Ashbrook Centre to attract wildlife which thrive on decaying wooded material, such as the lesser Stag Beetle, Stag Beetles, Large Fruit Tree Bark Beetles and other invertebrates that rely on dead tree matter, certain vertebrates like Bats are also reliant on old tree material.

A woodland walk will be created through the wildflowers situated at the Ashbrook Centre. Woodland paths will be created by chipping branches from fallen trees or wind fall. These will be placed on the ground to provide a dry walking surface. This can be replicated on other sites within the Parish to compliment tree planting and wildflower areas. Old branches could also be utilised to create “dead hedges” to increase habitat in the Parish. This is a great way of reusing old tree material and to encourage children and volunteers to get involved to help develop these new wildlife areas.

Seasonal Litter Picking and Waste Management.

**Seasonal pick me ups within the Parish to reduce quantities of litter.**

Litter picking and collection becomes an integral part of any council service delivery, it can also become a blight on the neighbourhood, with fly tipping and dumping waste becoming more frequent. During the last 6 months litter has increased around the Parish and quantities collected have doubled. Most individual sites visited have at least 1-2 bags collected, the worst areas are around the shops, the main road and high footfall areas.

Our vision would be to undertake 4 seasonal litter community collection days in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Engaging with schools, Scouts and local groups to promote these events, areas would be highlighted and then litter picked. The Parish Council will provide all essential tools and equipment and arrange for collected waste to be safely removed from the site, following all safety and Government guidelines at the time of the events taking place.

The Parish Council, Borrowash in Bloom and Ockbrook in Bloom already undertake litter collection days, the above would be to complement this existing service.

Fly tipping within the Parish would be monitored with a report and remove system being adopted. Reciprocal work would be undertaken with Erewash Borough Council to assist with the removal of large quantities of dumped waste.

During the past 18 months two trailer loads of dumped metal waste have been collected and transported to Wards recycling in Ilkeston. This was weighed in and £76.00 was collected, this money was used to purchase the wildflower seeds for the Ashbrook Centre. This will continue and money raised will be put towards future green events within the Parish.

We are also researching the possibility of new recycling bins at the Ashbrook Centre to give the residents of Borrowash the opportunity to recycle locally at a convenient location.