

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE
KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE
NOTES OF A SITE MEETING AT KILN FIELD HELD ON 24.01.20

PRESENT:

Town Councillors: Mrs. K. Walder.

Non-Councillors: Colin Reader of Wild Flower Lawns & Meadows, Dave Bourner, Jon Burnell, Andy Corcoran (Maintenance Team), Roger Finniss and Mrs. Jean Sugden.

Tenterden Town Council Staff: Lesley Owers taking notes.

KILN FIELD. Colin Reader reported that the management of Kiln Field at present was on point and that our maintenance team had done an excellent job. He said that out of all the councils he had worked with Kiln Field was by far the best managed and maintained.

Colin Reader's advice for the next steps for Kiln Field are as follows:

- To arrange for the sowing of the Wild Flower seed mix that Donald Duffus donated free of charge to Kiln Field, on the bare area near the pond, as soon as possible.
- To keep banks of pond mown this year to enable germination of Perennial species.
- To vary the mowing of paths.
- To allocate an area at the site for a rabbit proof nursery area to grow on plug plants of species to be introduced e.g. Cowslips, Yarrow, a little bit of Oxeye Daisy, Scabia, Red Campian, Milkmaids and Orchids. This is something the school children could get involved in. Colin suggested that the plug plants should be planted with a 4" diameter to enable the roots to spread and should pot on the plugs to 9cm pots to transplant and for planting. We should look at the Clay, loam and sandy soils plant plug collection on Colin's website.
- To monitor the grass growth in the meadow to see whether Yellow Rattle seed is needed to be broadcast.
- To "Chelsea cut" (this is a cut in May which allows for a different level of growth) an area of about 12' x 12', to mow and collect cuttings and in the first week of May to see how it looks and to see how different it is compared to the rest of the area around it.
- To hay cut in September and to leave a buffer strip next to the hedge.
- To make enquiries to Kent Wildlife Trust about pond dipping.
- To put a large yellow sign with black writing in the middle of the meadow demanding that people to clean up after their dogs.
- To speak to Kent Wildlife Trust about pond dipping.

GRASS VERGES. Dave Bourner took Colin Reader to visit the grass verges designated to wild flowers and his comments on these were as follows:

Appledore Road at Homewood Playing Field.

Colin Reader commented that this grass verge is not good for wild flowers. The verge is dominated by Dandelions and Creeping Buttercups. It is too shady and there are just weeds there so this grass verge is unsuitable to be left to wild flowers and we would just waste a lot of money.

Chalk Avenue.

We should scatter a grass free wild flower lawn mix over bare areas. Mow tighter over the next couple of months. Keep the mowing regime the same as if the grass gets any longer it will gather litter. To mow once a month. This verge is dominated by lots of Lawn Daisy and some White Clover.

Craythorne.

This verge is weedy and good for wildlife. Colin suggested it would be a good idea to put in a few mature plants to catch the eye. Maybe Red Campion and Meadow Cranesbill.

Wild flower meadow at the bottom of St. Michael's Recreation Ground.

This needs to be cut and cleared and to put some clay, loam and sandy soil mix and add in extra Meadowsweet, Purple Loosetrife and Ragged Robin. Something eye catching. We have to decide the benefit of adding more grass species to this verge, as grasses take up the space of wild flowers.

The verge opposite the Fat Ox.

This is good and the best verge of them all. It's a shady area dominated by plants. There are lots of Primroses and there is a bit of Hogweed which needs pulling out. It would be good to pick a few extra plants e.g. Bird's-Foot Trefoil. Most flowers are spring flowering so if we would like an extra season of flowering time we could plant Selfheal, Devils-bit Scabious and Betony, a woodland and shade mix.

IN CONCLUSION. Colin advised that it may be worth applying for the Sussex Lund Grant as we fulfil a lot of the requirements at Kiln Field and to mention to them Roger Finniss's connections, working for the Rausings through Wadhurst Park Limited.

Colin Reader would like to return to visit Kiln Field and our designated grass verges in late June so that he can see which wild flowers have come up.

Colin advised us to look at the wild flowers available on his website and he said if needed he could adapt the wild flower mixes to suit our requirements.