

Report from the PCEG meeting 1st March 2021

1. **Present:** Henry Clark, David Hankins, Anne Tuley, Emma Crowson and Sally Jackson. No apologies.
2. **Update on Logo/branding and communication:** Discussion on how to engage with people more successfully. It was agreed that the March newsletter would be virtual and then hopefully the April edition (complete with new logo) could be delivered door to door. Henry has updated the Peakirk Wikipedia page. Any new information to be added please send to him. The minutes from the PCEG meetings are now on the Village Website. SJ still to forward a list of possible contacts. We have been talking to Glington Parish Nature Recovery Group, who have asked to join our group. We agreed that we would welcome them as visitors, but felt that we had up to 15 projects on the go in Peakirk at the moment and could not spare any resources for practical help for Glington.
March newsletter. This was to be a single page update on our ongoing projects until we were able to meet together in person again.
3. **Mapping:** HC has updated the tree planning map on QGIS and added the trees planted by PAST and will now add the trees from Poppy Revell's tree survey. This has been forwarded to Darren Sharpe at PCC, so they are aware of the position of the PAST trees. EC had kindly volunteered to fund the purchase and planting of two new trees in the verge adjacent to the Old Police House. It was decided that the issue of a PCC licence should be sorted before this was carried out.
4. **Thank you to Nature Orchard project:** PECT have granted us funds of £1,620 to pay for the project costs. It was agreed to research other Orchard projects and order locally sourced fruit trees. SJ to contact The Orchard Project for advice. We agreed to ask Mr Harding for a price to remove the top soil and weed burden to a nearby site. Other work should be delayed until we can form a work party on site.
5. **John Clare verges project:** Darren Sharpe has confirmed that the majority of verge maintenance will stay the same this year and that a Parish Verge survey will be undertaken by Parish Councils. The logistics of this to be discussed at the next meeting of the JCC Verges Working Group on 11th March. The verges in Barnack that are classified as County Wildlife Sites will have a change of cutting regime.
6. **Village hall update:** Mr Harding to excavate area of nettles at the back of the village hall during March. SJ to compose a list of suitable Pollinator plants with Sarah Lambert's help. A similar treatment will be carried out in the Millennium Corner also during March. The idea would be that local people would be encouraged to bring any excess plants from their gardens that are on the list and plant them in one of the areas. This would remove the need for a working party and allow the planting to be carried out this spring. PAST to carry out maintenance work on the Village Hall trees. DH has completed the first insect house which will be placed in the Car Park. AT to help.
7. **John Clare Countryside:** No update
8. **Firdale Close:** SJ and HC to agree and mark the cutting line for Mr Harding at both Firdale Close and the Village Green. The areas inside the line would not be cut this season to allow existing plants to grow. A survey will be carried out in the Autumn and a decision made on next year's cutting regime.

9. **City Council involvement:** Update on meeting 17th Feb 2021 with Emma Naylor (Climate change and Neighbourhood Plans), and Hannah Swinburne (Principal Climate Change Officer) on Parish Carbon Reduction Plan. SJ and HC have put together a plan of action. Emissions from housing and transport were the major concerns. Emma Naylor to consult PCC and ask how they can support this going forward.
10. **Update on National Nest box week:** 14th to 21st February. Peakirk PC have bought and installed 6 new nest boxes on and around the Village Green.
11. **Update on JCC Access and Health Group meeting:** 12th February. SJ working with David Alvey from JCC to put together an outline idea for improving access to the whole JCC.
12. **Update on JCC NE Cluster meeting:** 23rd February. There were many good projects underway, like building an otter holt in Deeping Gate, a pollinator meadow in Glington and reviving an old orchard in Northborough. It was agreed that a list of reference items that could advise us on specific problems would be helpful. SJ to invite all members present to join the Peakirk Wildlife and Climate Emergency Facebook Group so that shared problems could be worked out between us.
13. **Cooperation with Welland Valley Trust:** The Langdyke Trust, Environment Agency, local Internal Drainage Boards are all involved with the WVT. SJ to join for information.
14. **AOB:** PAST members spent a day cutting back overgrown hedges near the folly River to free 2 Crab Apple trees from brambles.
15. **Date for Next meeting:** 6th April at 7.30pm.