

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



Assets, Community and Environment Meeting 9 July 2020

ACE008.a: To receive an update on Horsefield Green Management Plan

1. Background

In August 2013, a Landscape Management Plan was prepared by Allen Pyke Associates. The purpose of the plan was “to set out the overall management objectives for the common external areas and retained structural vegetation, and to describe the long term maintenance required to allow the planting to flourish and reach its design potential”. When the Parish Council took over maintenance responsibilities for the public areas of Horsefield Green in December 2017, this plan was adopted as a guide to maintaining and developing the location.

2. Action Areas

a) Grass

The regular grass areas are being mown every 8-10 days and the edges are also being progressively tidied where the grass meets the path. The whole area was recently given its second herbicide spot treatment of the year, targeting growth under benches and in the paths.

b) Meadow Grass

The meadow grass areas were cut in late May and will be cut again in September/October.

c) Hedges and Trees

Some of the hedges and plants that grow near/onto the path and in the wooded areas have been trimmed. This will continue when a new hedge cutter is acquired. We have also been pruning back excessive growth that encroaches onto paths and walkways as well as sawing back any fallen or unstable trees or growth in the wooded area. There has been some discussion with Adrian Podmore about the possible installation of an orchard.

d) Container

Discussions are on-going about how best to screen the container – the plan now seems to be to create a screen in front of the container rather than have foliage growing on or adjacent to it.

e) Paths

Leaves continue to be cleared from all pathways, as necessary. On the lower section path there is some corrosion from water flow during the winter - this could

use some attention to restore its evenness and appearance; Ryan Humber (who cuts the meadow grass areas) has said he could possibly help.

f) Litter Removal

Carried out once a week (as required).

3. Plans for the Immediate Future

a) Grass

Mowing to continue though the growing season (to September).

b) Paths

All pathways will be edged. The condition of the lower path needs some attention as the rain has worn two narrow routes across it (see 2.f) above). Along the footpath that leads into the copse (adjacent to the fields), we will consider placing woodchip or wood stepping where the path gets very muddy during the autumn/winter months.

c) Pond

Completion of a second hibernaculum.

d) Fencing and boundary areas

These are still in generally good condition but will be monitored regularly.

e) Bird and bat boxes

The purchase of these remains under consideration, per the management plan.

Name: Paul Stevens
Title: Operations Officer
Date: 25 June 2020