



19 New Buildings
Broadclyst
Exeter
EX5 3EX
31/07/2017

Clerks Report to: Broadclyst Parish Council

Date of Meeting: 7 August 2017

Agenda item: 17/144 vii a

Subject: Parish Together Fund projects

Purpose of report: To consider a request from EDDC via Cranbrook Town Council for EDDC's Great Trees project

Recommendation:

- i. that that report be considered
- ii. that the Council resolves to make a small contribution towards the project, in line with Cranbrook's contribution.

Financial implications: There are no implications for parish finances as funding for the shortfall will be the responsibility of the District Council. Cranbrook Town Council will lead on the application so there is no additional officer time required.

Legal implications: The District Council will be responsible for delivery of the project

Equalities impact: Low:

Risk: Low. This project will not create risk to the Council's usual operation

Link to Council Action Plan: to support the community

Report:

Background: A Green Infrastructure Board and Delivery Group covering the Exeter & East Devon Growth Point has been in existence now for three years and has debated the priorities and delivery mechanisms for the Clyst Valley Regional Park. The Board comprises of councillors from four local planning authorities, Natural England, the Environment Agency, charities such as the Devon Wildlife Trust and major landowners such as the National Trust. The Board supported an application for a Landscape Partnership and an Expression of Interest (EoI) was submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 6th June 2016. This led towards a field tour with HLF staff at which we were encouraged to apply for Our Heritage and consider this as a spring board to a future, more ambitious project.

A meeting was held on 19th October 2016 with a range of potential partners, including landowner representatives, to scope the project, and from that a second EoI was submitted to HLF on 9th January 2017. Since then, we have held face to face meetings with some parish and town councils*, National Trust, Woodland Trust, private landowners at Bishops Court, Poltimore and Rockbeare. The project has been shaped through consultation with the East Devon Catchment Partnership. The project plan has been through three iterations of consultation with partners.

Evidence of Need: Mature trees are a vital heritage feature in the Clyst Valley but they are in decline. Many Devon hedgerow trees are now nearing the end of their lives. Without a concerted and sustained effort to establish new hedgerow trees in coming years, there will be a gradual but profound change to the Clyst Valley landscape, likely to be greatly exacerbated by new diseases, especially ash dieback. An increasing human population locally presents the opportunity to mobilise a tree planting force.

Outcomes for people

- Five 'citizen science' training programmes for volunteers (tree & orchard survey, historic parkland research).
- Two practical workshops on grafting and pruning will ensure that there is a larger, more skilled workforce to manage orchards.
- Cranbrook geocache tree trail
- Themed discovery walks
- Volunteer training days will be sociable, with food and drink an important aspect
- School seed planting will take children out into local woods to gather and grow tree seed.
- A hunt to find Great Trees i.e. biggest, oldest, and the one with the richest or most fantastic story (real or imagined) will hopefully capture the imagination of the public and will be coupled with a photographic competition.

Outcomes for communities

- Reduce negative impacts e.g. identify ash trees that have resistance to diseases and that could therefore be propagated to form a new resilient landscape.
- Social interaction between urban and rural communities leading to greater sense of place and shared understanding; residents, farmers, foresters.
- A more distinctive culture for the new town of Cranbrook and the growing eastern edge of Exeter which celebrates the unique heritage of the area and cherishes the value of trees.
- 100 new conservation volunteers.

Employ local special advisors, and identify how farming can become more financially resilient by turning trees and hedges into an asset.

Parish Together Fund remaining balance

The parish of Cranbrook is contributing a minimum of £450 and a maximum of £500, and Poltimore has allocated its entire annual allowance of £269.50

There has been no other allocation made so far in 2017/18, therefore the recommendation is to match Cranbrook's resolution.

This concludes my report to Council.

Angie Hurren

MILCM

Broadclyst Parish Council Clerk

31 July 2017

