**Nick Bradley** From: Peter Cloke

**Chair Ide Parish Council** Chair Pynes Community Orchard Working Group

 Date: 16 September 2019

**Pynes Community Orchard - Progress Report**

1. The Orchard is currently under the tenancy of Andy Bragg until legalities are completed for our Option to Purchase arrangement, and the Orchard’s eventual sale to the Parish Council.
2. During the summer months Andy has kept stock in the Orchard to keep the grass down, and the Working Group has been finalising the prospectus, which is now ready to be issued at the start of our fund raising campaign.
3. We have spent some time clearing up an issue which arose from the Commissioners’ Land Agents sending two sales plans for the Orchard - the first in December 2018 excluded the dismantled railway to the rear of 78 High Street, and the second in March 2019 included it.
4. A claim was made on 9 May 2019 by Peter Bishop to the Land Registry for adverse possession title to this land, and the claim is progressing, with a visit expected imminently from Ordnance Survey.
5. This positive progress to resolve the issue before we sign our Option to Purchase agreement is very much welcomed by the Working Group. Immediate next steps will depend on whether the Commissioners’ solicitors decide to contest the claim or not but it is hoped that we may see the issue resolved quite quickly now to enable us to proceed.
6. The first planting of new apple trees will begin around the turn of the year. Andy and Jenny have ordered fifty trees including lots of traditional Devon varieties, and the growing volunteers group will be reconvened to help with this as well as some pruning.
7. The Working Group is preparing a draft initial plan for layout of the orchard to include picnic, recreational and wild flower areas surrounded by some two hundred apple and other fruit trees. It has the potential to become a spectacular asset for the village, and will make a dynamic contribution to our sustainability agenda.

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