20 January 2021 (by email) to Ide Parish Clerk

I am writing to Ide PC as I set up the Wild Ide Facebook group, and over the last year there has been good community engagement about the plight of wildlife particularly in view of the Ecological emergency in the parish. Wild Ide currently has 123 members.

There have been heartening reports and sightings of hedgehogs in the parish and in the autumn a number of Ide residents installed “hedgehog holes” to create a village hedgehog highway. It is believed that by current rates of decline hedgehogs are expected to be extinct by 2025 (BTO data). 150,000 hedgehogs are killed on roads in the UK, this is out of an estimated total hedgehog population of 600,000 (PTES) so as you can see Ide’s hedgehog population is precious. Hedgehogs can travel up to 2km a night.

I was therefore wondering if it would be possible to install a hedgehog sign on the planters at the entrance of the village? Chudleigh have made a brilliant one (I’ve attached a photo) or alternatively the British Hedgehog Preservation Society have one at their website:

 <https://shop.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/product/slow-down-warning-sign/>

I am happy to purchase the sign and have it installed if the PC are in agreement.

I am parish councillor and Parish Nature Warden for Longdown and Holcombe Burnell, and I’m very pleased to hear that Ide have recruited the Wildlife Wardens. My daughter attends Ide School and we are currently working on a Rewilding and nature enrichment project at the school to help wildlife and engage the children with nature, which will hopefully help with their mental health and well-being.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With very best wishes

Kate

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