**Nick Bradley From: Peter Cloke**

**Chair Ide Parish Council Chair Ide Community**

 **Orchard Working Group**

 **Date: 4 November 2021**

**Ide Community Orchard - Progress Report**

1. A Stage 2 grant application was submitted on 25 October to Viridor Credits by David Howe. The application is for half the purchase price (ex VAT) of the land and for the whole cost (ex VAT) of two new wooden gates and eight picnic tables with integral benches.
2. We are setting a putative deadline of 1 December for financial donations and realisation of pledges. A follow up letter is being written to chase up contributions. Nick will update the meeting on the latest position on fund raising.
3. A successful Open Morning was held on 9 October and 35 people visited the Orchard.
4. A strimming and mulching morning took place on October 10th, with work completed this week. We are planning to hold a volunteers’ morning on Sunday December 5th to begin some pruning of the old trees, carry out further mulching and to cut back some of the bramble patches.
5. Hedges have been cut back and reduced. Trees safety work has been carried out near the electric substation which has necessitated opening up the redundant gateway into the path going under the old railway bride.
6. A letter has been received from the Commissioners’ land agents asking for Parish Council permission for contractors to run a power line from the substation to the proposed new housing development on the Pynes Farm site. Further clarification is being sought to address a number of concerns and issues.

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