

Nick Bradley
Chair Ide Parish Council

From: Peter Cloke
Chair Ide Community
Orchard Working Group

Date: 13 January 2022

Ide Community Orchard - Progress Report

- 1 Councillors will be aware that the Stage 2 grant application submitted on 25 October to Viridor Credits by David Howe has been approved. 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. This approval follows a very positive visit to the site by a representative of Viridor. We are also optimistic that an application to the RHS submitted by Paula Burton for a £5000 grant to fund an additional gate, tree protectors, dedication plaques, a storage shed and dormouse and owl nesting boxes will be approved: we expect an announcement on 21 January 2022. Special thanks go to David, Nick and Paula for producing such high quality bids.
- 2 With the generosity of the Community, pledges and tree dedications, we have made substantial progress towards achieving the purchase price of the Orchard. Nick will give a precise update at your meeting.
- 3 The Commissioners' request to vary the Option Agreement for contractors to run a power line from the substation off St Ida's Close to the proposed new housing development on the Pynes Farm site is being discussed with them on January 25th. Our concern is that they have asked us to allow access to approximately one half of the whole orchard, adjacent to the main road. Nick has had no response so far to a number of questions and concerns.
- 4 This is a quiet time in the Orchard. Migrating birds have largely cleared the residual fallen apples. A strimming and mulching morning took place on December 5th and a further pruning and mulching morning will be held on Sunday February 7th. This again provides an opportunity for villagers to visit the orchard and help out with some seasonal wintry work. Further reduction of some of the larger and more intrusive bramble patches has been carried out and new plum, apple and walnut trees have been planted. Julian Perrett has completed a marvellous map positioning and numbering every tree, with a schedule of the type and variety of each tree, to help with future planting, and with identifying each sponsor's unique tree..

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