

Ide Parish Council

Ide Community Orchard Working Group

Report to: IPC meeting 18 May 2022

From: Peter Cloke, Chair ICOWG

1. Purchase of the Orchard was completed on 29 April and it was open for the Community the next day. It has been a wonderful fortnight with everyone enjoying finding their way around the site and enjoying its tranquility and aspect.
2. We assembled seven substantial picnic tables with built in benches and were able to have them in place for the opening day. The grass, and perimeter and transverse paths were cut. Last week three new traditional gates were fitted. The entrance gate carries a notice displaying the Guidelines for Use of the Orchard.
3. Further work was carried out at the bank holiday weekend to trim the long grass around the new tree guards, and this will be completed this week. A red dog waste bin has been installed at the entrance to the Orchard, with an integral bag dispenser. Mel Liversage has arranged for the bin to be emptied regularly by Teignbridge District Council free of charge.
4. The Working Group, which has run the project for five years, and conducted the protracted negotiations for the purchase, will now need to become an Orchard Management Group. In that regard, councillors have before them a revised set of draft Terms of Reference, for discussion and comment.
5. We are planning an official opening ceremony at noon on Sunday June 5th, 2022. I am very grateful to Mark Thomas for leading on its planning and for being MC on the day. The Management Group is having a single item agenda meeting next Monday 16 May to plan the event which will include the planting of one of the two trees the PC has purchased for the Jubilee, and input from the school and others.
6. There is no sign yet of any inhabitants for the owl nesting boxes but I live in hope! The daily skylark chorus is a considerable joy.

Peter

11 May 2022