

Minutes of Ide Community Orchard Management Group Meeting, March 12th, 2024.

In attendance: Mark Thomas, Nick Bradley, Mel Liversage, James Romain & Andy Bragg.

1: Apologies: Richard Cottle & Julian Perrett.

2: Minutes of Meeting held 24th January - Approved. Apologies to Mel for misspelling your surname!

3: Wassail. We had a good discussion about the wassail, held on 4th February. Lisa Higgs was an excellent addition to the occasion. Perhaps we could get lanterns in place next year. The timing of the wassail was felt to be right and the general view was it had been a super event.

4: Management Plan. Julian had shared some comments on the Orchard Management Plan. He's shortly to attend a webinar which will give greater guidance about the Biodiversity Net Gain 'bank' to which we can apply. We may need a separate meeting to sign the Plan off at a date to be confirmed.

5: Information Boards: We had an excellent and wide ranging discussion about Information Boards, reflecting on issues like content, their use by other groups within the community (eg. Ide School) and time scale. James has produced some great art work which could be the basis of some information about things like the changing of the seasons. Mark and James will get together shortly to work out the next steps.

6: Kissing Gate. It was agreed that we would try to get a Kissing Gate in place next to the main gate. This would 'complete' the entrance as well as ensuring dogs and children aren't able to run straight through the gap and onto the road. Since the meeting, Mel has approached Will Boswell who will give us a quote for the work.

7: Signage: We agreed that Bronwen Tyrell (artist and former Ide resident) would provide a sign for the main gate. We will also investigate signage to be placed at the roundabout and also at a point where the road meets the grass (close to the dog poo bin) so people driving by can see that this is where we are.

8: Mulch: Andy is going to sort some mulch for the Orchard - thanks Andy!

9: Loose branches on the way up the hill and the hazard they can cause. James will ask Simon Sharp (tree surgeon based at West Town Farm) to check our side for loose branches and Nick will report any on the other side (which are not our responsibility) to Devon County Council. James will also take the opportunity to walk with Simon around the Orchard to look at potential locations for hedge laying.

10: Shed: Thanks to James and Nick for the temporary fix on the shed after the recent wind damage to the roof, We will aim to get a more permanent job done in late Spring/June.

11: Future dates for events

We agreed the following:

Next Working Party: Sunday, 14th April

Blossom Breakfast: Sunday, 19th May

Apple Day: Saturday, 19th October

Our next Orchard Management Meeting will be Thursday 9th May, 2024 at 7pm. Location: ! Station Road, Ide. We look forward to welcoming Sue Cloke to the Group then.

MT/ 14/3/24