

Meeting	Working Party – Bulbs Trees Wildflowers
Date	13 th September 2022
Report Title	Wildflowers, Bulbs & Trees Update
Agenda Reference	13
Author	Councillor S McDermott, David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces and Caroline Hunt, Community Development Officer

Working Party Recommendations:

1. To note the contents of the report.

Background

Following agreement from Parks & Open Spaces Committee in August 2022 (POS081) regarding the types of bulbs to purchase, Councillor S McDermott met with Officers to implement the projects for 2022 through to 2024. The discussion points from this meeting have been agreed by the Officers and are due to be presented to the Bulbs, Trees & Wildflowers Working Party on Tuesday 13th September 2022 prior to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

Discussion Points:

1. Current Wildflower Sites

Catherine Wyatt School site - half cut and remove, leaving the remaining half - the teasels - to provide over winter feed.
Old Blunsdon Lane - cut & remove
Hysopp Hill - cut & remove
Garsington Roundabout - cut & remove

Actions: To be conducted by the Parks & Open Spaces Team during winter projects.

2. Trees

For planting in Autumn/Winter 2023 & Spring 2024 - locations identified by October 2022, to allow the Head of Parks & Open Spaces to create location list and tree species by March 2023 for submission to Great Western Community Forests (GWCF). It was noted that if the total of the areas to be planted within a site equates to 0.1 ha or larger, the Council would qualify for Trees for Climate funding. This could be as little as 250-300 whips.

Actions: Head of Parks & Open Spaces to collate locations to be identified by October 2022 and brought to Committee. Schedule for planting in Autumn/Winter 2023 & Spring 2024. Community Development Officer to apply for further funding.

3. Creepers

Locations include the High Street and the crazy paving around the base of the roundabouts on Westfield Way. If successful we could plant trial areas on difficult to mow banks.



Actions: Head of Parks & Open Spaces to schedule for planting in Spring 2023.

4. Rewilding:

Identify areas to be left uncut during the 2023 season, with a single cut in Autumn 2023. List of areas and communication methods to be agreed in January.

Actions: Working Party to compile the list of potential sites to be signed off by Committee in January 2023. Head of Parks & Open Spaces to communicate with residents to avoid complaints.

5. Wildflowers:

Identify areas by end September 2022 and determine methodology to be used and equipment to be hired.

Actions: Head of Parks & Open Spaces to schedule the Parks & Open Spaces Team for planting during winter projects and in Spring 2023.

6. Bulb planting:

Community bulb planting, several schools have shown an interest, so we'll distribute to them. A member of the public has expressed an interest in Chatsworth, so provide instructions/bulbs to them. Another resident has expressed an interest in planting at Lyddon Way so distribute to them.

Actions: Community Development Officer to compile a list of locations and arrange volunteers for planting. Engagement with schools necessary and to form part of the current Youth & Community Development initiatives.