

Friends of Freshford (FOF) Tynning Update, November 2020

Cllr Tania Pascoe

Following on from FoF proposal to enhance the Tynning's ecology considered at the October Freshford Parish Council meeting, there are a number of new developments and some outstanding issues still to be resolved.

New developments

1. Reopening of the Culvert

- The Dawsons are keen for the opening up of the culvert to be reviewed again.
 - They are open to the idea of the culvert running along the backside of Galleries field by the hedge/ crossing over the road opposite the gate and then running along the Tynning Hedge at the bottom (where Philip Challinor suggests it once ran).
- Philip Challinor suggests that Wessex Water might be able to fund the reopening.
- Airlighting the culvert would have ecological benefits.

2. Tree planting on the Galleries field

- Candy and Tania had a meeting last week with Stephen and Gitte Dawson where they showed their interest and shared their plans to plant 2 – 3 large oaks and a clump of field maple on the Galleries field. This will either happen this year or next.
- This would create conservation and wildlife stepping stones between the Galleries and the Tynning, enhancing both ecologically.

3. Bulb planting organised by FoF with a good attendance by the village took place on Sunday 31st October. *(Further details to be provided).*

4. Water pipe from Spring Cottage in Sharpstone runs to The Old Manor House. This might impact the proposal to plant memorial trees along the southern side of the Tynning Road. John Adler in discussions with Gay O'Reilly to get plans.

5. An updated proposal for the Tynning is being created, following on from a meeting on 15th October attended in parts by Andrew Wishart (Freshford School), Cllrs Jean Hawker, Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Ben Walters, John Adler, Tania Pascoe and Candy & Loulou from FoF. *(Notes from this meeting are below and in the separate FoF proposal update document).*

Further steps

- **A final plan is required for PC discussion and approval.** This will require each element to be mapped, costed and a maintenance plan (which might vary year on year) set out and costed. FOF will work with Jean on this.
- **A parish consultation** will then be required. This might take the form of an online meeting and/or mail drops with printed plans requesting feedback to ensure everyone is consulted. Timing TBC.

Note: The separate FoF proposal document has been updated with further details but is still work in progress.

Appendix 1 Notes from 15th October Meeting

School

- Looking for 'flexibility' - more ways to learn in nature
- Diversity is good - more habitats. Support the orchard near Freshford Lane hedge.
- The school is up for involvement in anything planting/researching.
- Liability (falling out of trees and pond)- what is the issue, how can we do it safely?
- Review moving the school safeguarded area to near the Boer Oak. School can put in steps up. It would work better for school to have a flatter area away from the boggy area.
- Would like a hedge along Church lane boundary near Boer oak
- Once we have a plan come to the school and talk to each class about what the plan is and why (educate, and engage by ensuring the school and the individual children are "in the story". Include their ideas.

In consensus....

Northern Edge

- The protected hedge along Freshford Lane needs to be maintained 'for wildlife'. Is there a group who can take this on like the Freshford Station Garden? It should be enhanced by some additional planting and old man's beard controlled.
- Orchard trees on small to medium rootstock along Freshford Lane hedge starting at 5 bar gate until boggy area.
- Boggy area: alders and coppiced willow and maybe a pond? (compensating for the culverted stream.
- The 'hole' in the hedge is a 'natural willed opening' and would benefit from wooden low impact steps, enhancing access onto the Tynning. A safety barrier opposite would be required. There is obviously the legal requirement to look after the hedge and this would impact it.

Central slope

- One oak on the steep bank
- Leave grass longer between paths. Keep paths mown. But encourage biodiverse grass in between. Enhance this with yellow rattle / small areas of wildflower seeds. Reading The Chalkhill Environmental appraisal, it suggests mowing twice a year (September/October and March), removing cuttings. But also leaving tussocky grass at a range of heights. (Habitat Aid suggests tussocky grass cut every 2 or 3 years).

NW Corner

- Native tree/ shrubs in an arc starting 1/3rd in from the section left of the 5 bar gate (hazel, spindle planted NW corner, to replace 2 x mature ash trees that probably will need to come down and be laid onto the grass for wildlife).
- 'Alan Dodge' path doesn't look viable, particularly due to no access to road
- Leave the War memorial as a separate project, bar some native bulbs.

Southern Edge

- NB The woodland to the south of the Tynning is on the Priority Habitat Inventory (see Chalkhill Ecological Appraisal July 2015)
- What was agreed for the memorial trees 1 x lime and ?

- Humps along northern edge of Sharpstone Lane enhanced with bulbs and wildflowers (Habitat survey done by Julie Fitzgerald shows most of the Tynning biodiversity is on the humps). These will require adequate entrance points onto the Tynning.
- Upright flowering, wildlife friendly native trees underplanted by bulbs (and humps?) along Southern Edge of Sharpstone Lane with an additional passing place to mitigate too much reversing and loss of sightline.
- Turn Sharpstone Lane into a Pedestrian Priority zone (cars still allowed just pedestrians have priority).

Eastern Edge

- Plant mixed native hedge along Church Lane border.
 - Makes more sense for school to move their safeguarded area to the top eastern flat area (useability and access through apple trees via new steps).
 - Wooden step required near eastern end to allow easy access onto road and up to Boer Oak seat.
 - Hump on corner near Boer Oak to be heightened /enhanced with small native shrubs for safety.
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- The Chalkhill Environmental Consultants Ecological Appraisal of the Tynning (July 2015) of which I have a hard copy supports all these proposals and suggests that we should be looking at a mosaic of habitats and trying to link habitats. I can scan if it's not available electronically.

[Caring for the Cotswolds](#) is now open for applications until 4th December 2020 and I think The Tynning would be in for a good chance as long as costings were presented clearly.