

## **SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Wildlife Working Party**

**Leisure & Amenities Committee – 11 December 2018**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Wildlife Working Party met on 4 December 2018 and this report provides details of that meeting. The meeting was attended by Neil Pullen from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

#### **2. Report Details**

- 2.1** The first discussion was about Shaftesbury Lake and the help that could be given by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT). The building of the fishing platforms and new pathways was about to take place. The Parish Council asked if WWT could assist with advice about planting and maintenance of the area around the lakes. Some wild flowers had already been planted at the lake side and Neil Pullen knew the person responsible for this. The other problem was the algae in the lake, although Neil Pullen did not see this as an issue for the fish. There was also the problem that the actual lake was not in the parish.
- 2.2** It was agreed that Neil Pullen and an expert on waterway from WWT would visit Shaftesbury Lakes and would then be able to give advice to the Parish Council. WWT would also be happy to advise the Parish Services Officer and the Parish Rangers on the future maintenance of the site. The Projects Officer would organise this visit in January 2019.
- 2.3** WWT would also be able to help the Parish Council with information boards for the site. These could be designed and produced by WWT or they could provide the relevant information. He would ask someone at WWT that works in communication & media to contact the Parish Council.
- 2.4** The Working Party discussed the South Swindon Wildlife Corridor and how the Parish Council and WWT could work together to move this project forward. It was agreed that the first action should be to survey the route and draw up a plan of action. It was already known that part of the route was narrow and muddy. It would also need to be decided whether this would be solely a walking route or include cycling.
- 2.5** The route would be split into 3 and Councillors from the Working Party offered to walk the route with the WWT to see what was required. The Projects Officer would arrange the surveys which would take place in January and February 2019.
- 2.6** The Magnificent Meadows had been unsuccessful in their application for funding and this was reported at the last Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting. Neil Pullen said that WWT still wanted to go ahead with the project in Swindon and Councillors informed him that the Parish Council were planning to put aside funding in the budget for the Lawns. Neil Pullen said that he would be meeting with Swindon Borough Council on 10 January 2019 and he would come back to the Parish Council after this meeting to see if this project could be progressed. With the amount being set aside by the Parish Council he thought it would be possible and he also had access to some matched funding.

#### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1** That the report of the Wildlife Working Party be noted.