

Full Council 24 May 2022

Members Questions

Questions from the Leader

1. *Will the Executive Member for Housing update on housing issues in Teignbridge?*

Response from Executive Member for Homes & Communities

A verbal response will be given at the meeting

2. *Will the Executive Member for Climate Change update the council on the ecological emergency response?*

Response from Executive Member for Climate Change

Work we have actioned ourselves or in partnership with others to address the ecological emergency

We declared an “Ecological Emergency” in September 2020

Since then we have -

Exceeded our tree planting targets for our own land- Woodland Trust whips planted this year:

- Dawlish Leisure Centre 700
- Sandringham Park 550
- Eagle Farm Kingsteignton 500

16 larger staked trees donated by Idverde also planted this week at:

- Sandygate Mill Kingsteignton
- Oakland Park Dawlish
- Newhay Field Dawlish
- Gilbert Drive Teignmouth

Trees previously planted are doing well , with very few losses over all (2/3%). One block in Sandringham Park in first year struggled (but still lost less than 10%) but now we are using mulch mats and bark mulch and much better growth is observed.

Carried out significant Habitat Management work

Newton Abbot Cemetery / Wolborough Churchyard/ Sandygate Mill - projects with ACT Wildlife Wardens • Sown Yellow Rattle in November • Over sown with wildflower mix this spring . New signs have been installed in the meadow areas in Ogwell Cemetery (Newton Abbot) and Wolborough churchyard. Yellow rattle has germinated extensively at Ogwell cemetery.

Kingsteignton Town Council - helped to put together a list of sites to work on with volunteers to create wildflower meadows – Mark Payne worked with Bill Thorne to coordinate activity where possible or find contact where not

TDC land. Mark with local Cllr's walked proposed trail , to discuss possible ideas , offered some assistance in in the autumn / winter through our grounds contractor to progress some of the proposed projects. Hoping to involve both Rydon School , St Michael's School and the local guide group.

Bakers Park – improvements on site of old changing rooms and toilets, planting, bug box, hedgehog and bee boxes. Lots of positive comments on social media. One area has been sown with wild flower seed near the bee hotels , this particular area was left intentionally for wild flower seed sowing .

Hackney Marshes Local Nature Reserve, Kingsteignton

- o Reed control with volunteers where spreading into scarcer wet grassland and fen
- o Reedbed management with volunteers to maintain vigour in desirable reedbed areas
- o Woven willow and scrub barriers to protect watercourse and water fowl (e.g. Water rail) from disturbance from dogs

Little Haldon Heaths

- o Heathland management to maintain health of scarce habitat for dependent wildlife. Gorse and Silver birch control to protect heather from shading and prevent succession to less valuable habitat.

Coombe Valley Local Nature Reserve

- o Pushing back encroaching bramble from flowery grassland in Campion Meadow
- o Pushing back bramble and scrub encroaching over and shading pond with newts and tadpoles Ramshorn snails and whirligig beetles

Eastcliff Park

- o Meeting with Network rail and Property re borehole to ensure County Wildlife Site standard grassland not adversely impacted by necessary access. (surfaced paths followed with tracked machine)

Orley Common

o Coppicing Hazel with volunteers to protect ancient boundary wall (mentioned in Domesday Book) from collapsing over-mature Hazel, in collaboration with neighbouring land owner who is working with Devon Rural Skills Trust to restore the wall. Also maintaining long term vigour and habitat diversity of Hazel coppice for ground flora and Dormice. Prior survey with assistance from volunteer surveyor contact from Devon Mammal Group and staff and volunteers to ensure Dormouse safety.

Decoy Country Park and Local Nature Reserve

o Bird box building event by Ranger in Garden Haven Zone to provide additional nesting habitat and raise awareness of the value of gardens as mini nature reserves.

Dawlish Countryside Park

o Rotational hedgerow trimming to maintain variety and thick nesting habitat for Cirl buntings and other hedgerow species. At both Dawlish Countryside Park and Ridgetop Park the arable areas have been ploughed and re sown with spring barley, with Black Medick sown on rotation at Dawlish. These areas will provide a healthy habitat for Cirl bunting, with Skylark and Linnet also benefitting. No chemicals or artificial fertilisers are used and arable wildflowers flourish. At both sites carefully monitored patches have had an endangered arable wildflower introduced with rangers sowing precious seed from the Millennium seedbank as part of the RSPB's Back from the Brink project.

Ridgetop Park

With regard to the new Ridge Top Park, information will be provided by Cllr Taylor in his reply.

Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve Management

–Green Spaces and Rangers Warren team, partnership work with Natural England work to agree a management plan. Lots of school visits and volunteer work

South East Devon Habitats Regulation Partnership – worked with partners in the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership to protect the Exe Estuary and Dawlish Warren.

Produced a Tree Strategy 2021-2026 - This strategy sets out how the Council will work with its partners to drive community action to increase tree canopy cover and quality in Teignbridge, focus on 'the right tree in the right place', promote best practice in terms of tree management and increase local engagement and interest in trees in their area.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/media/9669/tree-strategy-2021-26-accessible-006-final.pdf>

Are implementing a Connecting to Nature Project - several workshops were held and ideas consulted on. Our next steps are to produce the Connecting to Nature Report and accompanying interactive map. The recommendations will help to shape our recommendations for future works to improve areas of green space for both nature and the people living in our community.

Have reviewed Policies in the draft Local Plan to strengthen biodiversity gain – Estelle/ Kati Owen

Enabled Volunteering across the District– lots of ongoing volunteering and conservation task days on ranger sites also management of friends groups and working with ACT Wildlife Wardens

<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/2020/08/30/could-you-be-a-parish-wildlife-warden/>

Held a Biodiversity Workshop – ‘Wild about Teignbridge’ Zoom workshop in partnership with ACT Oct 21 - to inspire activity across Towns and Parishes in Teignbridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekzkbARp4ew>

Mark Payne and Sian Avon also put together a short zoom contribution about grassland management for a parish and town council knowledge sharing event hosted by the Devon Local Nature Partnership.

3. Will the Executive Member for Corporate Resources update the council on the £150 Council Tax refund payments and the roll-out of grants to businesses in Teignbridge?

Response from Executive Member for Corporate Resources

A verbal response will be given at the meeting

4. Would the Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health update the council on the garden waste service and associated issues?

Response from Executive for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health

A verbal response will be given at the meeting

5. Would the Executive member for Strategic Planning update the council on the delivery of new homes in Teignbridge?

Response from Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting

6. Would the Executive Member update the council on the success of the Dawlish Country Park and the arrangements for the public access to the new Ridge Top park at Exminster?

Response from Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting

Question from Cllr Macgregor

The Constitution states quite clearly in the section 'Procedural rules' under 4.2 covering the exceptions for the Executive:

"Requirement to meet at least 12 times a year"

This is for formal Executive meetings that all members must have access to. This is not subject to the whims of the Leader or the Executive.

Q. Can the leader explain why he has failed to ensure that the Executive achieved the minimum required number of meetings for the last two years?

Response from the Leader

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.