**HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

 **HENFIELD OUTDOOR BITESIZE EVENT 3rd MARCH 2021**

 **VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING AND LIVE STREAMED TO FACEBOOK**

 **MEETING NOTES**

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1. **WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES**

Cllr Gill Perry welcomed all 34 people in attendance and introduced the Tree Warden John Willis, Richard Black from Sussex Wildlife Trust and Cllr Andrew Sharp, Chair of the Joint Commons Committee.

1. **TREES IN HENFIELD**

John Willis explained his remit and talked about the importance of trees in the community. He discussed in detail prominent trees around the village including the Henfield Oak, Coronation Oak and Black Poplars and asked for anyone interested to join him in volunteering as a Tree Warden.

1. **LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN**

Cllr Perry explained the action plan and detailed some of the recent actions taken such as the bike shelter, electric car charging point, new LED lighting and safe routes project. She also commented on plans for future tree and wildlife planting around the village and asked the public to contribute with suggestions for locations.

1. **ADUR RESTORATION CORRIDOR**

Richard Black explained the Wilder Horsham project and their aim to address the climate crisis and to protect and increase biodiversity in the area. The intention is to promote and develop nature recovery networks across the district, identifying good sites and ensuring that they connect with each other. He also explained the importance of river networks and holding water to address flooding and suggested survey work and setting targets to increase and create nectar rich grasslands and new wetland habitats.

1. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**
* A member of the public asked Richard Black how trails could be designed to ensure protection of wildlife but still allow access. Richard suggested encouraging walkers to stick to paths and educate with signage regarding breeding season and areas that mustn’t be disturbed.
* A resident of Deer Park asked whether the Council would support and assist with encouraging more wildflower planting on the estate. Cllr Perry explained that the Council had had some discussion in the summer with a small group of residents from Meadow Drive who were also keen on the idea. She will look into it further.
* A member of the public asked whether some verges could be allowed to grow longer. Cllr Perry explained this is another possibility and suggested signs might be needed to explain why some areas might look untidy.

**To view the full meeting please click on the link below:**

<https://www.facebook.com/henfieldparishcouncil/videos/333533484765647>