



## Notes of the meeting of the Environmental Working Group at Banwell Youth & Community Centre, 7:45pm on Monday 6th of October 2025.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Steve Voller (Chairman), Mike Bailey (Vice-chairman), Mike Dolling, Paul Harding, Kelly Smith and Simon Arlidge

**Officers Present:** Amy Symonds (Environment and Biodiversity officer)

**Members of the public Present:** 2

The meeting was convened.

### **017/25 To receive apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)**

No Apologies were received

### **018/25 To receive declarations of interest (Agenda Item 2)**

No interests were declared.

### **019/25 To agree the minutes from the Environment WG on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 (Agenda Item 3)**

**Resolved** – The minutes of the Environment Working Group on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

### **020/25 Receive an update from the Environment and Biodiversity Officer regarding last meeting priority ideas (Agenda Item 4)**

The Environment and Biodiversity Officer confirmed that Council has agreed in principle to install hedges along the right-hand boundary of the Youth & Community Centre and to support the Recreation Ground Trust in planting hedges along all three site boundaries. Two grants have been secured in principle to supply whips for these projects, including management funding for the South and West Recreation Ground boundaries. Funding options for the Northern boundary are still being explored. Ten bat boxes have been approved, with locations being finalised to maximise benefit. Four swift chambers will soon be installed on the Youth & Community Centre and the Scout building, chosen species due to their low maintenance needs and being a priority species for conservation efforts. Hedgehog boxes have also been approved for wildlife boxes as they are a priority species for protection. A volunteer has offered to make them, but construction will likely take place in spring.

### **021/25 Receive a presentation from the Environment and Biodiversity Officer of the next possible steps for the green spaces.(Agenda Item 5)**

The Environment and Biodiversity Officer explained an annotated plan detailing additional measure which could be taken within our green spaces.

### **022/25 Discuss any other suggested ideas (Agenda Item 6)**

No addition ideas were suggested

### **023/25 Identify the favoured idea to recommend to Council (Agenda item 7).**

It was noted that although a popular idea there are currently no suitable locations for fruit/orchard planting, community herb/vegetable raised beds, or stone spirals; however, these ideas will be kept in mind for future projects. Also, that no wildlife or bulb planting should take place in the northern area of Riverside, as this space is actively used by children for play. It was also discussed that longer grass around selected trees at Riverside is not favoured at this time. This resulted in the below recommendations to be put forward to council for consideration:

#### **Cemetery**

Remembrance garden to include species of wildlife benefit  
Blub planting in remembrance garden  
Small Bug hotels

**Riverside**

Wildflower strips along Western border under fence  
Wildflower section on the western border between the play area and the fence line  
Longer grass around the whole border of riverside.  
Additional 3 trees within the northern section and 2 for the southern section.

**Recreation Ground**

A few logs (not piled, tucked into hedgerow)  
Longer grass around edge  
Wildflowers border along the Western edge

**Youth and Community Centre**

Thinning bramble to improve quality for nature  
Wildflower planting in fenced top area  
Less frequently cut/longer grass along boundaries  
Log pile in fenced top area

**024/25 Date of next meeting. (Agenda item 8).**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, 7:30pm Environment Working Group Meeting at the YCC.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm**

.....Chairman

.....Date