

MILL HILL, BROOMHILL & ALLOTMENTS WORKING GROUP

Report for meeting on 14th July

SWT survey

On 5th July Suffolk Wildlife Trust surveyed the ecology of Broomhill, Mill Hill and the 3 Cocked hat. They also surveyed the Nucleus Plantation and the Burial Ground. The original quote for the survey was £450.00 of which PC agreed to pay £150, Gardemau Trust £150 and Day Foundation £150. However, Suffolk Wildlife Trust later advised that due to the additional work needed to survey and draft the reports the quote was increased to £900. The Day Foundation agreed to pay the additional £450.

The invoice will be sent to the PC clerk and the final reports will be sent to Cllr Soanes by September.

The working group will then write a Management Plan for Broomhill, Mill Hill and the 3 Cocked hat. Volunteer working parties will be arranged in the Autumn.

Council will need to arrange a contractor to do the annual hay cut and rake.

Natural History Trail

This circular walk waymarked by purple roundels starts on the Recreation Ground and goes to the Churchyard via the meadows. It then goes to Broomhill, to the High Street along the Love Lane footpath and up to Mill Hill. There is then a choice of either returning to the Rec along School Road or via the Nucleus Plantation. The trail was created as part of the grant application for the children's play equipment in 2009. In addition to the purple roundels there were also 3 A4 size signs and the main sign on the Recreation Ground. The 3 small signs were on Broomhill, Mill Hill and in the churchyard. They are now either fallen apart completely or in a poor state of repair.

Discussions have taken place with the Coddendam Centre, and Day Trust and it is planned to not only replace the signs in the Churchyard, Mill Hill, and the churchyard, but to also have additional signs in the Nucleus Plantation and near to the Coddendam Centre. The signs will be site specific illustrating plant and animal species of the area and a map of the route. It is hoped that the watercolour artwork donated by Sandra Pond for the original signs can be used with some additional pieces.

The Day Foundation and Gardemau Trust have both agreed to contribute towards the project and Matthew Hicks has agreed in principle to funding from his Locality Budget.

Once the SWT survey report has been received, decisions can be made as to sign content etc.

Signs – NOT Natural History Trail

The signs installed on Broomhill and Mill Hill in January this year were later removed. The wording of the signs on Broomhill was factually incorrect and parishioners had commented that the signs were unnecessary, visibly ugly, and inappropriate for a rural woodland setting.

In addition to statements about ownership and management the signs also had the PC clerk's contact details. Footpath walkers may need this information to report fallen branches etc. and it can in future be incorporated on the Natural history Trail signs.

It is recommended that Council decide not to reinstate the signs on Mill Hill and Broomhill. The posts can be retained for potential future use and the signs sent to metal recycling.

Allotments

Ian Jefferies has cut the hedge on Love Lane side of the allotments and a number of allotment holders have collectively mown and strimmed the paths.