

Biodiversity Working Group minutes

22 January 2025 at 7pm

Denham Parish Council Offices

Attendees: Cllr Edna Austin (Chair), Cllr Sharon Williams, Bergey Sigurdardottir, Christine Kearley (Bakers Wood resident), Irene Courteney-Luck (Denham Garden Village)

Apologies received: No apologies

Item 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The previous meeting dated 5 September 2024 were agreed.

Christine Kearley asked about the overall aim of this group. This is to improve Biodiversity within the parish of Denham.

One of the ill effects is the construction of HS2 has influenced the wildlife and the general biodiversity as it crosses through the northern part of the parish.

Item 3 Green corridors/dark corridors in Denham

Improve the green corridors throughout the parish and identify future areas. There are five settlements divided by roads and to review using on-line maps to identify those locations for further work to be done.

One such project is being carried out by Bosch along the north orbital road. They have purchased the former IHG (International Hotels Group) site and are going to be converting the site for a training centre and the gardens to the rear of site have fallen into disrepair and they are going to revitalise the gardens again and open them up to the community for events.

We need someone within the Tatling End area from the Neighbourhood Watch to assist in looking at projects, along with someone from the Broken Gate Lane area.

Bergey suggested that these areas should be plotted onto a map and Colne Valley Regional Park may be able to assist in this area.

Colne Valley Regional Park are currently mapping the amount of pollution on the water courses within the area, due to contamination found in the River Misbourne. A chalk stream watercourse that flows through the Chalfonts had shown a sewage discharge that had been reported on the national news.

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust also carry out monitoring works on wildlife and patterns of behaviour as to where they migrate.

Colne Valley Regional Park are applying for lottery funding to map data to focus on bird migration, flora and fauna and could potentially map other species within the area. The areas could cover woodlands, green spaces and watercourses.

Christine Kearley is one of our residents from Bakers Wood who identifies the different types of moths within the area. Currently, there are 330 different species of moths that have been identified, as these are insects that are currently under threat. A new moth had been identified, which has been verified by the British Natural History museum.

Bergey advised that a project could carry out a GIS mapping data of the woods in Denham, along with River work assessments.

Some other locations to review;

Hailings Wood off Hailings Lane, near Denham Airfield is in private ownership and has a patch of bluebells.

Bakers Wood has an ancient woodland

The woodland that is onto Old Rectory Lane

Oakside has become overgrown and has been fly tipped. Bucks Council have not managed this site.

The old Scout Hut could become a biodiversity area to create a new habitat for wildlife.

Dark Corridors

A discussion took place over security lights/garden lights installed by private owners to secure their property has a negative effect on wildlife, as moths congregate towards lights and may reduce Bats and Hedgehogs.

It was suggested that residents should be asked to dim their external lights through a news article in a future newsletter to attract various species.

Item 4 Wildlife Species and Threats

More data is required and to contact some other organisations

It was suggested to obtain future maps, Bergey advised contacting the following;

www.bucksmknep.co.uk

Nicola Thomas through email nthomas@buckcc.gov.uk

Or Phil Simpkin at Philip.simpkin@wycombe.gov.uk

Other issues related to the road verge grass being too high.

We need to get more people involved, including from the Denham allotment users group as they may suggest ideas.

Item 5 Update on previous meeting

It was suggested to survey the ancient woodland in Bakers Wood

To record the flora and fauna in Bakers Wood. This could be a project for school children to be involved in.

Consult with BBOWT (Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust) is a voluntary organisation in the region that protects local wildlife. A consultation to survey the land.

We need to engage with the local school teachers, so that they can enthuse their children to get involved in local projects.

Date of next meeting 12 March 2025 at Denham Parish Office 7pm

Meeting concluded at 8.30pm