

Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust

Registered Charity 1075736

Walk Round the Millennium Green on Monday 27 July 2020 at 3:00pm

Present: Tim Patrickson (chmn.), John Tromans (vice-chmn.), Lucy Hewitt (sec.), trustees Dinah Griffin, Wendy Johnson, Jennifer Powis, Fran Merrony, Mark Robbins and Gareth Thomas. Also present were Gaby Allison (IMGT adviser) and Edd Manns, who joined the walk as a prospective new treasurer and trustee.

Drainage from SE corner of the moat

There was discussion of the outflow from the moat towards the road at the SE corner of the Green. The area has silted and developed plant growth recently. Water levels in the moat fluctuate, though it has not dried out completely in recent years. The question of whether to investigate and regulate the loss of water from this corner, was revisited, along with the possibility of applying to Historic England for permission and to charities for a grant to support the work. Tim Patrickson has already completed the necessary forms for an application, and trustees' feedback was given and drawn together by Lucy Hewitt in late March. There was general consensus in support to exploring funding and potential contractors to undertake the work.

Copse

Dinah Griffin pointed out that the fungi growing in the copse would benefit from clearance of brambles in the area twice yearly, rather than once as currently takes place. Wendy Johnson commented on advice regarding Ash dieback - the current plan is to clear saplings from the site, but to leave larger trees in situ.

Grassland in Field One

Mark Robbins reported that Tieran Price had been available to cut the grass in July, but was prevented from doing so by poor weather. Other options were now being considered, including by Wendy Johnson, who is investigating through the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Hedge separating Fields one and two

Grasses around the saplings planted in 2019 will ideally be cleared back.

Martin Sadler's / Claire Davies' land

Gaby Allison has been able to provide further information regarding the land which borders the north west edge of Field Two. It has now been sold to Claire Davies and Tim Patrickson has been able to make contact with her. He is hoping to discuss the boundary, where there have been a number of incidents of vandalism, and the potential to establish a link between the School and the Green.

Stone bench

It was noted that the stone bench still has loose capping stones. These are temporarily fixed in place and awaiting Roger Winn to mend more permanently with cement.

Flora and Fauna

The diversity of the site was noted and enjoyed at a number of points during the walk round. Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*) was found for the first time rimming the pond in Field One. The low area in Field Two is currently rich with variety. It was noted that some time has elapsed since a plant survey has been conducted on the site, though some trustees keep their own lists of plants they find on the Green. A plant survey could be scheduled for late spring/early summer 2021.

Spraying

Wendy Johnson raised possibility of spraying some areas of the second field where nettle and thistle growth has become unmanageable. Mark Robbins asked what chemical is currently recommended and Wendy Johnson said we would check guidance from Natural England. Dinah Griffin also mentioned doing some spot treatment more widely over Field Two, and there was agreement that this can work well.

Paths

Paths were discussed at various points on the walk. Dinah Griffin noted that paths are being trodden through the area fenced off by woven wood barriers next to the copse and it was agreed that when additional wood became available those barriers could be heightened to improve their efficacy and deter general use of the area.

At other places on the Green, increased use has resulted in new paths being informally developed and Tim Patrickson pointed out that mowing and trimming had responded by following these. The new paths through the grassland and wet area in Field Two are popular with children.

Fence.

The Green's fences in both fields have been cut a number of times over the recent months. This has been problematic in letting sheep, dogs and children wander unexpectedly, and difficult and costly to repair. There was discussion of whether it would be helpful to speak to the adjacent landowners about securing access to their property. The possibility of speaking to the police was also raised.

School Visits

It was noted that Inkberrow Primary School is unlikely to resume its regular visits to use the Green in September as a result of prioritising time for curriculum catch-up. The IMG T will lose some funding as a result of this, but it is not critical funding. There is also a question mark over how educational visits could resume while the coronavirus pandemic continues to require distancing and hygiene measures.

Use of the Green

There was general agreement that lockdown had increased the use of the Green by local community. Fran Merrony pointed out, however, that the Green has not been able to celebrate the anniversary of its formation as a result of lockdown, and there was an agreement that it would be good to celebrate next year. There was some informal discussion of guided walks, Easter egg hunts and art competitions which could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Lucy Hewitt 28.07.20