

As we know, Bleasby is blessed with a number of beautiful greenspaces which provide accessible areas for us to relax and enjoy. In July 2022, the Parish Council approved the Green Spaces Management Plan which is a long-term plan that will help bring some consistency and focus as to how the parish-owned plots of land are to be managed. These greenspaces not only provide us with pleasant places to enjoy but they are also important habitats for wildlife, wildflowers, hedgerows and native trees. The intention of this plan is to provide the PC and the community with a sustainable plan to manage these greenspaces, not only in their present form, but to enhance and develop them for a sustainable future; it covers ongoing maintenance tasks, budget considerations, development projects and community engagement opportunities and you can find a full copy of the plan on the community website. Hopefully it can serve as a rolling public-terms-of-reference and apart from providing parish residents with visibility, it will also stimulate feedback and contribution to help evolve and improve the Plan to meet future needs.

Probably the most positive thing that came out of getting this plan together was the formation of the Bleasby Grasshoppers. Grasshoppers are a now established and very friendly group of volunteers who basically, share a passion for looking after the wonderful green spaces on our doorstep. We presently meet on the morning of the third Saturday of each month, but there are also add-hoc gatherings to deal with things as and when they arise. There is no expectation of committing to every meet as we all lead busy lives so communication is via a Group WhatsApp - we will put a shout out in the week leading up to a work party session and based on the number of people who can make it and the weather we fine tune a plan for the upcoming session.

We've put an annual planner together that lists monthly activities and shows the various tasks we intend to complete throughout the seasons (published on the community website). We have an annual festive get together and at that time we review the plan to ensure we all know what's going on and that we can cope with the year ahead.

Some examples of Grasshoppers activity over the last year:

- community meadow engagement day
- Centenary Wood tidy up
- grass cut in meadow and yellow rattle sown
- bird watching screen built
- maintained den building area
- mulled wine winter Social
- Ferry End tidy up – looking good
- Jubilee Ponds meadow hedge cut and trim

- removal of fallen branch and other debris
- level crossing green space improvement
- fire-pit and meadow triangle clear and bonfire with marshmallows
- Glebe Field Christmas tree and Jubilee Oak planting
- Ferry End tree in river (this wasn't an organised Grasshoppers activity but thanks to Michael, Peter and Chris Foster who gave up their day and took care of the tree)
- bramble trim & paths tidy
- restoration of the small orchard at Glebe Field,

Alongside the routine upkeep of our Green Spaces, the Grasshoppers are undertaking a number of projects focussed on enhancing these Spaces that we hope will encourage an increase in the diversity and population of wildlife and flora. Some of the potential projects which are being discussed include the creation of "Coronation Corner Meadow" in the corner of Glebe field behind and around the large oak; enhancing the entrance area and signage around Jubilee Ponds and building some bug hotels and bird boxes with the children along with maintaining and enhancing the bird watching and den making areas of the ponds.

Another project starting this year which is an initiative being led by Mike Fryer is to provide more nesting sites for visiting swifts. We have partnered with similar groups in Southwell and Farnsfield and involved Notts Wildlife Trust. If you are interested in providing a site, please get in touch with Mike. General information can be found on the swift conservation website www.swift-conservation.org

We also intend to organise a few community events which will be aimed at providing an opportunity for families and friends from the parish to learn new skills, contribute ideas and get involved with improving the environment for our local wildlife and flora. More information on those will be forthcoming shortly.

It should also be mentioned that the Parish Council approved the purchase of some hand tools & safety kit such as high vis vest, safety glasses, gauntlets, caution signs and a new first aid kit.

If you are interested in helping out, meeting new friends and old, having some fun and getting some exercise, please get in touch to find out more. Just email: bleasbygrasshoppers@outlook.com with your contact details and we'll give you a call.

As the representative of grasshoppers standing here today I'd like to say a big thank you to all of my fellow grasshoppers – not just for the time that they volunteer and the hard work that they put in but also for their companionship – it's a cracking group of people and many of us would not have crossed paths had it not been for this group.

ANNUAL PLANNER



As laid out in the Bleasby Green Spaces Management Plan, there are a number of jobs required to help maintain the upkeep of our green spaces around the parish.

JANUARY

- MAIN MEADOW HEDGE CUT & BONFIRE

FEBRUARY

- CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE ANY UNWANTED CRACK WILLOW AT FERRY END

MARCH

- INSTALL NEW BENCHES AT FERRY END (SUBJECT TO DELIVERY)
- FERRY END PRE-SPRING TIDY UP
- TRACTOR CUT OF MAIN MEADOW (NO GRASS COLLECTION REQUIRED)
- ULYETTS (CONTRACTOR) CUT CENTENARY WOODS FLOOR
- CUT MEADOW TRIANGLE TO KEEP BLACKTHORN AT BAY
- START DEAD HEDGE BUILD / INSTALL UPRIGHTS - DEN BUILDING AREA

APRIL

- GLEBE FIELD BOUNDARY HEDGE TIDY UP
- CUT GRASS PATHS THROUGH CENTENARY WOODS, MAIN MEADOW AND MEADOW TRIANGLE
- CUT BACK JUBILEE POND PATH EDGES AS REQUIRED

MAY

- CONTINUE PATH CUTTING THROUGH MEADOW & CENTENARY WOODS
- INSPECTION OF VILLAGE BENCHES - SAND AND PAINT AS REQUIRED
- CUT BACK JUBILEE POND PATH EDGES AS REQUIRED
- CUT GRASS AT GLEBE FIELD ORCHARD

JUNE

- IDENTIFY PLANTS IN MAIN MEADOW THAT CAN BE LIFTED FOR PLANTING ELSEWHERE (FERRY END)
- CONTINUE PATH CUTTING THROUGH MEADOW & CENTENARY WOODS
- CUT BACK JUBILEE POND PATH EDGES AS REQUIRED

JULY

- CLEAR ENTRANCE TO DEN BUILDING AREA

- CONTINUE PATH CUTTING THROUGH MEADOW & CENTENARY WOODS
- CUT BACK JUBILEE PONDS PATH EDGES AS REQUIRED

AUGUST

- NO TASKS THIS MONTH - LET'S HOLIDAY!

SEPTEMBER

- CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP DAY
- CENTENARY WOODS TIDY UP
- CONTRACTOR TO CUT MAIN MEADOW AND REMOVE ARISINGS
- SOW YELLOW RATTLE TO MAIN MEADOW AND MEADOW TRIANGLE (IF REQUIRED)
- IMPROVEMENTS TO NOTICE BOARD AREA AT CORNER OF GLEBE FIELD - SEE PROJECTS

OCTOBER

- FERRY END TIDY UP
- PLANT-UP RIVER BANK SIDE OF FENCE AT FERRY END
- BULB PLANTING FOR CORONATION MEADOW - SEE PROJECTS

NOVEMBER

- CUT HEDGE ALONG MAIN MEADOW
- PRUNING FRUIT TREES AT GLEBE FIELD ORCHARD
- COPPICE HAZEL IN CENTENARY WOODS

DECEMBER

- BUILD UP DEN AREA DEAD HEDGE