



## **Report to Parish Council from the Hambleton Greening Working Group: Monday October 4th 2021**

Our two phases of Rewilding and Retrofit continue as we build on the great success of the Greening Festival in September:

### **Rewilding/environment:**

- Our efforts to reach 1000 hours of rewilding work (as aimed for in Phase Two of the campaign) have met with some success and we have reached 750 hours but will need to move the deadline to the end of the year to reach the total. There is no doubt that villagers have done the necessary work but there has been a limited interest in submitting the tokens. We feel as a committee that the token system has some limitations as a method of measuring the success of this aspect of the campaign but we are planning on two more village activities which hopefully will complete the required number of hours:
  - Tree Walk in churchyard planned for later in November with a Forestry Commission contact of Alasdair McKenzie's
  - Litter Pick planned in collaboration with PC for November (date tbc)
- Once this phase of the campaign is complete, we will continue to work with Craig Whitelock of HIWWT and join Team Wilder in order to maintain our efforts to help nature recovery across the community. [<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/team-wilder>]
- First meeting with Andy Davidson, Nature Recovery Officer for Hampshire CC Countryside Service, about the Parish Pollinator Pledge concept which seems to fit neatly with our own aims and which we hope to move forward with support from other village groups (eg Hort Soc).

### **Retrofit:**

- An Energy survey for villagers has now been distributed to all HGC supporters and we have had 20 responses. More are needed so we are planning to place a link in the Church newsletter, PC newsletter, FB page etc. in an attempt to build a larger base from which to assess retrofit and carbon-saving concerns within the community.
- Next Retrofit meeting on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> with Christine Seaward, CEO of the Sustainability centre, who is our mentor.
- Visit planned on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> to the Sustainability Centre to explore their new Eco-Lodge. Supporters of HGC will be invited to attend as well as members of the committee.

### **Waste and recycling:**

We feel there is significant interest in this vital aspect of sustainability within the village; the recycling stand run by Andrew Negus provoked a great deal of interest at the Greening Festival. We are working with Denmead Scouts who already run an excellent recycling system and would like (subject to Village Hall agreement) to set up similar recycling bins behind the village hall. This is still a work in progress.

### **Climate Emergency:**

HGC would like to suggest that Hambleton Parish Council take the decision to declare a Climate Emergency, a key first step in making climate change a Parish Council priority and a way of showing our commitment to working towards carbon neutrality by 2030. About 230 councils have so far taken this step, according to the Local Government Association.

We remain grateful as always for the support of the Parish Council.  
Dr Penny Mahon (secretary of HGC)