

Item 11 - Wild Verges Working Group July Report

The Council is asked to receive the July Report prepared by Councillor Steve Porter, the Working Group Chair.

The Council is asked to approve the change to the Terms of Reference of the Group. Paper attached, please note, these are subject to final feedback from the Working Group.

Progress to date:

- 1) The Working Group held its first meeting on 23rd June 2021 at Helen Chaffey's house
- 2) the Terms of Reference were reviewed and revised to make them workable.
- 3) the Working Group agreed to have 3 sites in the pilot, adding the verges around the Blackdyke Road recycling site so that there are 2 verges to study and compare.
- 4) Dougie Walters of A&S AONB provided invaluable input, giving the Working Group links to extant work which will greatly reduce the Group's workload.
- 5) Anne Kitchen has agreed to act as consultant to the pilot.
- 6) there was a site meeting at Beechwood on 28th June with Helen Chaffey, Dougie Walters and Steve Porter, Chair when we discussed:
 - The current management of the site;
 - The possible future management regimes;
 - a species survey (SP and Anne Kitchen);
- 7) Paul Barnes drafted a slide presentation (as agreed on 23rd June) to explain the purpose and process of pilot (now in 4th draft after consideration by the Working Group).
- 8) The next site visit to Blackdyke Road recycling centre on Tues 6th July at 4:30pm;
- 9) The next meeting of the Working Group will be after that, date to be decided.