

## **Agenda Item 15 –Jan Meeting**

### **Recreation Ground – Proposed Orchard area with grant funding from Wealden**

Wealden DC have recently announced grant funding for the creation of community orchards. This funding has an imminent deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The cricket club and EDFRA have already met to consider this, and the actions required to achieve it. I have attached details *in italics* below from Jason Woodford (chair of the CC).

The scheme is, of course, on council land and will require the support of the Parish Council.

*Jonathan and Lesley at the RA have agreed to lead on the Wealden DC community orchard project and below I've shared the status and next steps for the grant application which the cricket club is supporting. There is a tight deadline of 30th January which means we will need to understand whether this project has the support of the PC at the January PC meeting without you having the benefit of the detailed submission. Do you feel able to share the below and table an agenda item to record whether or not the PC supports this initiative? Let me know what you think and if I can help make this any easier for you.*

*Many thanks, Jason*

**Meeting:** East Dean & Friston Residents Association & East Dean & Friston Cricket Club — Wealden DC Orchard project 12-1.30pm on 20th December at Recreation Ground

**Attendees:** Jonathan Timberlake, Lesley D'Urso, Jason Woodford, Mark Pankhurst

#### **Purpose**

*Discuss next steps for the community orchard project arising from the Wealden District Council grant application.*

**Project aim:** *create a fully inclusive community space to enhance well-being and the natural environment (Lesley to update)*

#### **Decisions / Key points**

- Project is community-led as represented by the RA, with the parish council's blessing and support from the cricket club and other village groups.*
- Orchard layout of between 20-50 fruit trees proposed as an L-shape that will screen the proposed machinery storage shed on the south side of the proposed MUGA.*
- No land will be taken from the area designated for the to-be-moved play area in the South West corner of the recreation ground*
- Maximum of five tree species to be used; consider more mature specimens and include tree guards and stakes*

#### **Agreed actions (with responsibility)**

**Lesley**

- Joint lead on grant submission
- Draft vision statement for the orchard
- Engage local groups: Climate Group, Gardening Club, youth via neighbourhood plan input. Engage Gardening Club to support planting/maintenance
- Lesley to liaise with local tree surgeon Jack and other surgeons — Lesley D'Urso.

**Jonathan**

- Include tree guards and stakes in planting beds; obtain price comparisons for more mature specimens. Limit species to a maximum of five and confirm species list (selection and sourcing)
- Finalise orchard L-shape layout and confirm it will shield the proposed machinery storage shed
- Ensure grant submission clarifies no land will be lost from the move play area
- Lead technical tree information and collect tree data; lead the grant application

**Jason**

- Confirm whether the parish council will accept the principle prior to the PC meeting / confirm PC sign-off timing relative to grant deadline
- Notify the Climate Group about the project
- Write and submit parish magazine article (15 Jan issue) inviting expressions of interest —
- Nominate/confirm John Wilton as project evangelist and coordinate his involvement
- Explore work placement for a marketing person to engage local community and youth; define role and link to neighbourhood plan
- Send topographical map to Jonathan - Jason, done, attached
- Check with Chad re: borrowing an auger.

**Proposal:** To consider a letter of full support to the Cricket Club and EDFRA for the project which will accompany the grant application prepared by those organisations.

Phil Burgess

Clerk to East Dean and Friston