



Report to Town Council

Subject:	
From:	LW/FM
Date:	24/02/21
For information only	
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing): to agree spend on design and printing of artwork for interpretation boards	
Financial implications: £330	
Communications:	

4 interpretation boards have been built FOC at Blenheim Palace

Artwork is required for them. These can be designed and printed through Blenheim at the following costs:

- £250 for design (see below)
- £80 for the printing (4 of)

Total: £330

Wooden posts/boards are free and installation (Gary/David)

Artwork for the 4 boards to consist of:

Mill Field board 1 - Meadow

- History and current use: description/history of the Mill Field as flood plain meadow on an island created by the weir and the Mill Leat. Along with 97% of similar meadows, the grassland was 'improved' in the 20th century and biodiversity lost. The Field is now used mainly for recreation (walking, canoeing, angling, Riverside Festival).
- Explain value of floodplain meadow habitat to wildlife/biodiversity.
- Nature recovery: aim to restore floodplain meadow, retaining/enhancing value for people. Describe meadow project.

Images

- Map of Mill Field, with footpath and area of meadow restoration marked
- What can you see now? (any interesting flora or insects relating to the meadow areas? If not then we can put yellow rattle here? And/or the poplars?)

- What do we hope to see in future? Pics of flood plain meadow flowers/wildlife (voles/barn owls??)
- QR codes for walks and nature recovery

Mill Field board 2 – River and riverbanks

- Description of the river and its borders/valley bottom as an important feature of the town and for local wildlife – blue-green corridor. History?
- What can you see? Spring / Summer / Autumn / Winter? Differences between river and Mill Leat ecology?
- Challenges to the river and its wildlife: pollution (farm run-off, sewage, insecticides on dogs); deepening of the channel – fewer shallow areas for plants to grow; weir blocks fish migration.
- Nature recovery: rotational coppicing of willow and scrub to provide mix of light and shade; possible fish pass; water monitoring and raising awareness on causes of pollution; possible future projects to create shallower areas.

Images:

- Aquatic plant, insect, fish, bird?
- Map showing areas of tree coppicing?
- QR code – nature recovery

Cemetery board

- The cemetery has been managed sensitively for both people and wildlife for over 25 years.
- History: date it became cemetery and what it was previously – probably pasture
- How it is managed/ what you may see: Grass paths are mown short between the graves, longer grassy areas have early spring primroses and cowslips, later cow parsley. Kerbed graves have become natural gardens with flowers seeded in the crvices and gravels. Stone walls are good winter refuges for reptiles and small mammals. Include info on trees in cemetery and birds in Wigwell valley - cemetery is a sheltered part of the valley.

Images

- photos of flowers including meadow saxifrage, pyramidal orchids, oxeye daisies, marjoram, fox and cubs
- QR code for town council nature recovery info

Centenary Wood board

- History: when planted and by whom
- What to look out for:
 - Map showing different phased areas with dates planted and types of trees. Lime circle, hazel coppice, commemorative 100 oaks in SW corner and oak valley.
 - Wide rides with scalloped edges for grassland for butterflies - problems with blackthorn encroachment from hedges- thanks to Cotswold voluntary wardens for help with management.
 - Formative pruning by volunteers in the community - ash and oak trees to provide possibility of timber for future generations. Ash dieback. Oak seedlings emerging.

Images

- Map
- QR codes for walks and nature recovery