

## GLORIOUS COTSWOLD GRASSLANDS STEERING GROUP

**Summary:** To review the progress of Glorious Cotswold Grasslands (GCG)

**Recommendation:** That the Executive Committee notes the report

**Report by:** Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

### MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

- Nick Bumford
- Rebecca Charley
- Stephen Dawson (external)
- Mark Smith (external)
- Isabel Ross
- Cate Le Grice-Mack

### MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Steering Group met on 7 April 2022 at Nature in Art, Wallsworth Hall.
2. The focus of the meeting was on an update of progress in 2022 to date, the arts project and our forward plan.
  - We had a very successful winter programme of volunteer habitat works delivering 14 days on 9 sites with a fantastic turn out of 10-16 people/day.
  - The spring sowing was in hand and has now been largely completed delivering a further 12.4 Ha of wildflower grassland restoration.
  - Katherine Glynne-Jones, the artist engaged to deliver the arts project attended the meeting to brief the Steering Group. Following the meeting the Steering Group viewed the entries which were on display in the education centre.
  - The Steering Group were briefed on the revised roles of team members and an updated 2022/23 budget. Important points that emerged from the discussion included ensuring the economic value of grassland restoration to widen engagement and ensuring continued support with management advice to an increasing number of clients.

### OTHER ACTIVITY

3. The arts project exhibition opened on the Saturday following the meeting and ran for three weeks. On the Saturday Jim Parkyn from Aardman Animations ran a workshop with the winners and Harvey also sowed a grassland with them. Katherine ran a collaborative artwork for visitors to contribute to.
4. An arts pack for primary age school children has been produced with a local illustrator. It will be sent out to local schools and has been uploaded to the GCG web page as a free download.

5. The team have been focussed on setting up the 2022 season's programme and a full schedule of fully confirmed survey, seed harvesting and sowing sites is now almost complete.
6. The summer events programme has been organised with an equine workshop on 19 May, two wildflower identification courses in June and guided walks with lunch for National Meadows Day on 2 July. The team will also be in attendance at the Moreton Show in September.
7. The final report to Esme was submitted on schedule and the first year's targets for Severn Trent Water were delivered. Arrangements are in place to deliver the second years Severn Trent target and progress is being made to fund further work through the Evenlode Smarter Water Catchment Programme and Biodiversity Net Gain.

#### **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

8. There are no decisions required from the Executive Committee

#### **NEXT STEPS**

9. The next meeting of the Steering Group is scheduled to take place on 27 September. The focus of the meeting will be on reviewing the 2022 season and reviewing developments for 2023. If things progress as we envisage there will be a particular focus on any additional team members and resources that will need to be put in place over the 2022/23 winter for the 2023 summer season.

#### **SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- There are no supporting papers

May 2022