

Laudato si' meeting notes 10 July 2023

Present: Mark Wiggin, Anthony Brown, Katrina Harkin, Phil Ryan, Liz Cullen, Malcolm Peplow, Keeley Ireland

SM&SJ School report:

At £5,000 the cost of removing the rubber tarmac is prohibitive. We may consider having someone take it up and remove to a corner on the premises where it could be heaped up, covered in soil and turned into a feature but rats are a potential problem.

Since the last meeting:

- 150 trees have been planted in addition to the ones planted on May 28th
- 6 tons of wood chip have been put on the paths at a cost of £500 from a grant. We probably need the same amount again.
- The yellow rattle is doing well and we are hopeful that the bee bombs will do well soon.
- There is more work to do to complete restoring one raised beds. The school has plenty of ecobricks but people are still making them. Many of the current ones are in non-standard bottles or too slack for purpose. The other raised beds have needed attention with replacement of rotting wood and decaying hessian.
- The school has got its Simply Award after a comprehensive and challenging interview process

Parish report:

- Mark has written to Fr Paul informing him of work to commence on Saturday 15 July with dead hedging as per the garden plan drawn up last year. There is plenty of wood in the gardens and plenty more at the cemetery which needs to be transported. Dead hedging is an excellent way of providing an eco environment and we need a store of wood to replenish the dead hedge as it rots and settles.
- We examined the Parish Live Simply plan against progress noting that we wouldn't be far off getting the award if we submitted. However we remain of the opinion that the award in itself is not what we want in the Parish – it's the commitment of the Parish as a whole to the understanding of environment issues and action.
- Arnold continues his work at the Cemetery with a few helpers though more are needed. The grass has been mowed but timing for future is important to allow seeds to mature. The aim is for a cemetery safe for visitors but with a strong element of nature and environmental awareness.
- Mark will explore the diocesan carbon footprint with a view to assessing our own and the degree of action required to reduce it to zero. **Action Mark**
- We are exploring the installation of swift boxes following the very successful initiative at Longridge. We have an interested parishioner, RSPB member, and have asked for any progress with Fr Paul.

Building Community

The meeting expressed disappointment and concern about the cancellation of an outdoor Weld Day this year. 2022 had been the usual enjoyable day of worship, Weld family acknowledgment and community. The loss of a community event is a particular concern. 2022 preparations for Weld Day were a good community effort in itself with over 20 people involved. The Parish Forum decision to cease having an outdoor event is a missed opportunity to promote Live Simply via community

engagement. We discussed the difficulties of engaging young people in the Faith but acknowledged some success with the joint church/school work. Overall the group expressed a need to build community as a key part of Catholic faith in action.

In the context of the above we explored a community event, date 9 September for when the school gets its influx of newcomers. The event could feature a barbecue, Bingo, games and music and located on the school grounds with the Parish Hall or School Hall as possible extras and alternatives for wet weather. **Action Katrina and Keeley to check availability of venues. Action Keeley to discuss with PTA.**

Next meeting to plan the Community Building event next Wednesday 19 July, 5.30 at SM&SJ Primary School