Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of Meeting with DCC Tony Ward held on the 14th September 2022 Reference Wild Meadow Project

Hybrid Meeting

Present:
Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)
Cllr Mike Kermode (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

1. Apologies
None given

2. Declaration of Interest
None given

3. Setting the Scene.
The Mayor thanked Tony Ward for agreeing to meet the Town Council on this issue of wild meadow site by Nant Close which has caused many residents to complain to the Town Council. This meeting had been organised as a consequence of those complaints and a resolution of Full Council on 14th July 2022, to write formally to DCC about those complaints to try and understand the DCC policy.
Tony Ward began by explaining that he was the Director of Services with the remit for the implementation of the Wild Meadow project but had now been appointed recently as the Corporate Director with responsibility for the Environment.
In setting the scene, he stated that since DCC have declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019, we have developed plans to become a net carbon zero and ecologically positive council by 2030.
Our Wildflower Meadow Project started in 2019. It aims to restore and increase the amount of habitat available throughout the county for pollinators and wildlife.
DCC assessed several sites for their wildflower habitat potential and 21 sites were selected for their first-year pilot. There are now over 100 managed wildflower meadow sites that contribute to our improved species richness ambitions (including our 11 roadside nature reserves). Several being in Rhuddlan including Nant Close.
The sites are left uncut between March and August, except a small border mown around each site. This allows the flowers to set seed, and ensures that the meadow provides the

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greatest benefit to wildlife. At the end of the season, the whole site will be cut with specialist mowing equipment, and the cuttings will be removed. This will help to lower the richness of the soil, and create the low-nutrient ground that our native wildflowers and grasses need to thrive.
This bought about a discussion on both sides of the arguments for and against. DCC has tried hard to respond to the comments and introduced mowing paths through the sites but DCC will need to do more carbon reduction projects over the years, not just Wild Meadow.
A Councillor who is a member of Rhuddlan Nature reserve has some understanding of the ecosystem trying to be created but is no expert. Having said that they commented that the Nant Close site appears to have too strong grasses to support the future wild flower planting and appears totally untidy and unkempt. The delivery does not seem to match the principle outlined.
Tony Ward understands the viewpoint adding that it can't be expected that a wild meadow can be created from mowed areas in 12 months. Patience is needed for a few years yet and DCC's recently opened nursery has wild meadow plants. He can arrange a visit if Town Council Members would like it. DCC Officers had tried to speak with Nant Close residents but received a somewhat hostile response so left the site.
Tony Ward also explained what was being done in surveying the sites as the projects progress. He will ask DCC Joel Walley to put an email together to inform Town Council what the next steps are over the next two summers.

In thanking Tony for attending Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor asked about previous residents meeting before the wild meadow sites in Rhuddlan were commenced. He answered by saying he believed that the initial meetings had been held but that roll out meetings had not.

Unfortunately the connection then broke down and Tony could not be reached and no future meeting with Tony Ward was arranged.
The meeting then ended.

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