**Stoke Environment Group - Project Outline**

Project Title: Village Hall Hedge Community Hedge Planting Day (H&T-1)

Project Date: 29 January 2022

Project Manager: Ian Upshall

**Project Objective**

The principal objective is to plant 120m of native species hedge along the two field boundaries of The Williams Hall. A secondary objective is to organise an event around the hedge planting that encourages community involvement and ownership, together with an opportunity to understand more about the importance of biodiversity in our Parish.

**Project Outline**

The community has been given 120m of native species hedge plants (approx. 500-600 whips) through the Reimaging The Levels and Woodland Trust. The plants will be ready for collection from the nursery in January 2022. It is planned to organise a community planting day on Saturday 29 January 2022. This event will run in parallel to the monthly ‘Coffee & Books’ which takes place in the Village Hall between 0900 and 1200hrs. The organisers have been contacted and are content that SEG runs its event during the day.

A working party of at least 15 people will be required to prepare the ground, place each whip and install protection around some of the whips. It is hoped the working party can include young people, but all ages will be welcome to make a contribution during the day. We will require two or three ‘supervisors’ whose role will be to ensure whips are planted according to an agreed plan and that protection is correctly installed.

This will be the first event organised by SEG that directly involves the community. The intent is to encourage community ownership of the hedge and the project overall.

In addition to the hedge planting, arrangements will be made to provide refreshments throughout the day and activities for younger people. This could include a learning experience to understand more about the birds and animals that will use the hedge for food, protection and concealed movement. An expert will be invited to provide assistance with this.

In summary, the three parts of the project comprise; hedge planting; refreshments, and; young people’s activities.

**Resources**

A notice will be produced to advertise the event. Hard copies available from the usual places (e.g. shop, pub, school, etc.). There will be a small cost to produce hard copy leaflets. These can be produced by the Group.

Tools will be required for the planting: spades in particular. It is hoped that members of the working groups will provide own spades, plus any personal protective equipment.

Funds to purchase refreshments will be required – of the order of £100 – to include, hot drinks and hot snacks. The WI and Levellers will be approached to determine if they would be prepared to take on this activity. It is possible that a small charge could be made for refreshments to largely cover costs.

An expert to oversee the activity element will be required for which there is likely to be a charge. SWT will be approached as they have expert group contacts.

Next Steps

* SEG Steering Group to approve project by 10 December 2021
* Detailed plan to be produced and made available by 20 December 2021
* Confirm availability of expert by 31 December 2021
* Prepare planting guidance in cooperation with local experts and RIL/WT/SWT by 15 January 2022
* Manage Hedge Planting Day on 29 January 2022