

BIOBLITZ MEETING WITH KATIE HORGAN (BBWOT) 13/01/2022

HELD AT OUR RED LION

1. GT opened the meeting with a few observations about our meeting on Tuesday being our first so we were just starting out and though we might need to organise a plan to guide us.
2. KH's first comment was a practical one which we hadn't considered which was 'parking!'. The limitation of parking space in the village may strongly influence the size of the event. Potential parking sites were discussed which really meant the school playground.
3. We discussed the title Bioblitz which we don't really like. NS suggested we keep our Wildlife Explorer Day title. KH said that it would mean we would still be recognised by the Bioblitz organisation, we could still join and benefit from it if necessary.
4. Nigel introduced us to the person seconded by Andrew recommend as our Organiser, especially for communications. She is Gemma Clifford – Newman (GCN). We accepted their recommendation.
5. Then CW asked about the standard of biologists who we might engage to help us. It seems we should be prepared to be modest and would be most likely to engage local amateur enthusiasts. This would not necessarily devalue the findings we record or unworthy of being added to a survey
6. Survey categories were discussed. As above KH thought that we shouldn't expect professionals necessarily.
7. KH said that she would send me contact details of organisations dedicated to various categories of wildlife. We should compose an invitation to each one detailing our event.
8. We have, we hope the Buckinghamshire Mammal Society, our village expert on Butterflies Stephen Jones. Also possibly CW's son who could come and talk about the tracks and songs of wildlife. I'll join that!
9. We could contact the Field Studies Centre just a mile as the crow flies from us. They might have an expert who could come and help on the day.
10. We discussed the Village Hall, that would be hired for the day. That would be for the catering, the toilets, maybe microscopes, wet weather, a final display of artwork by the children etc.
11. Gazebos were discussed. KH thought that some organisations might have their own gazebos and tables etc. But we should try to acquire a couple more for the day, plus tables etc. GT mentioned advice from the Bioblitz pdf that a BASE CAMP should be set up, in

particular for our visiting experts where we can welcome them and introduce them to the Common. There would be an information pack for them also.

12. We mentioned some Artistic component of the day for the children to enjoy. KH has some ideas about that.
13. We asked KH if BBOWT could do some printing for us: posters, flyers, GCN has requested some postcards to hand out. KH said that they could.
14. We thought we would ask the school if they would like to be involved.

THAT WAS ALL FOR OUR FIRST MEETING.

KATIE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD START!

Present: Graham Thorne (GT)	Chair CMC
Katie Horgan (KH)	BBOWT
Nigel Suttie (NS)	Parish Councillor Representative CMC
Chris Wege (CW)	Volunteer CMC
Gemma Clifford-Newman (GCN)	Event organiser