

Cowpasture Meadow

Proposal

Community events

We at HappyGlobe CIC believe that awareness is vital in the fight to preserve our planet.

Our Aim is to create a better world for all species, our goal is so our children no longer need our AIM!

Earlier this year we launched our Bee-Safe programme, teaching the importance of bees and how to care for them. As a commitment to the struggling species we began building hives and now currently host 4 active and highly successful bee colonies. Since then we have been looking for more areas to include in our species support programme, areas that we can then also add to our community awareness work.

Our awareness programme consists of a small presentation that we show to local groups such as scouts, sailing clubs, project21 and some schools (hopefully this will grow as we grow). Consisting of:

- local statistics on the species and reasons why they are in huge decline.
- Information on how they benefit our ecosystem.
- how we as a species would be directly affected should we ever lose bees all together.
- guidelines on how to care for bees.
- common misconceptions surrounding the beautiful animals.

Cowpasture Meadow has huge potential to catapult our programme in Felixstowe to the next level. With such an area, we could customize to suit not only bees but a wide variety of wildlife which would massively help our local animals and look aesthetically beautiful too.

We would hope to add another 2 beehives to our colonies, completely maintained and cared for by HappyGlobe. These hives will be barriered off with a warning sign to keep people away from the hives. (bees are extremely docile, unless in direct danger they would never harm a person) The dream would

then be to hold events with our local groups (scouts, Anglian sailing trust, project21 etc) demonstrating how to care for bees, the importance of them and showing that they are in fact one of the most gentle and important animals we have the pleasure of living with.

Aside from our Bee-Safe programme, we are also carrying out organised wildflower seed sowing events. Our first event in our area is in fact is at the Grove. Working with Peter Ross (NORSE environment manager), we are holding an event in spring 2020 to sow seeds along the 225m stretch of field connecting to the woodland. NORSE have agreed to leave a 5m stretch from mowing in order to let nature take its course and hopefully aid wildlife in the area.

We would like to include Cowpasture Meadow in this event and have the community sow seeds in the meadow too. Which in turn will aid the bees, butterfly's and a huge variety of animals that call the meadow home. We want to encourage awareness and a sense of community care for our local natural areas, during the event we will hold a talk on the importance of wildflowers and how vital they are for local natural health, something we as a species has forgotten in our bid to create beautiful gardens that do not actually benefit wildlife as much as the area could. Awareness creates appreciation.

In terms of community involved events at the meadow, we at HappyGlobe would take full responsibility for the area ensuring all precautionary measures was in place prior to carrying out any events.

To summarise our community benefitting activity proposal:

- Bee awareness events with local groups demonstrating how to care for bees.
- Seed sowing event, providing information related to the importance of wildflowers

Itemized list of proposed field work

- Beehives totally maintained by HappyGlobe checked and cared for every day. By products such as honey and wax will be supplied to local shops, our social media presence will direct people to our town hopefully encouraging more people into Felixstowe.
- Plantation of Orchard style trees, these trees have a massive benefit to the ecosystem as when the fruits fall the wildlife surrounding it can thrive. Should the fruit yield become wealthy we can donate this fruit to local food banks for those in our town that need it most.
- Bird boxes will be hung in each tree to help local bird populations ranging of different sizes so be fair to all species living in the area.
- Wildflower seed sowing
- Boulder piles consisting of 2-3 boulders will be placed in 4 locations, these have a huge benefit to local animals.
- Small insect hotels will be made off site and stood in 2 locations on the meadow, these are to aid solitary bees, spiders and a variety of other insects of whom thrive in these.
- Small sleeper style flower beds will be built in the entrance to the meadow due to the unauthorised use of the land by travellers being brought to our attention.

Material list

- Timber to make the beehives
- Wildflower seeds
- Timber to make bird houses
- Orchard trees
- Wooden Sleepers
- Boulders
- Timber to make insect homes
- Timber for safety barriers
- Maintenance equipment

Material Costs

HappyGlobe CIC is a non-profit organisation with the simple aim of creating a better world for all species. Our funds are restricted, so we can't afford all the materials ourselves. If there is a way the council could help us towards funding our community and environmental supporting work, we would be grateful. All our work is voluntary, my colleagues and I do this in our spare time because we care deeply about our world and everything that lives in it. (we all have full time jobs too) So, in terms of cost we would only need help funding materials required for the work. Maybe we could apply for some of the next community grant fund... However, if this is not possible, we have found that in many cases companies are very generous when it comes to helping with materials for our charitable work and so we are hopeful we can carry out the work with little cost. Also, we can always fund raise too which has proved effective in the past. Unfortunately, the later options take a little time so we are hopeful the council might aid our important work.

Area management and maintenance

We take our work very seriously; animals depend on the very habitats we are proposing to create in this beautiful area.

We enjoy not only create spaces like this but the continued maintenance and update work for statistics purposes too! Our work is appreciated more from the view of progression in such an area. So, maintenance and update logs are a huge part of our programme and are equally as enjoyable.

If the council was to agree to our collaboration and for HappyGlobeCIC to take over maintenance/use of the area until such time the council wanted it back for over purposes, we would establish regular site visits between both directors of HappyGlobeCIC.

Once a week a member of our community company would attend the site to carry out essential maintenance to the area including:

- Prevention of overgrowth
- Environmental health checks
- Wildlife growth update data
- Check for vandalism and repair any damage if necessary

Beehives will be maintained directly by myself (Founder and Director – Brendan Boyle). I will attend the site every other day to maintain the bees, check their health and size of the colony.

Bees naturally grow in numbers and require more brood boxes as they grow (the hives become taller). Once the colony reaches a level of maximum size the colony must be split. We currently have 4 sites where we keep beehives and so once the hives reach this level, I will split them and relocate the split halves to our other sites. Restoring the hives back to their original size, I will do this because 2 hives is adequate for the health of the area and the surrounding area.

After installing Hives to the area, I will build a small barrier to prevent people getting close to the hives. They will be well supported so as should the unlikely event that someone wants to damage them take place, it would be difficult. Usually brood boxes are just placed on top of each other, I will in fact fix each brood box to the box below using security screws so only I can remove the brood boxes. That way the bees only have their access hole to come in and out, posing no threat to anyone of whom would simply just like to look. This would also add enough strength to the hives that only someone of whom would really want to damage them could do so.

The location of the hives is outlined in our architectural proposal attached.

Environmental benefits from the proposed

Orchard trees – Not many people realise the massive benefit of orchard trees to wildlife, when mature these trees develop hollow trunks and split bark which can host a huge variety of wildlife from insects to bats. Because of the density of the trees canopy they create perfect homes for birds too. Not only this but when the fruit fall from these trees they provide a mass of food for the surrounding wildlife and become a huge asset to the overall health of area.

Bees – Bees transfer pollen between plants, they maintain the diversity of wildflowers and support healthy ecosystems in ways no other species can, they aid plants and trees to produce fruits and seeds which every species on earth depends on. Unfortunately, we have lost 52% of solitary bees in the last 10 years and 4 species of bumble bee in that same time. These are all huge pollinators and so we must replace their numbers with honeybees where we can. The insect homes we want to place on the meadow will provide home to solitary bees! The honeybees will not only help the meadow, but will help the grove woods, the allotments and many surrounding areas as bees travel far a wide for pollen and follow each other's paths. It is said that we as a species would only have 4 years left to live if bees went extinct. Introducing bees where we can have more benefit than I could possibly try explaining to all of us.

Insect homes – insect homes are a huge benefit to wildlife and insects, please search only for examples, they are only small and provide shelter to solitary bees most importantly, spiders fly's and a whole variety of insects which in turn benefit our ecosystem.

Boulders – it is not usually considered that boulders, although simple have a massive benefit to wildlife. They realise salts that certain species use, they create shelter and a shaded damp environment even on the hottest days. When I say boulders, I mean a small 2- or 3-piece neat pile. Easy to remove but a massive environmental benefit to small rodents, slow worms and a huge variety of insects.

Wildflowers – wildflowers provide something no other flower can to the environment, these flowers have grown this way and adapted perfectly over 1000s of years to be benefit wildlife to a maximum level. Unfortunately, that has been lost in recent years to people's desire for clean single flowers which look pretty but realistically serve not even a small benefit in comparison. Wildflowers provide lots of things insects need: food in the form of leaves, nectar and pollen, also shelter and places to breed.

Exit Strategy for the clearing adjacent to Cowpasture Allotments off Candlet Road, Garrison Lane, Grove Road roundabout, hereby referred to as Cowpasture Meadow:

Parties involved:

Felixstowe Town Council, hereby referred to as FTC.

HappyGlobe CIC, hereby referred to as HGCIC

Brendan Boyle (Individual)

Chris Stennett (Individual)

Notice of termination:

If FTC wishes to give notice of the termination of HGCIC's responsibility for Cowpasture Meadow, this must be submitted in writing to both the directors of HGCIC at least 6 weeks by post or 1 month by email before the date of required handover. FTC are to provide HGCIC a list of authorised personnel to provide this notice within a month of commencing this agreement, with amendments to be advised and authorised by the same.

If HGCIC wishes to give notice of termination of HGCIC's responsibility for THE AREA, this must be submitted in writing to one of FTC's authorised personnel, as outlined in the above, at least 2 months before the date of handover.

Responsibilities of handover:

The developments made at THE AREA, as provided by HGCIC, will remain in place upon the handover of responsibility FTC, except for the following which will be removed by HGCIC by 7 days before the handover date:

- Any trees planted during the period where HGCIC were responsible for Cowpasture Meadow, as well as reasonable clearance of the debris resulting from removal of the same.

- The beehives that will be installed during the development of Cowpasture Meadow, which will be relocated to another suitable location.
- Reasonable removal of litter.

Condition of handover completion:

An authorised person of FTC must meet with one of the directors of HGCIC, at Cowpasture Meadow, in the week prior to the date of handover to confirm HGCIC have carried out their responsibilities as outlined above. If the condition of Cowpasture Meadow is not found to be satisfactory, the director of HGCIC must be advised at the end of the survey and an extension of notice agreed upon in order to allow the conditions to be met. Another survey to be completed on this date under the same conditions. Results of any survey conducted to be provided in writing by FTC to HGCIC accordingly.

In the event of HGCIC's liquidation:

In the event of HGCIC's liquidation, the owners and directors, Brendan Boyle and Chris Stennett, are to replace HGCIC in executing the requirements as outlined above under the same conditions. If the ownership of HGCIC is transferred, then these responsibilities will be transferred to the new owners accordingly.

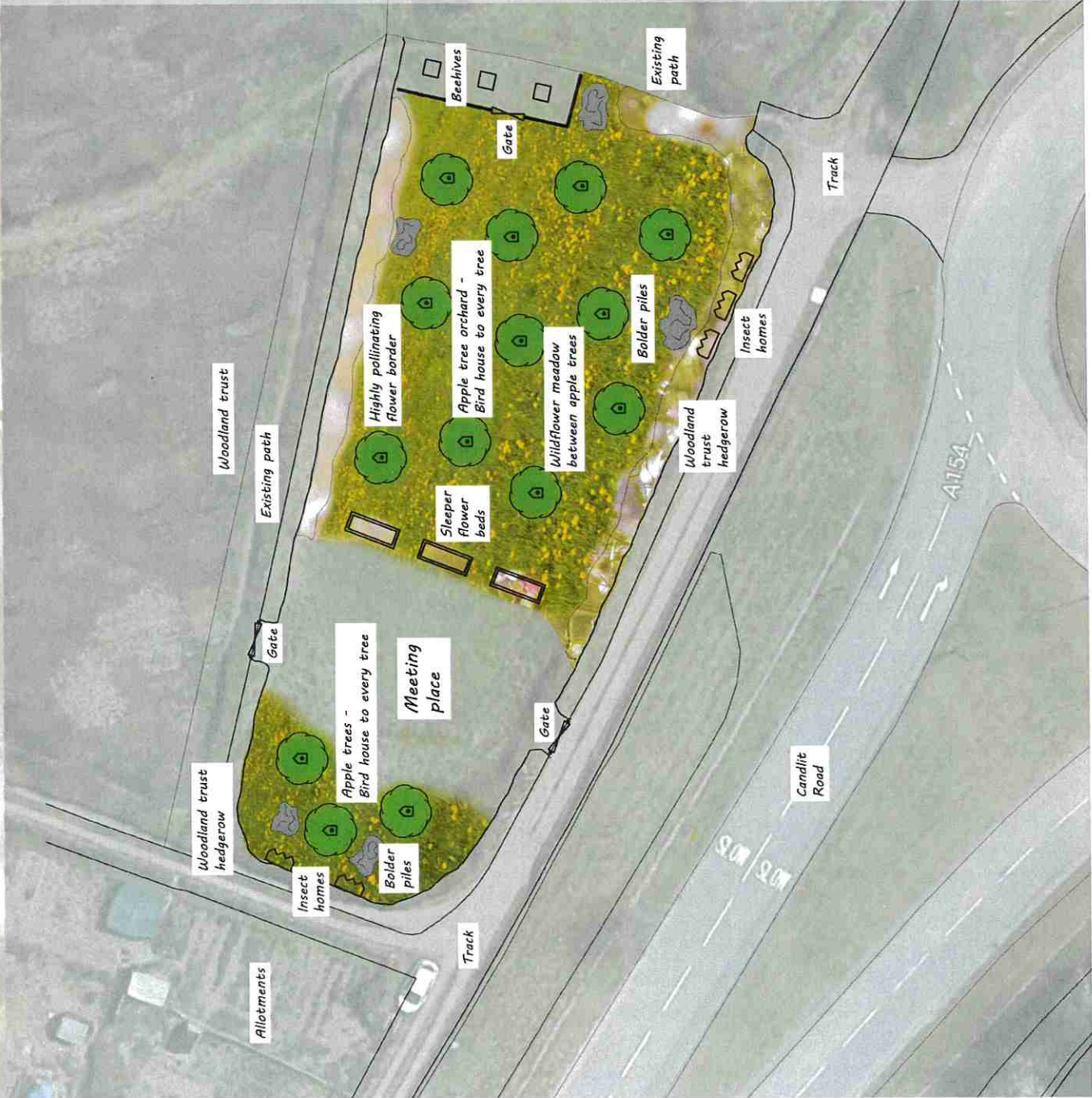
Conclusion

We at HappyGlobe CIC hope the council will aid our efforts in this area to support our local wildlife. We as a species keep building houses and taking land from nature without replacing it, Cowpasture meadow, while it has no purpose, is there anything stopping us from doing the right thing and giving it back to nature until such a time comes that the land is required for other things ? In this proposal I have outlined all our wildlife/community supporting intentions and ideas, I have covered small community group events I believe would work well and encourage team building (at the benefit of wildlife) amongst our local scout groups etc. I have outlined all work I believe the area would suit well and would intern have a huge benefit to our wildlife. I have listed the materials required to maximize the meadows potential in hope the council will be willing to aid us towards the overall costs. Finally, I have outlined our responsibilities to the area and to the council in case of sudden closure; including, how we plan to maintain the area and what is in it, ongoing. The field work we have outlined in this proposal I have taken a lot of time and consideration to establish; resulting in what I believe to be the best method of utilizing the area for environmental benefit. We continue to do all we can for wildlife both in our area and abroad, I have designed a reusable turtle hatchery and we are spending 4 weeks in Costa Rica in February to build my design for Latin American Sea Turtle Conservation. While the flights are funded by the conservation, we are not being paid for those 4 weeks and as I am self employed it is money I will never get back, I have mortgage to pay and so I do not make these decisions lightly. In the end it is about the bigger picture, we share this world with so many beautiful animals and if we do nothing to help them survive us as a suppressing species, one day the wildlife we love will not be there to greet us anymore! We at HappyGlobeCIC are going to do all we can to make sure that doesn't happen. We can't do it alone, we need the back up of our community, our council and every other community and council too. This is our world and we must all work together to save it, or it will be too late.

I hope the council choose to aid us and consider collaborating with us on this project or any other project of any kind or anything that may arise that could benefit wildlife.

Yours sincerely : Brendan Boyle (Director)

Cowpasture Meadow



Chris Flavin Design
 Build - Adapt - Extend