

## **Bidford Neighbourhood Plan: Environment Sub-group**

### **Notes on meeting Rob & Jim to consider Green Infrastructure**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

We looked at the Bidford section of the Stratford on Avon Green Infrastructure (GI) Study (Aug 2011) which describes the areas and corridors of green space, countryside access and biodiversity. We also looked at the Definitive Map which marks Public Rights of Way (footpaths and bridleways).

The GI Study has a number of Recommendations and Opportunities:

1. Support & enhance biodiversity at the Golf Course, including increased tree planting and promote its recreational opportunities.
2. Investigate creation of a greenway (walking, cycling and biodiversity link) along the disused railway between Broom, Bidford and Welford.
3. Strengthen PROW network and seek to create cycle routes to nearby natural features, e.g Oversley Wood and Cleeve Bank Local Nature Reserve.
4. Ensure multi functional use of land to south of village to support recreational uses as well as aiding flood alleviation.
5. Support/enhance biodiversity of Rivers Avon & Arrow by maintaining bankside vegetation and buffers, whilst maintaining their use as linear access routes.
6. Recognise importance of Churchyard for biodiversity and supporting the historical setting of the church.
7. Investigate feasibility of enhancing setting of the industrial estate to provide a more attractive environment.
8. Recognise benefits of the allotments for health, biodiversity, rainfall infiltration.

We were in general agreement with the above, recognising that there could be good environmental 'wins', although the feasibility of some might prove difficult.

We discussed the following:

- Work was done on biodiversity in relation to the Marriage Hill quarry proposal. Rob would look out any records, including a barn important for bats
- The GI Study mentions local wildlife sites but does not locate them. Jim would speak to Warks Wildlife Trust or SDC to locate them. We should, in any case consult with WWT (or is there a more local group?) about biodiversity interest and opportunities
- Cleeve Bank LNR may extend into the parish at Marlcliffe. Jim to check with SDC/Wychavon, or on line

- The Neighbourhood Plan could revive and support the idea of a greenway along the disused railway.
- We needed to consult with interest groups regarding priorities for improving PROWs, including signage. (Is there an active Ramblers Group, and/or ROW Section at County Council)
- We should devise and publish a series of circular walks ('Bidford Walks') using PROWs , which may extend into neighbouring parishes.
- We regretted the demise of the Parish Footpath Volunteers Group and should consider reviving it.
- We wanted to check the grass cutting regime at the churchyard—wild flower meadow?