

Biodiversity Working Group – Update following group meeting on 6 August 2026.

Grants

Agreed not to apply for any grants until specific projects/proposals have been confirmed.

Willand Wildlife Day

1. Proposed and recommended date for the Willand Wildlife Day – Sunday 4th April 2027 during the afternoon. Village hall and rooms have been booked 12-5pm. Event time to be confirmed. This date is proposed as it's the Easter Holidays so families have the first week to enjoy easter and prepare their 'creations' (mentioned below).
(This is the event previously discussed where there will be speakers for Bats, Birds, General Wildlife, Hedgehogs and potentially Bees)
2. It is proposed that as part of the BWG update in the Willand magazine, in the issues for December/January and February/March, we will include advertisement for the Willand Wildlife Day and a leaflet can be distributed with the Willand Magazine to all households, for a small fee. The event will also be advertised on social media and notice boards.
3. At the same event will be the Willand's Wild Creations which is the activity where families can create/make their own big bug/bird/hedgehog/butterfly etc. It is proposed that the BWG judge these with categories such as:
 - The best use of recycle items
 - The best Pollinator
 - The best use of nature items
 - The best family creation
 - Age categories
 - Best overall

It is proposed to award certificates with a best overall winning a prize such as a bird box or bat box – to be confirmed but to be in line with Biodiversity. A celebrity or high profile person with sound biodiversity credentials may be invited to judge Big Bug models if we can find one – Cllr Fernbank agreed to look into this.

4. It is proposed we have activities available for the day such as:
 - Build a bug hotel (we will provide materials) Children and families can make small insect/bug hotels and take them home encouraging
 - Collage table – Children can make their own collages using picture from wildlife magazines (Cllr Hutter did a similar activity at a recent event)
 - Seed/Plant swap – Encourage people to bring any surplus seeds or plants they have and have a table available where people can swap
 - Guess the poo/footprint – An activity where children and families can guess which poo/footprint matches to which creature.

Funding for the above will mostly obtained by applying for grants and we may ask for some funding from the Parish Council to be confirmed.



Other proposals

5. Big Bug Hotel – Cllr Hutter has a contact who said they can provide pallets that they no longer need. We are looking at getting the bug hotel(s) in place before the onset of Autumn/Winter; would need to be built in situ. Enquiries begun into land ownership of the first possible site along Jaycroft and into donations of pallets (from businesses) and recycled materials (from allotment holders). It is also proposed to plant some Foxgloves that Barbara has grown and looked after, near to the first bug hotel. Permission being sought for this.

6. Willand Methodist Church agreed

that Barbara Bodkin would contact Willand Methodist Church to see if they would be interested in hosting or developing biodiversity measures in liaison with the Parish Council. (Noted they have planted trees and installed bird feeders).

7. Cemetery Wildflower Extension – The BWG visited an area just off Bridwell Crescent, in Uffculme, during their recent meeting. There is a beautiful area of wildflowers with walkways to walk around and benches to sit at. The BWG ask if the wildflower area in the cemetery can be extended to create a similar area with walkways to the bench that is currently situated at the top end and a possible further 2 benches within the area. If agreed BWG are happy to obtain quotes for the wildflower planting and to determine maintenance of the walkways.



Photos of the area visited in Uffculme



Red rectangles being benches and the blue being the walkways, with the remaining areas being wildflowers/current trees planted. There would need to be paths around the perimeter fence of the proposed meadow area too to allow for the hedge trees to grow and be maintained as required.



Aerial view of Willand Cemetery

8. Date of next BWG meeting – agreed 6th October 2026 (possible 2 new members to join).