Agenda Item: 11 Parish Council 11th November 2025

Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council

Subject:	**Provide update to the Council after an informal biodiversity meeting with Reverend David of the Sutton-on-Trent Church**
Report by:	**Cllr Tyers**

1. Background

The Parish Council adopted a biodiversity policy in January 2025 and identified the Churchyard as an area for enhancement.

In early 2024 the General Synod advised all churches to encourage biodiversity in their churchyards, giving three years to show their results.

In 2023 a community group approached the Parish Council and PCC with a plan for 'rewilding' the churchyard. This plan was agreed by the Parish Council but later halted by an unsuccessful second vote by the PCC.

Members will be aware that the Parish Council is responsible for maintenance of the Churchyard as it is a 'Closed' Churchyard.

2. Present Position

An informal meeting with Reverend David took place on Tuesday 4th November to discuss the possibility of introducing biodiversity areas within the churchyard. Reverend David agreed this would be beneficial to the community as well as aligning with the policies of both the Church and the Parish Council. Areas and ideas discussed are as follows:

- Remembrance or reflection garden with seating, seasonal planting and water features for animals.
- A stumpery to encourage animals and bugs as well as fungus varieties.
- Bug hotels and bird boxes.
- Planting along current pathways.
- Plant ideas include snowdrops, crocuses, poppies, daffodils and wildflowers.
- Find ways of including Sutton on Trent primary school, who cultivate their own forest gardens and have enthusiastically been involved with the Parish Councils currently active biodiversity plans.
- Discussed reaching out to community and local businesses for help with this project so it is a community creation once completed.
- Reference made to the extensive effort put in by the community group and its leader who originally proposed a rewilding area in 2023. It was felt that the ideas for this plan were excellent and will again be taken into consideration when creating the new proposal.

Rather than this being a rewilding project, this is a biodiversity project and would be approached as such.

This is very much in its infancy and talks will continue with Reverend David over the coming months. Once a structured plan has been created and a cost analysis formed, this will then be brought back to the council for vote.

3. Recommendation

That Members note the ongoing discussions with Reverend David in relation to a potential biodiversity project in the Churchyard.

Cllr S. Tyers
Councillor

Jayne Saunders
Clerk to the Council