

Thornborough Village Pond and Biodiversity Report

Following the BBOWT¹ Survey completed last Autumn on our Village Pond we have a good start in improving Biodiversity in Thornborough. As you are aware, the Pond is a focal point in the Village. The survey was to provide expert opinion on the Pond as a habitat for wildlife and we were delighted to find out that the work required to improve the Pond is far less intrusive than originally anticipated.

The response to our questionnaire circulated to all residents in the Parish in preparation for the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2024 has also provided TPC with encouraging support in improving Biodiversity in the Parish.

Our Biodiversity Policy states 'The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects to maintain and improve the local environment. The Parish Council will communicate and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and Parish communications'.

We are a few steps ahead in implementing our biodiversity policy with the wildlife habitats provided by the Village Pond, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Pilch Lane, and Thornborough & Coombs Woodlands. We now need to move forward by taking up the offers of help as provided via the questionnaires, begin to identify where individuals are already improving habitats in their gardens and offer guidance and help where this has been requested.

First steps forward in improving biodiversity in Thornborough:

- TPC representatives to attend BBOWT 'Achieving Diversity' conference in Aylesbury in September 2024.
- The WI (Women's Institute) are hoping to arrange an open talk on encouraging biodiversity in 2025 that would be open to anyone (male or female) that would like to attend.

¹ Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

- TPC will be following up on offers from residents to test pond water samples, identification of birds and insects, (with training to be arranged if needed).
- TPC to seek grant funding for information boards by the Pond, and a larger Community Noticeboard by the Village Hall.
- Individual offers of help with Work parties to be followed up and dates to be arranged and publicised.
- Areas of possible wildflower seeding to enhance pollen opportunities for bees and other insects to be identified.

We hope that you have enjoyed the view down the pond from the bridge by the village hall which resulted from trimming back the trees during our last Pond Work Party in June.(see pictures below). The stream outside the School was also cleared of dominant rushes to keep the water flowing and to allow other water plants to flourish. A repair to the 'bung' which controls the outflow from the pond was also carried out.

WATCH OUT FOR THE NEXT WORKING GROUP

And please let us know if you would like to be involved.

**Cllrs Richard Dove, Lynn Morgan
Thornborough Parish Council
July 2024**

