

## Gunton Residents' Association Pond Group

Report for Lowestoft Town Council

February 2021

Our pond group was formally set up over two years ago as a Friends Group of the Lowestoft Town Council. The group has a solid and reliable membership who willingly carry out maintenance of the pond area in compliance with legal and local requirements and risk assessments.

For the last 12 months work has continued but perhaps on a reduced level and has always taken into consideration the government requirements in respect of the ongoing pandemic. This relates to the routine tasks such as trimming of bushes, grass cutting, when necessary, near the pond itself and bearing in mind the Norse yearly schedule of grass cutting.

The group was able to carefully and safely complete the annual task of removing the pond weed from the pond itself. This was made possible by a small number of members observing social distancing measures (protective clothing including waders etc) and co-ordinating tasks such as raking the weed to the side of the pond and someone else raking the debris to a safe place along the grass area. The debris was allowed to dry out in readiness for subsequent collection by Norse. A neighbour even provided refreshments – at a distance of course.

Monthly committee meetings changed to zoom meetings but the last one of these took place in September 2020. We continue to have telephone contact of course and are hoping to have a zoom meeting in the near future so that we can discuss issues including the pond weed report recently received. This will help the group to contemplate the long term future of the pond and surrounding area.

In conjunction with the Residents' Association we planted daffodil bulbs around the pond late last year and these are now starting to bud of course. I understand that the bulbs were supplied through Norse.

The group provides vital liaison with LTC in reference to issues such as trees and last year helped to agree on the proposed siting of 4 new trees (3 rowan and 1 cherry tree) and the "new trees" are being safely stored and are presently heeling. We are awaiting final arrangements for the planting.

As to the future, we hope to continue our work and will continue to liaise with Lowestoft Town Council

I need to make special mention of how sad and shocked we all are following the passing of Sue Barnard. She had been a vital part of the pond group from day one and was a vital link to the Town Council, Norse and the like. She will be sadly missed.

Kevin Pull

Chair

Gunton Residents Association/Pond Group