Cllr K Morgan - REPORT ITEM 12

For Item 12 of the Agenda regarding the corner of the Rec between the Dog Area and Skate Ramp, I met with Philippa and Paul Morton yesterday evening. You will recall that Philippa spoke to the PC a few weeks back expressing concern at unpleasant goings on in the bushes behind the Skate Ramp. She suggested that the unmown grass was screening these activities. In response we quickly arranged for Steve Mills to open up the front of the hidden 'den' and it does feel much safer now.

Paul Morton is an ecologist/conservationist. He runs Birds of Poole Harbour whose most famous achievement has been the successful reintroduction of breeding Ospreys.

We all agreed that making bio-diverse rich habitats was highly desirable and an appropriate part of the PC's commitment (August PC meeting) to support Dorset Council's recent declaration of a Nature Emergency. However, doing the right thing is good, but there is a real danger that many in our community will dismiss areas as just unkempt, careless, lazy, inept, money-pinching etc.

So we agreed 2 courses of action:-

1) With the autumn planting season rapidly passing, Paul will (possibly today before the forecast rain) rough cut much of the grassed area. Parts may be left to retain propagation of existing seeds. He will then spread a wild-meadow seed mix – anticipated cost max £250. This needs to be done now, to get in before the rain and then to get the seeds to get going in good time.
   I took a view that the PC will support this so said go ahead. I hope you do, or I will have to pay him myself!

2) It is crucial that the community know what our intentions are, not just with this area, but also in all the other places where Sharon has been planting and maintaining landscaped areas. I'm suggesting that the PC should fund a series of information boards, perhaps 4 in various parts of the Rec to catch the public's attention. I need to sort out some designs and get prices

I'm, not sure of the protocol regarding approval of the seed cost, but hopefully this can somehow be approved as part of your debate re Agenda Item 12. I have another appointment on Wednesday and have already given my apologies to Julie/Alf so I won't be there to argue the case.

Best
Ken