

Newtown Common Management Update

27th March 2021

Under the guidance of the Parish Council, Newtown Common Management Committee manages the Common to provide an attractive amenity for residents and visitors whilst also maintaining a diverse habitat for trees, plants and wildlife.

Resources are provided by funding from Natural England via a High-Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme running from 2011-2021 and volunteer activity from Sparsholt College students, Greengym volunteers and local volunteers.

The setting in place of the Higher-Level Stewardship scheme in 2011 has enabled Newtown Parish Council to undertake a considerable amount of work including:

- to restore areas of Newtown Common to heathland from Scots Pine woodland;
- to reduce and manage areas of scrub; and
- to expand and manage areas of acid-grassland and heathland.

As this HLS scheme comes to an end this year the Parish Council plans to apply for a similar scheme running from 2021-2031.

The main objective of this new plan will be to manage our existing Heathland and surrounding habitat without the creation of more Heathland. No woodland clearance is planned. Additional work will still be carried out by volunteer groups as usual.

We are currently in the pre-application phase and the complete application will be submitted to Natural England before August 2021.

Should you have any questions or concerns please email our Parish Clerk on clerk@newtown-pc.org.uk.

In the next year we plan to also develop a Woodland Management plan in consultation with HCC and a Woodland specialist. The focus will again be on enhancing the Common for residents and wildlife. There will be complete transparency and involvement of all interested parties.