

Walled Garden and Orchard Project

Steering Group - The key members of the steering group for this project are the following;

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Objective

The primary objective of this project is to look in to and implement the restoration of the walled garden and orchard on Pinfold Lane. To achieve these aims the following actions will be required.

Audit - An audit of the facilities at the walled garden and orchard will be necessary to ascertain what development will be required to return the garden and orchard to an efficient community facility.

To achieve this a meeting will need to take place with the land owner Mrs Gillian Hoare (488233). It would be advantageous to have a knowledgeable member of the gardening club at the meeting and possibly a tree surgeon. Mrs Hoare can give the members present at the meeting a clear idea of the original layout of the gardens.

Glass houses - A variety of greenhouse builders should be consulted with regard to the replacement of the green houses. These companies will be asked to estimate on the works required and the winning bid will be offered the works. It should be borne in mind that any such company will benefit from being party to a community project such as this and degree of sponsorship should be proposed.

Irrigation - An automatic irrigation system for the glasshouses will need to be looked in to.

Heating - The boiler room should be included in the audit, and an expert consulted on a suitable biomass boiler system. (suggest Josh Pollock, (488228) as he this is his field of expertise). Like wise sponsorship by the company supplying any boiler system should be taken in to account.

Outbuildings - An accurate estimation of the building works required to the out buildings should be undertaken, this will include all the adjacent storage facilities as well as the boiler house. (Suggest talking to Nigel Laskey of Wild Boar 488825 with regard to the building elements.)

Amenities -

Water - This can be either be obtained by rainwater harvesting systems such as for example; Free rain - [www. freerain.co.uk](http://www.freerain.co.uk), 01636 894905, Newark. or by irrigating from the bottom lake pond in the adjacent wood. A projection of annual water usage should be addressed.

Toilets - These can either be fed by rainwater harvesting or a composting system. Hill Holt Wood(contact details on raucedby online website) have a range of toilets and may be able to assist with raised beds.

Electricity - A photo voltaic system should be looked into.

Composting - a composting site should be looked into. The Hall Farm stables produce a good deal of horse stablings which whilst negotiating with Simon Frere - Cook 488278 an agreement could be reached to make our own compost.

Orchard - A good deal of thinning out of the wood needs to be undertaken to ensure sufficient light for the developing orchard and to remove those trees that are dead. The screen around the wood should not be interfered with as this would change the present aspect. It might be suggested to Mrs Hoare that the orchard could be expanded around the perimeter of the walled garden, which would allow a greater variety of fruit species to be grown. This would of course mean felling a good deal of the wood, but most of it is self sown sycamore which would be entirely expendable. The crop from the orchard could be used in preserves, fruit juices and wines and cider as well as fresh fruit.

Species - All species and varieties of fruit and vegetable should be carefully chosen with projected climate change in mind. This information will be available from organisations such as the EDEN Project, The RHS and KEW gardens.

Business Plan - A business plan must be drawn up at the earliest opportunity once it is felt that we have collated enough information with regard to projected costs and all other aspects of the project.

Lease - Once the business plan is in place it will be time to negotiate the terms of lease with Mrs Hoare.

Funding and Planning - Once the lease is agreed we can apply for planning permission (although it may be prudent to consult the necessary planning department at an early stage to briefly outline all the elements that we need to address prior to seeking permission.) Finally we will be in a position to apply for the necessary funding to proceed with the implementation of the project.

This is just a rough guide to how to proceed with this project, during development many other issues will no doubt arise. The whole process will need to be documented to ensure that the model can be used by other communities.

Employment/ voluntary work - We will need to address the employment of a some full time paid staff to co-ordinate the work done in the garden and orchard. The staff will be accountable to the RLFI management. As there is a possibility of having completed the development that a staff of volunteers can not always be relied upon to do all of the work, people lose interest or fall out etc.

Projected Deadlines

Audit - The initial audit should take place at the earliest opportunity. It would be good if the RLFI management were present at the visit to the walled garden and orchard with Mrs Hoare. This should be completed by the 19th December.

Estimates - All estimates and costing with regard to this project should have a target completion of the end of February.

Business Plan and Lease - Development of the business plan and lease should be completed by the end of March.

Funding - All funding should be applied for by the end of April 2009.

Commencement of works - Subject to funding applications all works should be completed by the end of August 2009.

Planting of orchard - The planting of the orchard should be completed by the end of

October 2009. A planting rotation schedule should be drawn up with in the same time period with regard the propagation of all fruits and vegetables for the following years.

Cider Press - A cider press should be bought or hired for the 2009 apple crop.

Marketing of produce - A separate steering group will be tasked with the job of marketing the produce and the setting up of the local produce market to commence in April of 2009.