

## 18.1 Christmas

Yes, it's closer than I'd like too!

We need to decide what we want to do this year:

We have the main tree (which currently comes from The Christmas Tree Barn Nr Watlington ) in the Rectory Gardens, the **electric connection for the lights will need to be repaired/updated** and I hope to have costs ready for the September meeting – these would also supply the electricity for the village sign lighting.

The lights for the tree and the avenue were ours but the high winds of the previous couple of years have over stretched them and they failed their safety test. We managed to hire some for last year. **Do we want to continue lighting the avenue of trees or just the Christmas tree?** I believe the avenue was originally lit to illuminate the post-covid gatherings prior to the torch procession getting going again. Replacement Christmas tree lights will be circa £159 and the same again for the avenue

The High Street has smaller trees mounted in the flag holders by the fire station staff, these have battery powered lights as solar has not proved reliable enough. Some of the holders are loose, I have informed the person who put them up. if they are not repaired **Do we want to continue but only with the safe brackets? If the bracket owner is unwilling to repair/replace the loose ones, should we just get them removed?**

## 18.3



**Wildflower seeds are powerhouses of biodiversity, carrying the potential to bloom into vibrant, resilient flowers that support ecosystems. By planting wildflower seeds, you can create natural habitats that attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds, which are essential for healthy gardens.**

**It is possible to overseed with wildflower seeds into an existing grass sward using an application rate of 2g pm**

## Appendix O

**When to Sow:** Wildflowers should be oversown into existing grassland when the sward growth is slowing down and least aggressive. Autumn is the best time to sow, with early spring being another sowing window.

**Sowing Rate:** Wildflower seeds are generally very small in size which means that plenty of seeds are provided per kg of seed mixture. A standard overseeding rate for wildflowers is 2 kgs per acre, however this can be raised or lowered to ensure the seed cost is economical.

**Preparation:** The site should be grazed or cut hard before vigorously harrowing the existing sward. Ideally excess vegetation needs to be removed before sowing in order to reduce competition, open up new space and loosen the soil for the new seeds. Several passes with a chain or tine harrow at slightly different angles may be necessary.

The aim is to create 40-50% bare soil by the end of the preparation. When sowing the new seeds be wary of sowing too deeply with aggressive agricultural drills. Broadcasting the seed with a spinner or by hand is a good way to establish the mixture, followed by an additional harrow.

After sowing, roll to consolidate the area, lock in moisture and create good seed to soil contact. Livestock can be left on the area for 3-4 days after sowing to further keep on top of the old sward (soil conditions allowing) but must be removed before the new seeds germinate.

Do not fertilise the area before or after sowing as wildflowers prefer low nutrient soils. Highly fertile sites will encourage lush grass growth, making it more difficult for wildflower seedlings to establish. Most traditional perennial wild flowers are slow to establish, often taking up to 12 months to fully get their roots down and starting to show signs of flowering in year 2.

Pioneer wildflower species are quicker to establish, these include Oxeye Daisy, Wild Carrot and Red Campion. These species can be a useful indicator as to the success of an over sowing project.

Remember that annual wildflower species such as cornflower, corncockle, corn marigold and field poppy ideally need to be sown into bare soil to get the best establishment, rather than into an existing grass sward.

Eg Progreen A1WILD Shaded Woodland 100% wildflower seed mix is a great option for those wanted to create a wildflower meadow in areas that are prone to shade such as in woodland where it is heavily shaded by trees. – 100g to cover 25msq is £29.16

## Autumn planted Bulbs for Spring colour

We could have a planting day in the Autumn and encourage residents to take a handful home for their own verges/frontages – sample prices from Boston Seeds wholesale



DAFFODIL KING ALFRED BULBS

£36.00 VAT included

Select Your Pack Quantity

- ☐ 500 BULBS £40.00
- ☐ 1000 BULBS £76.00
- ☐ 2000 BULBS £148.00
- ☐ 5000 BULBS £360.00
- ☐ 5KG £14.00
- ☐ 10KG £22.00
- ☒ 20KG £36.00

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|----------------------------------|---------|------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 250 BULBS  | £36.00  | £0.14 EACH |
| <input type="radio"/> 500 BULBS  | £65.00  | £0.13 EACH |
| <input type="radio"/> 1000 BULBS | £120.00 | £0.12 EACH |
| <input type="radio"/> 2000 BULBS | £230.00 | £0.12 EACH |
| <input type="radio"/> 5000 BULBS | £550.00 | £0.11 EACH |