

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office

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Environment and Biodiversity Committee meeting 19th November 2025

Item 7 a, b & c - Biodiversity Open Day event.

Background – Members resolved to make an application to the MSDC Pride in Your Place grant to fund the purchase of up to 200 bird, bee, bat and swift boxes, this application was submitted to the grants team at the beginning of October and a decision has been chased and is expected by the end of this week.

At your last meeting it was agreed to hold an open event for personalising and decorating the boxes, should the application be successful. The date fixed for this open day is Saturday 18th July 2026 the weekend before the schools break up.

It was agreed that this open day event should be expanded to possibly include a Bioblitz and further biodiversity groups, information stands and activities for families.

Current position - Both Thurston Primary School and SENDAT Priory School have expressed their desire to be involved in the event as have Thurston Scouts.

Richard Parmee, MSDC Biodiversity Project Manager has been invited to attend and to provide activities and information. He has suggested that he will pass this onto his two new biodiversity officers and it is hoped that they will attend.

Lauren Mack from Suffolk Wildlife Trust has been asked to attend. Unfortunately her funding for such events has finished and a charge would be made for her time and resources now.

New Green Community Centre has been booked for the afternoon of 18th July for toilet facilities and in the event of inclement weather. Full Council have approved the funding for this.

Recommendations:

- a) To consider and agree the basic format and arrangements for the Biodiversity Open Day.
- b) To approve the establishment of a Working Group to progress this event and to consider its Terms of Reference.