



BASLOW COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP

10 YEARS ON. WHAT NEXT FOR THE ORCHARD?

Notes from an Open Meeting held following the AGM of 12th May 2022

A total of 25 people attended after wide publicity of the meeting within the village. David Dawson, Chairman of the Orchard Group, explained that the scheduled guest speakers had been forced to pull out of the meeting at a very late stage because of critical business pressures. It had been impractical to communicate this in advance of the meeting and he apologised on their behalf and on behalf of the Orchard Group. He proposed instead a detailed process to review the current state of the orchard and to consider how it might develop in the immediate future.

With the help of suitable refreshments, three sequential" brainstorming" discussions were held in four separate groups to:

1. Review the development of the orchard over the last 10 years
2. Consider the future
3. Plan for Apple Day 2022 which will mark the 10th Anniversary of the Orchard

Each group was asked to feedback their conclusions/recommendations and the following is a collated summary of the collective outcome.

Discussion 1 - Review of the Current situation

What has been done well?

- Well kept and tidy (3)
- Good layout and informative signs (3)
- Over Lane planting
- Story circle and school use (2)
- Meadow (2)
- An asset to the community (2)
- Orchard Day - fun and good community activity

What should have been done differently?

- More school use (2)
- Pollinator count and consider brush pollination

What is missing?

- Fruit!
- Water supply
- Better awareness - more publicity (many people unaware of it)
- Beehive

Discussion 2 - What about the future?

Baslow Community Orchard Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Company No: 8395104

Registered Office: Howard Cottage, Eaton Hill, Baslow, Bakewell, DE45 1SB

T: 01246 582998



BASLOW COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP

Has Covid-19 made a difference?

- Increased use during lockdown (2)
- Loss of routine
- Fewer work parties, more work for fewer people (2)
- Economic squeeze may increase use as people stay local

Can we make more use of the orchard? How?

- Encourage more events
 - Picnic site/family events (4)
 - Wedding photos
 - Place to scatter ashes
 - Maypole dancing
 - Hold specific "picnic day"
 - Cider-making event
 - Coffee mornings
 - Exercise groups for rehab, etc
- More seating (maybe memorials)
- Water supply
- Tree for Jubilee
- Improve wheelchair access

How do we get others involved?

- Better and more subtle advertising
 - Include on maps of village and walk leaflets (as picnic venue)
 - Posters in local businesses
 - "Have you thought of using"
 - Encourage other village group use - WI green day
 - Improve signage to the site

Discussion 3 - Planning for Apple Day

How do we celebrate the 10-year anniversary?

- Invite Duke of Devonshire or Lord Burlington
- Plant anniversary tree
- Anniversary bench/picnic table
- Focus on children's activities
- Ceilidh
- Welcome event for Ukrainian refugees

Can we / should we do anything different?

- New Competitions
 - Photography (2)

Baslow Community Orchard Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Company No: 8395104

Registered Office: Howard Cottage, Eaton Hill, Baslow, Bakewell, DE45 1SB

T: 01246 582998



BASLOW COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP

- Poetry
- Raffle
- Quiz on apple trees and facts
- Treasure Hunt
- William Tell
- School to create a “tableaux” in story circle (orchard theme)
- Live and Local street performers
- Booklet of Apple recipes
- Link to local food bank for surplus fruit
- A successful event will be an achievement in itself after a 2-year absence

What practical help can we get?

- Improve website advertising
- Specific requests to local organisations
- Use Facebook

In Conclusion

David Dawson closed the meeting by:

- Thanking everyone for their attendance and for their understanding of the absence of the expected speakers.
- He had been impressed by the energy of table discussions and the ideas that emerged. It certainly seemed that this had been an enjoyable experience.
- He explained that all the ideas would be examined by the Orchard Group Committee to assess them for their feasibility, practicality and affordability. Some would need to be checked with local residents and the Parish Council, but as many as possible would be acted upon.
- He hoped that those present would be willing to get involved in a practical way to support Apple Day and the organising committee.

David Dawson
Chairman

14th May 2022