



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGY GROUP

Newsletter

Q1 2021

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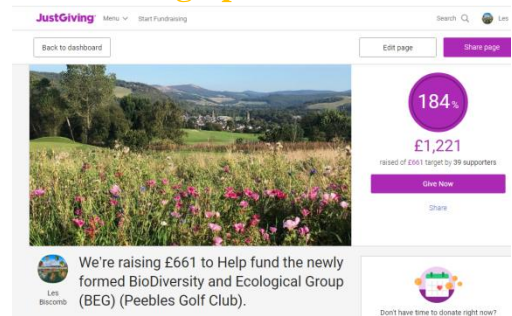




In this issue:

Our first update newsletter will bring our members and volunteers as well as the wider community of Peebles updates on our progress to date, our current activities and our future plans and activities. We will also cover fundraising efforts/updates, and links to information and membership details. Finally we cover our partnerships we have/are developing:

Fundraising update



An update on fund raising, both crowdfunding and local community funding. Page 3.

Initial project update



A brief update on our initial project, see pages 4 & 5.

Information links

How to find more information about the BEG group, its members and its activities. Page 3.

Becoming a Member or volunteer?

How to become a member and/or volunteer. Page 3.

10 to 20 Year Opportunity Plan



Our new 10 to 20 year opportunity plan, presenting a flavour of this plan and links to the full plan. Pages 6 to 10.

Partnership update

Brief update on the partnerships we have developed and who we are working with on our plans and activities. Page 3.

A summary update of this Q¹ quarters activities

An update since our last newsletter in summary. Page 2.

Update on constitution and policies.

Please see page 11



Summary of Q1

A huge amount has happened during this our first newsletter and during Q1 2021, we hope you all enjoy this newsletter and find it informative of our group, our activities, our current work and future plans, as well as how to get involved.

We formed the BEG group on 7th January, Val came up with the initial idea of the 7th Wildflower meadow, and co-opted Denise, Andrew, Neil and Les, and on 7th January the group was created.

We quickly got ourselves organized and got down to work to design, plan and execute the initial plan for the 7th hole, a wild-flower meadow, including a detailed plan, budgets and approvals from the golf club (lease-holder of the land).

Execution of the plan quickly followed approvals, fund raising also, both crowdfunding and local/national searches for funds, organizing resources/volunteers including contractors, and execution began. (...more below.....pages 4 & 5)

We have also produced an opportunity plan in this period, more details below. Pages 6 to 10.

We have applied for funding from the tweeddale community fund (Scottish Borders Council)(SBC). *(update below)*

We have joined under the Peebles community trust (PCT) and their umbrella.

We have been working very closely with "The Bridge", to help with constitution,

business plans, policies and reach to SBC and other local and national organisations.

We have been working very closely with "The Men's Shed" on the Birds and Bats stream of our opportunity plan.

We have produced and agreed our constitution, as well as several policy documents, with great help/advice/assistance from "The Bridge".

We have been reaching out to charities/organisations, that can supply for free or a charity donation, trees and shrubs.

We have been working closely with Buglife (Scotland) on a potential partnership that could/should result in a 10 year detailed proposal and annual delivery plans, from 2022.

We have an article in Aprils "Peebles Life", please look out for this.

We have had terrific support from volunteers, helping out on the 7th hole initial project and creating bird/bat boxes, (well over 20 volunteers) we wish to thank every single volunteer.

We have had terrific support for our crowdfunding, from almost 40 supporters, helping raise over £1,200 for the initial project and beyond, we wish to thank every single supporter.

We are closing the fund raising for this initial project, the wildflower meadow near the 7th hole, as of 30th March 2021.

ONLY with you're help have we been able to achieve so much in such a short space of time



ONLY when we step back, can we realise what we have achieved in such a short space of time.



Where to get more Information and get involved.

Peebles golf club (PGC) have kindly given us our own page on their web site, you can find all our current information on that page at: <https://www.peeblesgolfclub.com/biodiversity>

You can request more information from the group using the email: Peebles_BEG_Group@yahoo.com

As a constituted group, we need to ensure we have a formal process in place for new members and new volunteers, just so we know who is who, it only includes your name and email, no other details are held. Membership is open to anyone in Peeblesshire and beyond, to apply to become either a group member or volunteer, (there is no joining fee, it is free to join and free to anyone to join), please email: Peebles_BEG_Group@yahoo.com

Partnership Organisations:

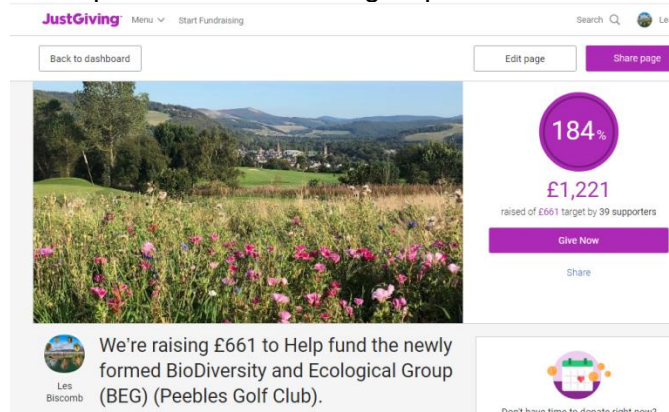
More information on the partner organisations can be found below:

Organisation	Web link
Buglife (Scotland)	https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/near-me/buglife-scotland/
PCT	https://www.peeblescommunity.org/
The Bridge	https://onlineborders.org.uk/community/thebridge
The Men's Shed	https://peeblesmensshed.co.uk/
PGC	https://www.peeblesgolfclub.com/

The above partners we are working closely with on our current and future plans, our funding approach, our constitution and policies, our governance and finances. We will be adding to this list, in our Q2 newsletter.

Fundraising update:

Since we launched the crowdfunding appeal, we have had almost 40 supporters, and our target for the initial project of £661 has been passed comfortably, and as of 26th March 2021, we have raised an amazing £1,221. We wish to thank everyone who has supported us. From 30th March 2021, we will be closing down this fundraising, as we move onto develop our future plans and fund raising requirements.



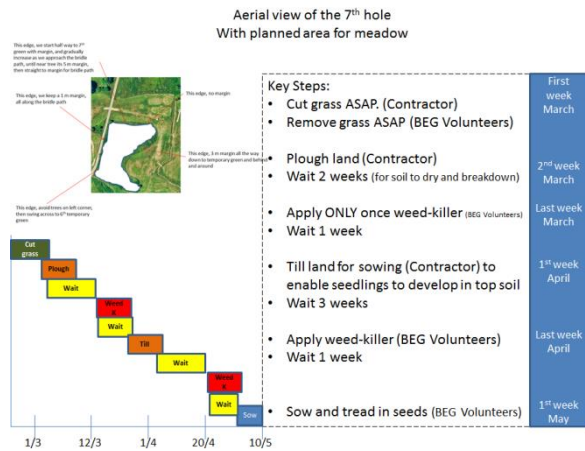
We have also been awarded an additional £1,500 from the tweeddale community fund, this decision was made 30th March 2021.

This means we now have our total budget requirements of £2,121 for this initial project.

All additional fundraising over the £661 from the crowdfunding appeal, will go to help future projects.



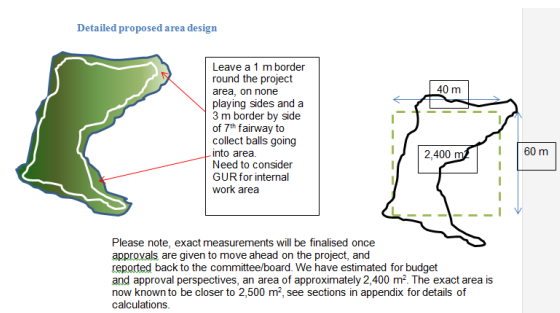
Initial Project 7th hole wildflower meadow



We produce the initial plan, a sample is above and full details can be found at: <https://www.peeblesgolfclub.com/biodiversity>

Once on the page, scroll down until you find a link to the initial plan.

The entire area is a quarter of a hectare, approximately 2,500 m².



The area is to the left of the 7th fairway, on the left, as you walk from the 7th tee box to the 7th green. The picture below shows the area, post grass cutting, pre ploughing.



A small part of this area was planted with wildflowers, during 2019/2020 and the picture below shows this, and we can all see what the potential is for this area once the entire 2,500 m² area is completed and the wildflower meadow is established.



We have had amazing support from 20+ volunteers, helping to collect grass and remove stubborn grass sods, see below.



Progress to-date:

- We have cut the grass
- Removed all cut grass
- The land has been ploughed
- The land has also been rotavated
- All heavy grass sods put to one side



The picture above shows the areas ploughed and grass sods piled to one side.

The next physical steps are:

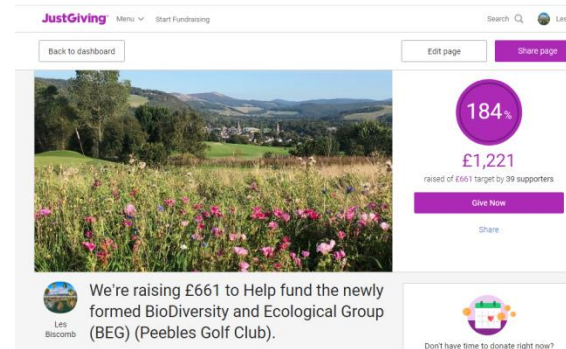
1. Apply one course of weed-killer, last week in April.
2. Sow the seed, 1st week in May.
3. Roll the land immediately after sowing.



We will also be planting a small number of trees in that area, for biodiversity and ecology reasons, blossom bearing, fruit/berry bearing, pollen bearing trees, that will be kept fairly compact and small, so as not to spoil the wonderful views and make grass cutting easy.

Then we can all stand back and watch the seed germinate and grow.

The seed mix is being sourced very soon, the seed mix is essentially 80% various grass seed and 20% perennials and annuals.



Finally on the initial project, we have been awarded from the tweeddale community fund an additional £1,500 to complete the initial project, this decision made 30th March. The entire fund was oversubscribed, so great news we have been successful against stiff competition. Now we have been successful we have the required total budget for the initial project of £2,161, so with the £1,500, we will be using £661 from the crowdfunding, and anything over this, will go into our 2022 plans and beyond.

So much thanks to everyone who has supported us in this initial project, volunteers who have helped and supporters who have donated, we are deeply humbled, grateful and indebted



Other progress update

As well as the initial project, we have also been working very hard on our 10-20 year opportunity plan.

This is identifying 40+ areas on the course that are opportunities to create a mosaic of habitats for Flora and Fauna.

You can access the opportunity plan at the link opposite:
<https://www.peeblesgolfclub.com/biodiversity>

The opportunity plan has been sent to the committee and formally approved to progress to the next stage(s).

The opportunity plan is a plan, hole by hole, with all the opportunities we have identified, and divided into 4 streams, as per below:



The entire course was included in this opportunity plan, and hole by hole has been assessed for an opportunity for one or more streams.

Notes for slides:

- 4. Table of icons to read against the plan, there are 4 opportunity plans:
 - a) Buglife, we will work closely with Buglife Scotland, to develop the opportunities into proposals for each area, including priorities, they provide expertise and funding.
 - b) BEG – these areas are under our (BEG) development and planning, typically shrubs/small trees, but not under planting.
 - c) Under Planting, is bulbs/corms, used in rough areas/under trees, these areas are under our (BEG) development and planning
 - d) Bats/Birds - these areas are under our (BEG) development and planning, working closely with Bird and Bat societies, including the RSPB

Table of icons to read plan with	
	This icon means this is a BEG internal opportunity plan
	This icon means this is a Buglife opportunity plan
	These icons means it is part of the Bat and Bird opportunity plan When you see this icon on a potential area, means bats When you see this icon, means birds in area When you see both icons on an area, means both bats/birds
	This icon means this is a mixed under planting opportunity plan <i>(please note from previous page, exact configuration of species will be decided area by area as each project is specified in detail)</i>

The plan is sub divided into 4 streams as opposite.



Birds and Bats, involves building and installing bird and bat boxes on over 10 areas of the land, to attract various birds and bats. We are working closely with various groups on the build and installation, as well as expertise from Bat/Bird societies and experts in the local community. We already have 40+ boxes in process and approvals to install them, we are involving the men's shed in this initiative, as well as two schools in Peebles (discussions have to begin with the schools), and where practical and safe, adults/children with learning difficulties. This is led by Neil, and the next step is to produce a business plan for the next few years, and get this approved by the committee and once approved, install the bird and Bat boxes. If you look at page 3 of the opportunity plan (<https://www.peablesgolfclub.com/biodiversity>), this will indicate which birds and bats we are hoping to take up the boxes and hopefully provide a long term habitat.

Examples of the stream mapped as an opportunity in the opportunity plan.

Hole 3

Hole # 3  giving nature a home

3rd Tee 

3rd Green 


Potential area 

Left ladies 3rd tee, behind 2nd green both Birds and Bat Boxes 


Left hand side of fairway, if walking from tee to green, area behind 2nd Green, within the trees 


No opportunities for BEG


Hole 4


Hole # 4  giving nature a home


No opportunities for BEG


View from 4th Tee 

4th Green 


4th Tee 


Right hand side of fairway, over path, in between, 4th, 5th and 7th holes, Bird boxes ONLY 

Left side of fairway next to hedge, before corner tree planting/triangle 

Left hand side of fairway, next to the hedge on boundary, bird boxes ONLY 

Potential area

Right side of fairway over bridle path 

S1 

We want to call out the fantastic support we have received from "The Men's Shed", who have really rallied and created over 40 bird and bat boxes in such a short space of time.

We are almost at full capacity, for the boxes. We are just saving two areas for local schools to help with. (Discussions pending)



Under-planting, involving 10+ areas, typically under tree lined areas, with mixed bulbs and corms. This is led by Val, and the next step is to produce a business plan for the next several years, and get this approved by the committee and once approved, ensure we include all funding activities needed to buy the bulbs, and ensure that volunteers are lined up for planting the bulbs, this will take several years to complete. If you look at page 3 of the opportunity plan (<https://www.pebblesgolfclub.com/biodiversity>), this will indicate which bulbs we are using, and the detailed business plan, will indicate hole by hole, the actual varieties per opportunity. We will also be writing to several large bulb suppliers, to see if we can get some donations of bulbs, alongside our own purchasing.

Examples of the stream mapped as an opportunity in the opportunity plan.

Hole 5

Hole # 5



No opportunities for Buglife



5th Green

Left side of hole, from edge of path, near ball washer, to the burn and beyond to the edge of the bushes

Potential area



5th Tee

Left hand side of path and tees

Potential area



View from 5th Tee



We More updates and information in our Q2 newsletter

Hole 9

Hole # 9



No opportunities for BEG
No opportunities for Buglife



9th Green

9th Tee

Potential area



Left hand side of 9th fairway under trees, from start of forest to end conifer opposite where range ends

Left hand sided of trees, under plant with mixed bulbs/corms, all the entire stretch

Inter-connected

View from 9th Tee



Potential area





BEG, these 5+ areas, are smaller areas, driven by the BEG group, involving mostly shrubs for food and habitats, but also some small trees for screening/habitats. This is led by Denise, and the next step is to produce a business plan for the next several years, and get this approved by the committee and once approved, ensure we include all funding activities needed to buy the shrubs and trees, and ensure that volunteers are lined up for planting the shrubs/trees, this will take several years to complete. The actual shrubs and trees, will be named in the detailed business plan, area by area. We will also be utilising our existing suppliers of trees and shrubs, mainly charitable organisations, that provide them free or for a donation.

Examples of the stream mapped as an opportunity in the opportunity plan.

Hole 13

Hole # 13 

View from 13th Tee



Between 13th Green and track on left hand side of fairway, clear some grass and plant shrubs



Left hand of 13th fairway, between track and 13th green.


13th Tee

No opportunities for under planting

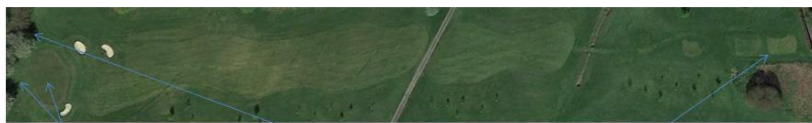
13th Green

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Hole 17

Hole # 17 

No opportunities for Bats/Birds



17th Green

17th Tee

Behind 17th Green



View from 17th Tee



Behind 17th green, clear some grass and plant shrubs





BEG newsletter update, issue # 1, Q1 2021

Buglife (Scotland), these 20+ areas, we will create in partnership with Buglife a mosaic of different areas/habitats for the benefit of insects/bugs/pollinators. These plans are currently not agreed, and we are in early discussions with Buglife (Scotland) in a possible partnership. The project(s) would also involve monitoring the success of these projects in attracting bugs. Buglife are now coming to visit the land w/c 19th April, and from this visit, over a 4-8 week period, we will create from the opportunity plan, a firm proposal for each area, that ultimately will result in a mosaic of different options (The Proposals plan). Any area that Buglife do not want to develop, we will move into the BEG stream and plan within that stream the opportunity into a business case. Buglife will help us with this planning process, also help educate and train the BEG group, and volunteers, and critically help with funding for a 10 year plan. Post the proposal plans, we will then develop our details approach, including funding, and detailed annual plans.

Examples of the stream mapped as an opportunity in the opportunity plan.

Hole 18

Hole # 18 

No opportunities for Bats/Birds
No opportunities for under planting

18th Green

18th Tee

Potential area

Potential area

Potential area

Potential area

Potential area

Potential area

Potential area

Potential area

Left hand side of 18th fairway, down to and just past the pond

View from 18th Tee

We More updates and information in our Q2 newsletter



Constitution and Policies.

With terrific help and support from “The Bridge” (<https://onlineborders.org.uk/community/thebridge>), we have been able to develop and get our constitution reviewed and signed off under governance, this document is now held under governance by the secretary of BEG.

We are developing further policies including risk assessment, diversity, conduct, safeguarding, etc etc. These documents are all reviewed and signed off under governance.

Closing Note:

We hope this newsletter gives you a good update and feeling of where we are and what we plan next.

Just repeating, if anyone wants more information, or has a question, or wants to join us as a BEG members or BEG volunteer, please email: Peebles_BEG_Group@yahoo.com with your query/question/enquiry.