

## **LEE Committee 5 November 2019**

### **Agenda Item - LEE1523/19**

#### **Apple Day**

##### **Background**

Apple Day, 21 October, was launched in 1990 by Common Ground, a charity that encourages people and communities to become responsible for their local environment. Apple Day is intended to be both a celebration and a demonstration of the variety, richness and diversity of landscape, ecology and culture too.

Stone's Orchard is a key feature of Croxley Green and has increasingly become a venue of choice for the programmes run by or on behalf of the Parish Council. The Wassail, held on 17 January, the old Twelfth Night according to the Julian calendar, takes place in the Orchard, as do the Easter egg hunt and the annual Dog Show in late summer. While the Council does not intend to turn the Orchard into a tourist venue, it encourages its use in order that residents and visitors may appreciate its uniqueness.

This paper proposes that Croxley Green Parish Council sponsors a local initiative to hold an Apple Day in the village, to celebrate the contribution Stone's Orchard makes to the life of the parish.

##### **Discussion**

Following the success of the Peace Picnic in July 2019, the team that ran the event would like to institute an Apple Day in 2020 to be, if well received, an annual event.

An Apple Day in Croxley Green will feature an apple press, used to produce apple juice from residents' own harvests and from the trees in the Orchard. There will be apple themed games for children and families; apple tasting; possibly the presence of an apple expert to identify varieties of apple and provide advice on fruit tree care; and other harvest style activities and various stalls. Local conservation groups will be invited to participate and as it will be an opportunity for the Council to engage with residents, the Rangers and Councillors will be welcomed to staff a stand for the day.

The major cost, as the day will be staffed entirely by volunteers, apart from renting the Orchard from TRDC, will be acquiring an apple mill & crusher together with an apple press and other items not owned by local groups. The involvement of the Council means that the Council's public liability insurance will cover the event – an obstacle for a volunteer group. An outline budget for the day amounts to £500, for hire charges and sundry expenses.

##### **Recommendation(s)**

- That Croxley Green Parish Council sponsors (holds) an Apple Day to take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 +/- 7 days;
- That a sum of £500 be added to the LEE Budget for 2020/21 to support the Apple Day
- That if the 2020 Apple Day is a success the Council supports repeating it annually thereafter.

Councillor Nigel Cole  
Mrs Margaret Pomfret  
October 2019

Note:

**Draft budget for Apple Day**

Purchase of apple mill and crusher	£100
Purchase of apple press	£150
Hire of Stone's Orchard	£50
Hire of tables, chairs, games	£150
Miscellaneous costs	£50