Item 6.1

Abbey Road Conservation Volunteers.

Progress Report for May to October 2026, from Lead Volunteer, Roger Brown

We had 13 volunteers for our October work party, which was the most we've had since our very first session back in October 2020. This was also our 50th work party since then.

9 of our volunteers live in Abbey Rd itself, or in other close adjoining roads. So it really is a local community supported project.

The drought and extreme heat this summer affected Abbey Rd to some extent.

The well-established trees and shrubs were fine, but anything planted in the last year needed extra watering to help get them through this period.

Even with this care, it looks as though we will need to replace half of the 150 hedging plants we planted in February this year. But the hedging we put in the previous year was established well enough to cope with the drought this year and suffered no losses at all.

We have been successful in getting another batch of free hedging plants from the Woodland Trust to be delivered next March. We will use these to replace losses from this year.

The flow in the Tanyard chalk stream was the lowest we've seen over the last 6 years. It has not yet recovered despite recent rains.

This badly affected the Ouse and Adur River Trust's biological survey of the stream in September, being insufficient water to properly take samples.

On the plus side, the scrape we created next to the stream last year now has water in it from recent rainfall.



The new Abbey Road signs installed recently by the Council are an attractive and welcome addition.
We recently met a new resident who moved into a house backing onto the stream. There are a number of large Leylandii-type trees on his boundary hanging over the stream at 45° that he wants to remove. If they fell, they would cause damage to his side path, destabilise the stream bank and possibly block the stream. He has offered to remove them, chip them and leave the woodchip for us to use onsite. He is a tree surgeon so has all the equipment needed to do this.

Members need to consider agreement for these works please



The Steyning Community Orchard will be planting the final 3 apple trees in the Abbey Rd Orchard early next year. As with the other trees, these are being sponsored by Steyning residents, who will also take part in the planting of their trees. The Orchard will then be complete, with 18 trees planted as agreed with Council back in 2021.

