**REPORT TO TINTWISTLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**24 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Report Authors:** Cllr Tony Owens, Cllr Marianne Stevenson

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To provide an update on the role of the Holybank Quarry Warden and the 2022 plans to implement the Rewilding Management Plan

1. **Decisions of the Parish Council**

To approve the progress made so far

To propose any further actions to ensure the conservation of the Holybank Quarry

1. **Background**

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) Landscapes Adviser for the area, Hollie Fisher, carried out a survey and her report, Rewilding Management Plan 2021 -2071was accepted by the Parish Council on 1 November 2021. The Council has signed up to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) Wild Peak Network, the first Parish Council in Derbyshire to do so. Being a member of the Wild Peak Network means:

* TPC taking biodiversity seriously
* Managing the Quarry and other identified areas with minimum intervention
* Where management is required making sure it benefits the flora and fauna
* Not cutting grass too much
* Planting wildflowers
* Keeping the area litter free

The DWT Tintwistle Quarry Rewilding Management Plan 2021 – 2071 is a comprehensive and informative document. In summary it sets out:

* A description and assessment of the habitats
* The geology of the area
* The hydrology of the area
* The species identified in the quarry area

And a set of 4 management goals and objectives:

* Increasing the habitat and floristic diversity
* Reducing habitat damage
* Increasing local engagement
* Creating a nature recovery network

In December 2021 Councillors approved the establishment of a Quarry Warden role and Peter Girdlestone, who lives opposite the Quarry, agreed to take on the role as follows:

* To make regular visits to the Quarry, to monitor usage
* To establish a Facebook site ‘Friends of Holybank Quarry’
* To establish a Holybank Quarry website
* To develop a Friends of the Holybank Quarry Group
* To forge links with Tintwistle Primary School through their Forest School teacher, Jane Corkin
* To encourage residents and visitors to observe and record what they see, following DWT guidelines
* To provide updates for the Parish Council Newsletter

**4. The Current Situation**

On 16 January 2022 the ‘start up’ Friends of the Quarry Group comprising Peter Girdlestone, Cllr Tony Owens, Jane Corkin and Cllr Marianne Stevenson met to agree how to tackle the plans for the Quarry set out in the DWT report. They agreed to visit the Quarry on 17 January to familiarise themselves with the Quarry environment, and better understand the DWT report and its proposals. The outcome is set out in a draft action plan attached to this report. See Appendix 1.

**5. Conclusion**

The TPC is now a member of the Wild Peak Network and needs to evidence its active involvement and conservation of the Quarry environment. The Warden role and a friends of the Quarry Group should enable the Council to implement the Rewilding Management Plan. Creating a Holybank Quarry website and Facebook site will enable the warden and others to share vital information and good practice so that the biodiversity of the quarry is preserved for years to come.