

**Burton Bradstock Parish Council
Corncrake Management Plan 2021-2026
Consultation Response**

Background

The Council agreed to undertake a full review of the Corncrake Management Plan approved in 2015 and build on the interim review undertaken and reported on in 2018.

A draft management plan was developed with input from Councillors, the Primary School and members of the public. The draft plan was placed on the Councils website with a link to an online questionnaire survey.

Due to Coronavirus restrictions we were unable to hold any public meetings and distribution of paper versions of the consultation questionnaire were limited. In total we received 30 responses to the questionnaire - (See appendix 1 for the summary report on the consultation).

Consultation Feedback

Headline findings:

- 76% agreed to the revised Vision for Corncrake,
- 79% agreed to the revised Objectives for Corncrake,
- 63% agreed to the re introduction of grazing and sowing of more wildflowers,
- 90% agreed to creating a new woodland area,
- 83% agreed to extending the Forest School Area,
- 91% agreed to managing hedges to Higher Stewardship guidelines (trimming on a 2/3 year rotation and lay hedges on a 7/10 year rotation).

What respondents supported:	What respondents were concerned about:
The use of Corncrake for Forest School activities	Strongly worded objections to cattle grazing, especially conflicts with dog walkers
The proposals for more extensive tree planting	Concerns about muddy paths, especially from grazing animals and in gateways
Hedges managed for wildlife; side trimmed every 2/3 years and hedges laid on rotation	Safety of walkers using the concrete slope to Timber Bridges
What respondents suggested:	
Greater attention to ongoing management of Corncrake	
A dedicated Volunteer Group for Corncrake to ensure regular maintenance	
Consideration given to measures that give a secured path for at least one of the public rights of way should grazing be introduced	
Stripping away areas of topsoil where Nettles/ Hemlock growth is becoming a management problem	

Recommendation

That the Council take a two part approach to considering the consultation response to the Corncrake Management Plan 2021-2026:

Part 1

That the Council consider, in light of the negative responses about cattle, whether to continue to seek a grazier for Corncrake?

If the Council is minded to continue to pursue a grazier that it also considers amending the grazing licence to:



- a) Limit grazing periods to two 6 week periods; in October and again in February each year,
- b) Stipulate the number and type of stock to be grazed to minimise issues with walkers.

Part 2

Approve the Management Plan 2021-2026 with any amendments from Part 1

Corncrake Management Plan 2021-2026

1. Do you agree with the revised vision for the management of Corncrake?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		76.67%	23
2	No		23.33%	7
			answered	30
			skipped	0



Please add any Comments on the Vision: (15)

1	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	The use by the School is clearly valued (regular photos appear of the children enjoying the area) and, given the small area for recreation around the school, this additional space is vital for the well-being of staff and pupils. It would also have been a good space for the 'daily mile' initiative, but, at the time the footpaths around the field were not cut and there were concerns about dog mess. Improving the overall management to allow more wild flowers to germinate and thereby improve the habitat value is clearly important but there are local concerns about the potential conflict between grazing and dog walking which will require more communication. Footpath management has become a greater priority given the increase in walking through the pandemic which, as the winter progresses is likely to result in more mud and problems at gateways etc. which is a consequence of encouraging greater public access.
2	04/12/2020 18:02 PM ID: 153966321	Largely, but see later questions.
3	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	We have looked at the 'aims' stated by the Parish Council in 2012 when they were considering the purchase of Corncrake: 1) The land is an asset of community value, it is well used for informal recreation and provides the undeveloped rural setting for the village Conservation Area including the Church 2) The land is adjacent to the Parish Recreation Field and offers a range of options to the community for extending recreation provision in the future 3) The land would enable the PC to secure a car free pedestrian route from the school to the Recreation Ground and give the PC options for enhancing the riverside walk, wildlife corridors and tree planting. No where in these 'aims' was cattle grazing mentioned, all original aims seem to be all about recreation, enhancement and wildlife
4	09/12/2020 10:58 AM ID: 154254498	Only object to the grazing.
5	09/12/2020 12:25 PM ID: 154264952	The wild flower meadow has not worked . The cattle grasing is not welcomed by the dog walkers
6	09/12/2020 20:02 PM ID: 154308626	In so much as Corncrake should be available and open to all as defined in 3.1 of the management plan. Corncrake provides important safe footpaths from the village to both the beach and the playing fields and is regularly used by locals and visitors alike.
7	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	This is a well presented, thoughtful plan with manageable objectives.
8	15/12/2020 13:10 PM ID: 154719167	The strip next to the barbed wire fence adjoining the stream should be kept mown/ vegetation not allowed to grow so high against the fence so that wildlife on the river can be observed from the field. I've missed seeing the baby ducks and moorhens because vegetation has been allowed to grow so high.

1. Do you agree with the revised vision for the management of Corncrake?

			Response Percent	Response Total
		'Shut the gate' required on all gates.		
9	18/12/2020 17:33 PM ID: 155012274	It would be good to try to re-establish the ""derelict"" hedge between the two parts of Corncrake, and to put in some scrapes as in the original plan.		
10	30/12/2020 11:59 AM ID: 155438060	Lots more trees		
11	07/01/2021 16:52 PM ID: 155883242	but add more trees.		
12	08/01/2021 21:12 PM ID: 156010091	See comments about more long term tree planting/woodland creation.		
13	09/01/2021 13:51 PM ID: 156039240	The orchard and wild flower area seems to be reasonably successful but I do not agree with introducing cattle to the main field.		
14	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	Generally agree.		
15	18/01/2021 11:48 AM ID: 156948294	Especially more trees and flowers.		

2. Do you agree with the revised objectives for the management of Corncrake?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		79.31%	23
2	No		20.69%	6
			answered	29
			skipped	1



Please add any comments on the Objectives: (9)

1	03/12/2020 10:48 AM ID: 153838025	PLANR TREES nd flowers so we can all enjoy as said on tele flowers and trees
2	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	They are all excellent objectives but will require greater attention to management issues than has, perhaps, been the case until now. Using volunteers more strategically alongside other mechanisms will be important.
3	04/12/2020 18:02 PM ID: 153966321	Same as question 1.
4	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	The revised objectives now include cattle on Corncrake
5	09/12/2020 20:02 PM ID: 154308626	I do not agree with re-introducing grazing animals, this does not support the overall plan that is should be open and accessible to all.
6	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	All make sense and are achievable.
7	18/12/2020 17:33 PM ID: 155012274	BUT: Is the objective of maintaining the open aspect in conflict with new wooded areas?

2. Do you agree with the revised objectives for the management of Corncrake?

			Response Percent	Response Total
		Trying to establish wild flowers in the main field should be added to the objectives.		
8	09/01/2021 13:51 PM ID: 156039240	When Corncrake was first purchased a committee was set up to manage the site but this seems to have disappeared and the village volunteers who are now few in number are tasked with the maintenance, a new set of volunteers should be established solely to carry out jobs on corncrake perhaps meeting at the weekend to allow working members of the village to participate.		
9	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	Generally agree. I think consideration should be given to adding an additional waste bin near to the gate leading to the bridge.		

3. Do you agree with the proposal to re introduce grazing to the main Corncrake field and sow more wildflowers?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		63.33%	19
2	No		36.67%	11
			answered	30
			skipped	0

Please add any comments on the management of the main corncrake meadow: (21)

1	03/12/2020 08:26 AM ID: 153823460	areas near stiles need to remain fully accessible and avoid the areas becoming excessively muddy.
2	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	This has worked well on the meadows to the west of Cliff Road under NT management, including the harvesting of Yellow Rattle and other seeds from the Golden Cap estate and sowing at the appropriate time after grazing in the early autumn.
3	04/12/2020 18:02 PM ID: 153966321	One of the objective stated in 4.3 is "To maintain and promote open access for all", I fail to see how this can be achieved with cattle in the main field. Although there were cattle in Corncrake for many years, time has moved on, and I think reintroducing cattle now would be a recipe for disaster.
4	05/12/2020 09:34 AM ID: 153988072	Could we also look at opportunities to maximise wetland habitat
5	05/12/2020 18:27 PM ID: 154014388	This has traditionally been used for grazing. It would be good if there wasn't barbed wire on the lowest part of the fence that runs along the river so that any timid dogs have an area they can retreat to if they feel nervous or threatened. Could there be stepping stones for people to use through the gated areas?
6	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	We very happy for as many wildflowers to be planted. We do not agree with the introduction of grazing to the Corncrake meadow
7	09/12/2020 10:58 AM ID: 154254498	This is a valuable dog walking area for the village & visitors. A lot of the walks in and around Burton have livestock (sheep on the hill at Bindbarrow, cattle towards Freshwater) & this limits allowing your dog off of the lead. Dogs do need to be allowed to run. I have nothing against the idea of wild flowers & I am sure there are other ways of encouraging them. The area gets very wet and muddy, I am sure livestock will only make this worse.



3. Do you agree with the proposal to re introduce grazing to the main Corncrake field and sow more wildflowers?

			Response Percent	Response Total
		The gates that have already been introduced have made things worse, concentrating footfall. If this is still up for discussion, why has money already been spent on fencing, gates & water troughs?		
8	09/12/2020 12:25 PM ID: 154264952	A waste of time and money		
9	09/12/2020 12:35 PM ID: 154266170	I guess some dog walkers might object to being unable to let their dogs off the lead during cattle occupancy. Not an issue for us		
10	09/12/2020 20:02 PM ID: 154308626	A wild flower meadow as with all the suggested plans will take time and effort to create and maintain. The fields all used to have grazing animals which were not always docile. They often blocked gateways, were curious to investigate people and dogs and on more than one occasion charged the length of the field, which due to their sheer weight would not have a happy outcome had you been caught. This would, I feel deter people from using the footpath, unless a safe pathway was created. Presumably if animals were not grazed then the barred wire could be removed in favour of something more friendly.		
11	10/12/2020 15:28 PM ID: 154385233	But for clearly specified periods. Grazing cattle are a challenge for dog walkers, who make up a high percentage of daily regular users. It means dogs would have to be on leads while the cattle are present, which reduces dramatically both owner enjoyment and dog exercise levels.		
12	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	This will help introduce balance and reduce nettles and docs particularly if soil quality can be reduced by skimming some of the top soil. Also just lovely seeing a few head of cattle or sheep, rare breeds would be nice.		
13	15/12/2020 13:10 PM ID: 154719167	There were very few wild flowers there when grazing was permanent. It can be distressing for dog walkers to have young cattle chasing you. Have wildflowers been sown?		
14	18/12/2020 17:33 PM ID: 155012274	The limited grazing periods should not be too much of an inconvenience to dog owners. There are always other fields nearby and the beach where dogs may be off-leash during the grazing times.		
15	18/12/2020 18:11 PM ID: 155014576	It's a shame this ""paused""!		
16	22/12/2020 15:38 PM ID: 155195599	Great to get wild flowers established!		
17	07/01/2021 16:52 PM ID: 155883242	definatly.		
18	08/01/2021 19:25 PM ID: 156002953	Lots more wild flowers please!		
19	08/01/2021 21:12 PM ID: 156010091	There will undoubtedly be a residual wildflower and herbal seed bank in the soil already but which is inhibited by the thick carpet of grass which thrives in the rich alluvial flood meadow. Cattle grazing and other specific management practices could allow more sunlight to reach the soil which in turn would promote the germination and thriftiness of the dormant flower seeds.		
20	09/01/2021 13:51 PM ID: 156039240	The reintroduction of cattle onto corncrake will cause problems with the gated areas in making them impassable to walkers due to mud as corncrake is part of a flood plain it would be better to introduce trees onto the whole of the main field to create an amenity wood to be enjoyed by the whole village and when established would overcome the problem of dogs fouling the area and would reduce maintenance costs. When the wood is established daffodils and blue bells could be introduced along with other woodland flowers.		

3. Do you agree with the proposal to re introduce grazing to the main Corncrake field and sow more wildflowers?

			Response Percent	Response Total
21	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	Generally I agree with the plan but have concern that ""free"" grazing in the newly fenced area will deter villagers with impaired mobility from feeling confident in walking the main section between the playing field and the bridge. I would like to see consideration given to measures that give a secured path for at least one of the public rights of way . I also have concern that the new gateways force foot traffic to concentrate on the gateway areas which in wet weather can become very muddy and pose a slip hazard and consideration of periodic addition of support to those areas be prioritised allowing for more year round access. I think in this plan it would be good to consider reducing the existing angle of the concrete ramp from the bridge into the field as currently it can become very slippery when muddy or icy.		

4. Do you agree with the proposal to create a new woodland area?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		90.00%	27
2	No		10.00%	3
			answered	30
			skipped	0



Please add any comments on tree planting: (13)

1	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	This is clearly a national priority at the moment so it is entirely appropriate for a local response. There seem to be a number of schemes providing free seedlings which might reduce the cost of this aspect of the plan.
2	05/12/2020 18:27 PM ID: 154014388	There are many grants available at the moment and it would be good to see more deciduous native species.
3	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	More tree planting is positive and is being nationally promoted right now in line with Climate Change Action. However we have been concerned that the trees planted in the two fenced areas seem to have been overlooked, with weeds totally dominating the enclosures at times.
4	09/12/2020 10:58 AM ID: 154254498	I would support any tree planting, it would be nice to have more trees in the village and the wildlife they would encourage.
5	09/12/2020 12:25 PM ID: 154264952	I think the whole area should be given over to woodland
6	09/12/2020 20:02 PM ID: 154308626	I would be in favour of creating a woodland, it would help to attract and support wildlife and add to the enjoyment of people using the field for exercise, but I see the plan is to ""Fence and plant an area of deciduous native trees between Common Lane Hedge and the walking path in the grassland meadow"". That implies it would not be accessible to all and contradicts the overall plan. Any woodland area will need to be well managed or it will become overgrown and inaccessible as can be seen in other parts of the village.
7	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	We did go to a very expensive nurseryman last time and far too many trees died. Several village bodies contributed financially but very little feedback. Any planting will need careful follow-up this time.
8	15/12/2020 13:10 PM ID: 154719167	Not required. There are enough trees for wildlife, and even more once the orchard grows. Agree that the internal 'hedge' needs to be relaid. Regular maintenance and hedgelaying also required. Glad to see nettle patch cut down.

4. Do you agree with the proposal to create a new woodland area?

			Response Percent	Response Total
		Pre-ownership by the parish council you could always see over the hedge from the rec so you knew where the cows were or if other dog walkers/adults/children were approaching the stile from the other side so were prepared.		
9	22/12/2020 15:38 PM ID: 155195599	...but how big and whereabouts?		
10	08/01/2021 19:25 PM ID: 156002953	Lots more trees please!		
11	08/01/2021 21:12 PM ID: 156010091	The new woodland area should be planted as part of an overall scheme to eventually (over maybe 10 years) to plant the whole of Corncrake including varied pattern of walks through the random sized wooded areas. Woodland plants and flowers then to be encouraged under the resulting tree canopy.		
12	09/01/2021 13:51 PM ID: 156039240	Create wood over the whole main field.		
13	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	Agree		

5. Do you agree with the proposal to extend the Forest School Area?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		83.33%	25
2	No		16.67%	5
			answered	30
			skipped	0



Please add any comments on education activities on Corncrake: (12)

1	03/12/2020 08:26 AM ID: 153823460	the school should be asked to provide support for this activity
2	03/12/2020 10:48 AM ID: 153838022	This is a valuable resource for the school and has been particularly essential during Covid. The children are encouraged to be risk aware rather than risk averse but keeping the nettles down would certainly help. The children help the adults to do a risk assessment of the area each time we visit. Extending the area would also provide more opportunities for outdoor learning.
3	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	A strip further to the south would provide safe access for the youngest children who benefit most from the use of this area. However, the fence to the west and nettles to the east currently provide a safe boundary which makes it clear to the children where they may roam during the sessions held there.
4	05/12/2020 18:27 PM ID: 154014388	Is it necessary to remove top soil in this area? There is a great deal of clay where top soil has been removed in neighbouring fields due to soil erosion. Biodiversity is dependent upon soil.
5	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	Yes, good positive idea, encourages an appreciation and respect for wildlife by young people
6	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	Essential part of education now and so valued by the children. The more we can do to help future generations the better.

5. Do you agree with the proposal to extend the Forest School Area?

			Response Percent	Response Total
7	15/12/2020 13:10 PM ID: 154719167	Didn't know there was one.		
8	18/12/2020 17:33 PM ID: 155012274	Is the bark that has been spread partly responsible for the nettles? I can't remember as many nettles from a few years ago.		
9	18/12/2020 18:11 PM ID: 155014576	By how much?		
10	08/01/2021 21:12 PM ID: 156010091	This is possibly the most important aspect of the Corncrake Management plan in encouraging children to appreciate both the environmental and aesthetic value of trees. It would be an excellent initiative if we were able to join in the current national initiative to plant a tree for every new pupil that enters the Village School thereby giving each child the opportunity to follow the development of those trees throughout their time in Burton.		
11	09/01/2021 13:51 PM ID: 156039240	The original Forest School area was to include the pond adjacent to Bredy Road has this idea been dropped?		
12	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	Agree		

6. Do you agree with the proposal to manage Corncrake hedges guided by Higher Stewardship prescriptions?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		91.30%	21
2	No		8.70%	2
			answered	23
			skipped	7

Please add any comments on hedge management: (17)

1	03/12/2020 08:26 AM ID: 153823460	if possible, obtain DEFRA funds for this and other activity
2	03/12/2020 10:48 AM ID: 153838025	dont understand question
3	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	I'm assuming this is informed by best practice. However, the regular cutting of the hedge alongside Common Lane to enable regular, safe clearance of the ditch, thus minimising flooding, is particularly important. The laying of the hedge between Corncrake and the recreation ground seems to have been successful and was a good chance to educate the volunteers - presumably this could be repeated with the other hedges as the programme develops.
4	04/12/2020 18:02 PM ID: 153966321	In principle. I would like to see all barbed wire removed from Corncrake, including the fence bounding the river.
5	05/12/2020 09:34 AM ID: 153988072	Prefer more sympathetic management other than flailing
6	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	We have no idea what this means and we're not sure others will either. Perhaps there's a connection with this and possible financial incentives from another source? Just guessing really.

6. Do you agree with the proposal to manage Corncrake hedges guided by Higher Stewardship prescriptions?

			Response Percent	Response Total
7	10/12/2020 15:28 PM ID: 154385233	3 years is a long time to leave parts of a hedge without maintenance.		
8	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	Absolutely the right approach.		
9	15/12/2020 13:10 PM ID: 154719167	See comments above re: hedge management. Why not a training day to get more people involved in this?		
10	18/12/2020 17:33 PM ID: 155012274	I probably do, I don't know what these are.		
11	18/12/2020 18:11 PM ID: 155014576	?		
12	22/12/2020 15:38 PM ID: 155195599	Don't know what this is!		
13	07/01/2021 16:52 PM ID: 155883242	I dont know what these are but assume they improve wildlife habitats.		
14	08/01/2021 19:25 PM ID: 156002953	Don't know but yes if its green.		
15	08/01/2021 21:12 PM ID: 156010091	This would help with the diversity of wildlife and hedgerow plants.		
16	09/01/2021 13:51 PM ID: 156039240	The recent cutting of the hedge by the ditch should have required the contractor to remove the cuttings from the ditch rather than asking the village volunteers to carry out this arduous task, cutting the hedge and allowing more light onto the ditch will encourage the growth of weed in the stream which is then impossible to get rid of it also impedes the task of removing the hedge cuttings.		
17	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	Agree		

7. Please use the space below for any other comments you have regarding the management of Corncrake:

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	14
1	03/12/2020 08:26 AM ID: 153823460	i note that the reconstruction of the pond is not mentioned in the plan		
2	03/12/2020 10:48 AM ID: 153838025	flowers and trees		
3	04/12/2020 10:16 AM ID: 153919842	Thanks for the preparatory work that has gone into the development of the plan. The more that local people can be drawn in to help on a voluntary basis and with improved communication, it should be possible to achieve the objectives more easily than in the past.		
4	04/12/2020 18:02 PM ID: 153966321	I believe that the money spent so far on the new fencing has been a complete waste of parish funds, and will only increase if cattle are introduced.		
5	05/12/2020 09:34 AM ID: 153988072	I think there needs to be a column alongside the outline actions that explains why you are doing things. This will help people understand why t some choices have been made. For example, why are you choosing to use cattle to manage it? I'm assuming it's not to create a beef business, but can't be sure!		

7. Please use the space below for any other comments you have regarding the management of Corncrake:

			Response Percent	Response Total
6	05/12/2020 18:27 PM ID: 154014388	I have enjoyed seeing information to educate us regarding environmental issues. Is there information on the Internet that can be readily accessed? If so it would be useful to have a QR code or website address maybe on one of the gates so that we can see how the area develops and learn more.		
7	07/12/2020 21:08 PM ID: 154131482	<p>Your original aims for Corncrake in 2012 were inspiring, it was for the Community to enjoy and as two members of this community we very much enjoy walking there daily. The mud has been an issue, more so now the new fences, gates and the very prompt excavation and installation of a water trough has occurred (ahead of anticipated cattle?). Sadly we believe cows on Corncrake is already a 'done deal' by our Parish Council. This consultation should have been carried out before all the items above were voted on and paid for which indicates the PC is already committed to grazing. The PC Minutes confirm this position too. It begs the question why are you now inviting (some) villagers for their opinion?</p> <p>People of all ages enjoy walking in Corncrake, some people on a daily basis. It's part of a flat safe route around the village without crossing a busy main road. It's next to the Recreation Ground and toilets. It's a lovely walk and very accessible. We also believe dog walkers enjoy exercising their dogs on and off the lead due to its safe environment. However any introduction of cattle (or any grazing livestock) will considerably interfere with this and may well deter some people from using it. Increased mud, cow pats, dogs having to (when cattle are present) be on leads, messy and mucky for people who may have pushchairs or walking sticks and totally inaccessible to anyone with mobility issues. Grazing animals in a small meadow will also funnel people together as they attempt to 'skirt' around them.</p> <p>We're all aware of the benefits of outside spaces on mental health and wellbeing. Burton Bradstock is surround by fields and grazing livestock but locals, particularly those with young children and some other people may well feel vulnerable walking fields further away from the village. Corncrake is a gentle accessible field which ALL can enjoy but with cattle on it you immediately restrict people who will not want to navigate a field of cattle because they do not feel safe. Whilst the risks are low, nevertheless there is a well stated risk to all walkers and dog walkers when walking in a field of cows!</p> <p>If cows or any grazing animals were introduced to Corncrake for any amount of time it will cease to be the 'pleasant wildlife corridor for people' this Parish Council originally hoped for when they were considering its purchase 8 years ago.</p> <p>Please note: The PC have mentioned elsewhere they consider the path leading into Corncrake from the wooden bridge was 'an accident waiting to happen'. It is indeed very slippery at this time of year so does need urgent attention.</p>		
8	08/12/2020 22:02 PM ID: 154230042	The way the new gates into the area to be grazed become almost impassible when really wet needs to be addressed.		
9	09/12/2020 12:35 PM ID: 154266170	Very pleasant area for village use. Well done to those who maintain it.		
10	09/12/2020 20:02 PM ID: 154308626	<p>Please see above. In order for any of the proposed plans to be successful more time and effort needs to be allocated to make sure the project objective is achieved. Corncrake is used every day by locals and visitors and provides safe footpaths to both the beach and the playing fields especially during the summer months. Although used by dog walkers is is also used by many other people not only by dog walkers as is suggested in your report.</p> <p>The footpaths last winter were inaccessible due to deep mud in the first gate, deep enough to get ones foot stuck in, the middle gate was under water and the far gate almost inaccessible with mud and low branches. So much so that people were forced to climb the fence to access the footpath.</p> <p>The fruit trees were left to fend for themselves and some villagers were carrying water for them during the dry months rather than watch them die.</p>		

7. Please use the space below for any other comments you have regarding the management of Corncrake:

			Response Percent	Response Total
11	09/12/2020 20:36 PM ID: 154310516	Many village residents enjoy Corncrake as it is so why change it. Cattle grazing for 2 months twice a year would mean no dog walking and/or local people would not wish to walk through a field where cattle are grazing and where there are cow pats everywhere. Corncrake was bought for the enjoyment of the villagers. We enjoy it as it is so no need to make changes.		
12	11/12/2020 17:18 PM ID: 154475853	Overall well thought though plan with achievable aims. Corncrake is such a valuable asset to the village and so appreciated by the residents and visitors alike. One of the best assets bought by the Parish council on our behalf.		
13	08/01/2021 21:12 PM ID: 156010091	Longer term it would be good to invest in educational maps boards in strategic places (and fenced of from cattle) to encourage walkers to look out for certain wild life and educate them about the plants/flowers/trees they are likely to encounter.		
14	10/01/2021 20:24 PM ID: 156107852	In general I agree with and welcome the vision for Corncrake but think given the advent of C19 there may need to be some rethinking on the timing and introduction of some aspects. Gated access which is necessary if cattle are to graze is always likely to pose a transmission hazard. This plan may afford the opportunity to build in steps to reduce any possibility of contributing to the spread of the virus and I believe it would be a responsible step to consider this aspect now.		
			answered	14
			skipped	16

Burton Bradstock Parish Council
Corncrake Management Plan Consultation

Comments received by email:

1. More deciduous trees - it's likely that these could be donated for us to plant.
2. I know that you and Graham disagree, but I think that it's essential that you underpin both in the gate and the area either side of the pedestrian gate adjacent to the River Bride and the wooden bridge with natural hardcore. This has worked well at the exit from Corncrake over the timber bridge, by the kissing gate from Bredy Road to Corncrake, and from Corncrake to Jim Wild's field adjacent to the River Bride. These areas were typically six inches deep in mud in the winter, whereas there is only a slight covering of mud this year, even after four- or five-years constant use. The hardcore is soon covered by soil, and if too much mud accumulates in the winter, it can be easily cleared, and distributed on a nearside bank.
3. I'm concerned that there is no mention of the dew pond adjacent to Bredy Road which was envisaged in our first five-year plan. It offers several opportunities to enhance the population of wild species, to provide additional scope for the forest school, to provide a feature in the "orchard/fruit tree" area. It's likely that it can be fed naturally from the storm water off Bredy Road, if, after survey, the levels permit.
4. My preference would be to concentrate our wild flower efforts on the fruit tree area only for the coming years. Taking on the larger meadows dilutes our efforts and achievements. We could tackle the larger meadow when the area of the fruit trees blossoms and flourishes with wild flowers.
5. As you remark, the main use of the meadows is by walkers/dog walkers. However, I consider that the community would welcome the addition of some seating close to the River Bride bank in Corncrake.
6. I would have preferred to see some initiatives to encourage more of the community to engage in volunteering work included in the five-year plan. I acknowledge that during this Coronavirus period, it will be difficult to complete the first priorities, but later in this year, we need to reenergising the Corncrake volunteering force.
7. Perhaps I missed it in the plan, but a year-by-year summary, identifying the annual and feasible priorities against timescale would help focus the mind.