EWG Report to Parish Council for full council meeting 20th November 2024

1. Biodiversity – the group had a discussion at the last meeting about the challenge of increasing biodiversity in the parish. Please would the council consider and support Michael Handley joining the EWG as an additional council member. Michael has a particular interest in biodiversity recovery and will be looking at how the council might undertake its biodiversity duty.
2. Solar panels for village hall - we are proceeding with an application to the Marches Energy Fund, which might potentially yield a grant of up to 90% of the cost of the panels.
3. Sandbags – We weren't in time for the extreme rain on the 16th October but the team were able to help two local households which was much appreciated.
   Since then the sandbags group have purchased sand and bags, and provided bin storage to the side of the school. So far they have filled 30 bags, and there is enough sand & bags for a further 20. Half of the filled bags are stored in the village centre bin storage and half in Woonton. The cost so far is £160, another sand delivery would take the total to £220 and increase the capacity to 100 bags.

   The EWG recommends increasing awareness now by adding information to the parish noticeboards and website about how to contact the local flood assist group, or by a direct mail delivery.
   There is good advice on the HC website about preparing a personal flood plan https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/flooding-2/flood-management and other useful information on this website https://www.befloodready.uk/herefordshire. We also recommend sharing this information on the APC websites and noticeboards.

Further information is included in the attached minutes from the EWG meeting on the 23rd October.