

Middleton Moor Management Group Annual Report

In 2007 the group was formed by interested residents living on the moor with also a few residents from the village this was to work with SCDC Mr Davies and Mr Smith to carry out minor works on the moor.

Peter Frasier from Moor Farm had the grazing rights and took a hay crop and handed the rights to SCDC who also found this not viable the group asked Mr Giblin if he was interested and took on the work at no cost to SCDC or ourselves. Mr and Mrs Smith of Causeway Farm have for several years now taken on the hay cut and can be seen walking the land to remove any ragwort so not to contaminate the feed and to stop infestation.

In 2013 SCDC handed over the moor to the Middleton parish council with the agreement of the moor residents with the proviso that any funds coming to the moor should be ring fenced for use on the moor as decided at group meetings. The speed camera was purchased for use on the B1122 and loaned to the B1125 for occasional use. SCDC gave us the lawnmower which Mr Threadkell of The Anchorage has used, housed and maintained for many years, a big thank you to him for carrying out this work which has now kindly been taken on by Mr Cullen. Thank you to Mr Robinson for serving and repainting the mower this year.

We have also purchased some tools ie strimmer, saws etc for the use of moor residents and the summer wine group. And the group is very appreciative to have such wonderful volunteers to help carry out maintenance on the moor. This is all financed by a stewardship agreement with Natural England giving us an income of £800 a year.

Mr and Mrs Hemmings have kindly replaced the old wooden tubs on the well which were originally given by Mr Ruggles and planted by the Primary school children. Mr and Mrs Hemmings keep the flowers looking beautiful and maintain the notice board which we are extremely grateful for them kindly doing this.

The bench was given by SCDC and is well used by residents and visitors to the moor.

The group holds meetings as required to which the chair of the Parish council attends and/or one of the three Parish council representatives.

The cutting of the paths is carried out as and when required and Mr Bowden is contracted in over the winter months to cut around the ponds, verges and hedges where required managing the land under Natural Englands guidelines as is all works undertaken on the moor.

Jane Etheridge
Chair of Middleton Moor Management Group