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30/06/2014

Survey Report

Jump Primary School

A Healthy Biodiversity

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species and Habitats (see website) are in **bold** print and suggested nest boxes/feeding stations to be placed in the school grounds are in **red** print.

Dear Katy,

Thank you for giving the time to show me round your school grounds. The main habitat feature is a magnificent Hawthorn/Elderberry **Hedgerow** that surrounds the grounds on the outside of the fence line. Many birds are using it as a food source and nesting site and it should be allowed to grow through the fence. The sad aspect of this is that a herbicide has been used to create a metre width (approximate) strip of bare earth along the whole length of the school fence. However this does present the school with an opportunity to develop a significant wild flower margin to the whole school and we will look into the possibility of providing the **wild flower seed** required. In the meantime the practice of spraying needs to be stopped as it serves no reasonable purpose and is significantly detrimental to a healthy biodiversity.

Once the principle of a wild flower margin has been established then we can consider the provision of **10 bee boxes** and **2 Hedgehog boxes** that would be placed along the fence line. It is good to note that a hedgehog has been recently seen in the grounds. **Hedgehog** numbers have plummeted from 30 million to 1 million in the last 50 years and the school could be involved with a local community campaign to help them. Certainly spaces under the fencing should be made for Hedgehogs to pass through to access feeding areas.

A House Sparrow colony nest box could be placed on the North/East side of the school building. These, previously common birds are now red listed by RSPB and are in need of protection. I could hear the constant chatter of House Sparrows from the grounds.

6 Bat boxes could also be placed on the school building.

There is a small area of three Field Maple trees outside the Year 6 classroom. This is an ideal spot for **a nest box with camera** to provide a webcam that can be viewed on a

computer in the classroom. The grass should not be cut for about 3 metres around this group of trees to provide food and create privacy for nesting birds. **English Bluebells** could be planted underneath the trees.

The car park area has 13 mature trees on which **6 Tree Sparrow** nest boxes could be placed. Birds using these boxes could find food in the parkland opposite and in the extensive Hedgerow that surrounds the school. A further **3 Tree Sparrow** nest boxes could be placed in the small woodland area on the school field. Children could build an insect hotel in this woodland using the logs that are already there. **Invertebrates** are the bed-rock of a healthy biodiversity.

Newly planted fruit trees will eventually be able to provide thrushes with Winter food.

A **Tree Sparrow** nest box could be placed on the Sycamore tree outside the delivery area.

Consideration could also be given to a marshy area with wetland wild flowers where the Tepees now stand.

We would provide all new nest boxes free of charge, present them at a whole school assembly, help with their installation, set up a mapping and recording system and follow up with nest box cleaning and recording nest box contents in the Autumn. All activities will involve children and the school community. Please share this report with appropriate staff, governors and children and let us know whether you wish us to proceed.

Maintaining a healthy biodiversity is probably the most important challenge human beings will need to face in the future.

We look forward to seeing you on September 16th.

Kind regards,
Colin Graham.
Project Leader
Biodiversity in Schools