

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

2nd February 2021

AGENDA ITEM 8.7 – REQUEST TO RUN FORAGING COURSES AT THE IROS

1. Report

- 1.1 An email has been received requesting permission to run foraging courses at the IROS. It reads as follows:

With the end of the COVID pandemic in sight, people are already planning on how they will make the most of getting outdoors again and we expect to see a spike in demand for immersive learning in nature. My company, Forage Box Ltd, will be looking to run foraging tuition courses across the country in specific locations and I think your location fits the bill.

A few bits of information to hopefully start the conversation:

- *We are an ethical company with a huge focus on nature and ecology.*
- *We are an entirely sustainable company, including no single-use plastics and considerate picking practices.*
- *I (Jim) will be running the courses to start with, and am a certified member of The Association of Foragers.*
- *We are fully insured. (documents available on request)*
- *Courses tend to suit being either 3 hour or 6 hour formats, and are generally best run at weekends.*
- *There is sometimes scope for a cooking element in each course, for which we use approved gas stoves. This would probably be done up by the picnic benches at the top of the hill (by the toilet block).*
- *We abide by the 'leave no trace' ethic, so you wouldn't even know we'd been!*

As far as benefits for you go, our courses would attract more considerate visitors to your sites and we tend to also do 'litter foraging' whereby we pick up any litter we see on our route.

I hope you see the merits of allowing such a course to go ahead. I would really love to talk to you about getting some dates in the diary for later this year (pandemic-permitting).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council consider the request.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council