

Wild about Wivenhoe Annual Review

May 2018



Aim of the Review

To offer a regular reflection on progress of Wild about Wivenhoe and on Wivenhoe Town Council's actions to achieve the aims of the Wivenhoe Wildlife Charter which states that:

“Wivenhoe Town Council will work with local wildlife experts and volunteers to protect, enhance and promote wildlife and wild spaces in Wivenhoe”



Frog in Wivenhoe Wildlife Garden (photo: Chris Gibson)

The work particularly focuses on areas managed by Wivenhoe Town Council (WTC) though in future years we hope to influence the approach of Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council to wildlife promotion in Wivenhoe. These areas are: The Old and New Cemeteries, St Mary's Churchyard and King George Vth Playing Field. In future, the reviews may be supplemented by reports of benefits gained and observation of increased wildlife activity, including for example bug audits, progress of meadow, which seem likely following the good groundwork done this year.

Wild about Wivenhoe is an independent group supported by Transition Town Wivenhoe, Wivenhoe Watching Wildlife and Wivenhoe Town Council. In addition to the support to WTC in progressing the Charter aims from our panel of experts, Wild about Wivenhoe also puts on events and activities to raise awareness of and access to wildlife for all the people of Wivenhoe. This includes maintaining and supporting the Wildlife Garden on the edge of KGV field.

Positive joint work

Following a lot of work from all sides, a very positive relationship has developed between Council staff and Wild about Wivenhoe 'experts' with both organised meetings and responding to individual queries. There is clearly a strong commitment to delivering the principles of the Charter among the estates team in particular. Councillors are also supportive with several



Blackcap in a Wivenhoe Garden (photo: Glyn Evans)

putting many hours of work into supporting the projects. It is excellent practice that the Estates: Open Spaces meetings now have aspects of the Wildlife Charter and Management Plans under discussion at every meeting and proposals are steadily becoming actions.

Actions and Outcomes

Proposed wildlife promoting management plans have been put together for all WTC managed areas and several elements of these have been put into action.

There has been agreement to put in a new hedge along the road boundary of the New Cemetery, improving visual appearance and privacy and providing wildlife benefits

A new wildflower meadow is being developed at the bottom of the KGV field, offering new wildlife habitat, biodiversity and a visually pleasing display. Signage for the meadow has been produced and is being installed.

In terms of public events and activities, WTC continues to support Wild about Wivenhoe to

maintain the Wildlife Garden (which continues to 'open' for Open Gardens annually), and



WIVENHOE TOWN COUNCIL

This area is intentionally being left un-mown for the summer months.

We hope the emerging flowers will provide a feast for butterflies and bumblebees, and a sight that we can all enjoy.

Please don't feel you have to keep off the grass!



Illustration: Richard Allen

supported a successful Wild about Wivenhoe week long public festival in May 2017. This involved many local groups, local businesses and schools and culminated in a well-attended day on the KGV field. Wivenhoe Watching Wildlife continues to put together a well attended programme of walks and talks across the year promoting and supporting awareness of the wonderful wildlife of Wivenhoe.



Winner of the Shop Window Competition (photo: Ruth Melville)

Get involved or find out more

Wivenhoe Watching Wildlife promotes all their events via the Wivenhoe Forum

<http://www.wivenhoeforum.co.uk/categories/wivenhoe-wildlife>

Wild about Wivenhoe is open to anyone and always looking for new volunteers – experts or just interested – email info@wildaboutwiv.org to get involved.

Prepared by Wild about Wivenhoe 2/5/18