

Great Waltham Parish Council – Monthly Meeting August 18th 2026

Briefing Note: Discuss and approve the renaturing working group's proposal for a wildflower and grasses area at Great Waltham Recreation Ground.

At the Council meeting on April 20th 2026 the following agenda item was discussed and resolution passed:

26/2509 In line with the Council's Strategic Plan objective 12 - to manage GWPC land on a sustainable basis, consider Parish owned land that could be considered suitable for managed renaturing and agree next steps.

Resolution: Form a small working group to consider suitable areas and carry out discussions and consultations ahead of a formal proposal to the Council

Subsequently the working group undertook site meetings at the recreation ground and met Chelmsford City Council's Parks & Green Spaces, Senior Parks Officer to identify and discuss a suitable area.

It is proposed the area shown on page two of this briefing note is set aside for renaturing. The following conditions would apply:

- The area will be cultivated and developed by the City Council in line with the plan dimensions and location shown on page two.
- The area is intended to be enjoyed by visitors to the recreation ground and a perimeter path and access paths across the planted area will be maintained for this purpose.
- The area will remain open and unfenced.
- Initial cultivation costs and seed and plant plug costs will be borne by the City Council. Ongoing maintenance costs will be the responsibility of the Council. It is anticipated Council costs would extend to annual grounds maintenance expenses after each growing season.
- At this stage there is no intention to plant whips or young trees although this is something the Council may wish to consider in future years.
- To ensure community engagement the Senior Parks Officer will offer outreach sessions to Great Waltham Primary School. Activities will include seed scattering, wildflower plug planting and learning about the environment and nature by searching for insects and studying the wildflowers and grasses.
- This project is very much weather dependant and cultivation and seeding will take place when the conditions are most favourable, hopefully this autumn or next spring.
- Subject to Council approval, page two of this briefing note will be posted at the recreation ground. The notice invites comments and views which will be reviewed ahead of a decision being taken to proceed at the September monthly meeting.

Proposal:

The Council supports the renaturing working group's proposal for an area as shown on the plan included in this briefing note to be set aside at Great Waltham Recreation Ground for wildflowers and grasses.

Renaturing in Great Waltham

Your Parish Council is committed to managing its land on a sustainable basis and its strategic plan has objectives including designating wildflower areas for pollinators and planting bulbs, as well as engaging with residents and schools to promote the local natural environment and renaturing.

Following on from a very successful project at Ford End Recreation Ground we are now planning to do something similar here. Working with Chelmsford City Council (who will provide funding and initial management resource), we have identified an area of this recreation ground that is very suitable for wildflowers and grasses - shown in the red hatched area of the plan. The area will be unfenced and open to all. As it becomes established we will provide mown walkways around the perimeter and through the area for your access and enjoyment.



This project will breathe vibrant life into the heart of our community. By establishing wildflowers alongside the new play area, we can significantly boost local biodiversity, reduce maintenance, and provide an enjoyable and enriching educational space for residents of all ages. The City Council Parks Department will supply a variety of twenty different types of assorted grass and wildflower seeds along with various wildflower plugs.

A dedicated "wild" area will also serve as an incredible, hands-on learning resource. The Parks Department will work with the primary school to arrange plantings sessions with the children and revisits to see the results of their work and to learn about habitats, insect life, and the local ecosystem. In the longer term we are hoping to develop the area further with some native tree planting along with additional seating.

This project is very much weather dependant, seeds need rain, but we hope to start work this autumn or early spring. As with all types of planting this area will take time to develop so don't worry if you don't see instantaneous result, it will get there!

We hope you will be as excited as we are about this new initiative. If you have any questions or comments you would like to share with us, please email the Clerk at clerk@gtwaltham-pc.gov.uk

