



# Wakes Colne Parish Council

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**YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH**

## **Wakes Colne Parish Council – Biodiversity**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

English public authorities including town and parish councils should be able to show their duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity if they have identified ways to integrate biodiversity when they:

Develop policies and strategies and put them into practice.

Manage the planning system.

Manage:

their land and buildings

woodlands and nature reserves

gardens, parks and public open space

community amenities e.g. sports grounds and cemeteries

waste and pollution

energy and water

wood and plant products

Develop infrastructure, such as roads, buildings or flood defences.

Make decisions about procurement.

Implement economic, environmental and social programmes.

This duty has been reinforced under the Environment Act 2021

### **Mission Statement**

Parish Councils are encouraged to develop Mission Statements by consultation and engagement with residents and village organisations, promoting schemes and devising projects which encourage people to maintain their local neighbourhood.

### **Wakes Colne Parish Council Mission Statement:**

- To promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Parish.
- To protect and improve open spaces, conserving and enhancing the natural environment within the Parish.
- To promote sustainable development within the Parish, protecting the rural aspect of the Parish.

**Spring Bulbs** Councillors and volunteers have planted spring bulbs 3000 in total, (in October/November) along the A1124. Permission from Essex County Council has been obtained together with a licence. Many thanks to the Four Colne's Horticultural Society for the supply of with the bulbs.

**Litter Picking** takes place during March and October by Councillors and volunteers. Colchester Borough Council litter pick along the A1124 due to Health & Safety requirements. Litter picking dates are advertised on the two noticeboards, the website, and Village Reporter. Volunteers are requested to contact the Parish Clerk if they wish to join the Councillors litter picking.

**Grass Cutting** is carried out from March to October, one cut per month, along the A1124 adjacent to the village shop. The Parish Council would refrain from hedge cutting in the bird nesting season. (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Chapter 69)

(An Act to repeal and re-enact with amendments the Protection of Birds Acts 1954 to 1967 and the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975; to prohibit certain methods of killing or taking wild animals; to amend the law relating to protection of certain mammals; to restrict the introduction of certain animals and plants; to amend the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976; to amend the law relating to nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks and to make provision with respect to the Countryside Commission; to amend the law relating to public rights of way; and for connected purposes).

Invitations to tender for grass cutting are sent out October/November and discussed at the December Parish Council meeting with a view to offer the contract to the successful contractor in January.

### **River Warden Volunteers.**

Wakes Colne Parish Council has nominated a river warden to liaise with the Conservation volunteers who maintain the river Colne.

- Volunteers have the opportunity to become a river warden, regularly surveying a short section of river to report on water vole population and feeding back the information to the Essex Wildlife Trust. Information issued by the Essex Wildlife Trust to identify a decline in a particular species or a habitat. All of this work helps to feed into the main aim of the Water Framework Directive which is to improve Essex Wildlife Trust rivers to at least good status by 2027.
- This scheme is vital in this area specifically due to the water vole translocation that took place in 2009. In order for the water vole population to continue to be successful in this area, we must monitor their population as well as the number of invasive mink.

### **Public Footpaths**

The parish council works in partnership with Essex County Council, Public Rights of Way Officer, to ensure that the public footpaths within Wakes Colne are maintained and accessible to the community. Wakes Colne Parish Council have a Footpath Working Group who walk the footpaths twice a year and regularly report defects via the ECC website. The working group undertakes maintenance of the footpaths, cutting back vegetation, improving signage, installing steps and handrails with voluntary groups and representatives from Essex County Council.

### **Re-Adopted**

Date 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Minute reference 23/090 Item 5

Signed .....Chairperson

Review Date: May 2024