

Cow Green Bacton

Meeting with Tracey Housley Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) Monday August 14 th 2017

The background to calling a meeting with SWT was to establish the best management of Cow Green, and to enable the natural habitat to thrive, and as a result give Bacton a Green which would bring pleasure to all in terms of natural beauty.

The discussion at the meeting with Tracey was very encouraging her advice with regard cutting the green would be twice a year, mid July and end of September early October, but it is important that the cut grass is removed, baled and may be used for feed.

The site is a registered County Wildlife Site and as such is very much on the SWT radar, the area of the Green that had been mown over many years and now allowed to grow wild is producing many interesting varieties of wild flowers, whilst the end of the Green nearest to Canham's Farm which was always left to grow wild and cut once or twice a year by John Gooderham and now Paul Baker is producing different varieties of flower's, Tracey pointed out that it was very important to make sure the grass is always cleared as a build up of thatch could easily damage future flowering.

The general discussion that followed was around the damage that bonfires have on the wildlife and flora, it was noted that some residents have placed planters along the edge of the Green which we believe is an effort to keep vehicles of the edges, a practice we could perhaps adopt on our other Greens.

It was also thought we should encourage the School to visit the site and on our foot path map's highlight the Green as a destination for walkers, and may be a blackboard for people to note sightings. The village warden perhaps could regularly visit the Green and report back to the Parish Council . It was also thought that the area around the Pond requires some clearing so not to become overgrown, the residents are cutting around the edge of the Green creating a nice foot path to the pond giving easy access, this was welcomed by Tracey as she pointed out it show's that the Green is being managed.

SWT have offered some small signs to highlight the status of the Green as a County Wild Life Site.

Cllr Philip Jeffries 14th August 2017