

NETHER WALLOP PARISH COUNCIL

To consider Wilding on the Village Green:

A member of the public has written on behalf of himself and several parishioners to ask if the council would consider leaving wild areas on the Village Green. The Clerk has advised that this has been rejected in the past due to dog fouling problems and the logistics involved in keeping the areas maintained. The parishioner is disappointed and has asked for further consideration.

a. To consider installation of a dog waste bin and if applicable to approve costs.

Cost for supply is approx. £230. Yearly Emptying would cost approx. £210.

b. To consider erecting a sign aimed at dog owners.

If it is felt necessary to erect a sign, then councillors should agree wording.

c. To decide if an area should be left "wild".

The Village Green Working Group have previously considered this proposal.

The following report has been received from the VGWG.

I now have the responses from the committee which are 8 to 1 in favour of continuing to mow these areas beneath the willows.

To provide a bit more clarity i have added below some of the comments received.

" I'm in full agreement with the continuation of mowing under the trees & verges as agreed when voted to do so at one of the green committee meetings after discussing the pros & cons.

Dog fouling was & is a big issue if left unmowed, no one goes to pick it up, you can't see it so it's left. Children play ball games all the time & rush in to retrieve them with unpleasant results.

It's not as though we live in a concrete jungle with little green wild areas- we're very spoilt with our fields , hedges & trees all around the site whereas the green is a beautiful place for families to come & play as seen these last few weeks . I saw at least 5 families sat in the shade of the trees yesterday alone with many more playing all around. Children playing in the willow wigwam.

I'm sure people have the best of intentions but wilding the green is not necessary when we are surrounded by many other areas which do the job already."

"It has looked so much tidier since the area beneath the trees has been mowed. As you have stated, It was a real mess before with dog mess being left, flints thrown in there. Perhaps until people can take more responsibility when using the green then a resounding MOW from me."

"The Willows were planted some 16 yrs ago to assist in managing the flooding in that particular area as without them the ground turns into an unmanageable bog and it is not possible to mow at all"

"Currently the directive is to mow beneath the Willows as agreed at a previous village green meeting. This decision was made on the basis that what was growing there looked unsightly with bind weed climbing into the Willows and stinging nettles etc also there was a lot of dog fouling in this over grown location."

"The committee made the decision to mow this area and to plant daffodils &

crocuses to enhance the Village Green's appearance when they come into flower, this was done not only beneath the Willows but also down the far side of the Village Green behind the short ditch and does improve the appearance."

"Regarding the drainage ditch and the suggestion this is not mowed, the drainage ditch as i am sure you realise is there to assist in draining the village green so does need maintenance , cutting the verges and ditch sides to prevent drainage water being held back before it reaches the river. We do annually maintain the ditch flow levels by digging out sections to restore the flow to the river. We consider this approach should remain."

As you can see the consensus of the committee is to continue to mow, if there is anything further you wish to add please let me to know.

Kind Regards

d. To consider an offer from the CEO of Plant Life to give a talk on "Wildflowers and their value to our declining pollinating insects."

To decide if the costs of the talk should be covered by the Parish Council.

[BBC - Earth - Why wildflower meadows are so special](#)