

Report from Councillor Ward – May 2021

In keeping with national policy, the parish council has attached great importance to preserving and improving access to the natural environment and improving the potential for species preservation and diversity.

With such priorities in mind, we have pursued the following

- developing links and promoting close contacts with organisations within the village such as CDD, East Budleigh in Bloom, OVA, the Village Hall, Yettington and Drakes School among others.
- establishing the nature trail in conjunction with CDD and other volunteers. We continue to support this project in its forward development with links to the school, hopefully enabling it to be used as a stimulus for the young people of the village to enhance their own world, perhaps by putting up bird boxes and bug homes as well as increasing awareness of what we actually have around us.
- whilst the council works with Drakes on the nature trail we are exploring other ways of involving children in the natural environment, perhaps exploring the possibilities of increasing the use of the allotments to enable children to develop their growing skills and awareness of the natural world around them.
- making good use of generous contributions to environmental development in the parish, such as OVA's donation which has enabled us to plant rowans and wildflowers, and the nature trail project which allowed for young oak trees to be planted.
- planting wildflower plugs and seeds in parts of the village such as the path off Middletown Lane and Yettington verges has been undertaken as the parish council's efforts to promote diversity in underdeveloped parts of the village.

In the future the parish council must incorporate environment concerns in all its policies and ensure continual oversight of developed areas whilst examining options for future work such as developing the lay-by between the village and Budleigh Salterton and encouraging awareness and participation by all parishioners. Children in particular must be fully involved in the planning and implementation of all environmental issues within the parish.