

Great Easton – encouraging wildflowers and pollinators on public land.

In February 2020 three areas were identified in Great Easton where wildflowers already grow amongst the grass verges and where more could be encouraged if the grass is cut less frequently. The neighbours next to these areas supported encouraging wildflowers, so these areas were excluded from the regular village grass cutting regime by Leicestershire County Council for summer 2020 and beyond. You've probably noticed these areas looking a little unkempt just now!

1. Area between Church Bank and High Street between the Old Bakehouse and the shop:

Google Maps 21 High St



Image capture: Jun 2009 © 2019 Google

2. Corner of Broadgate and Pitchers Lane (east side only):

Google Maps 28 Broadgate



Image capture: Jun 2009 © 2019 Google

3. Area on the corner of Brook Lane and Cross Bank:

Google Maps Cross Bank



Image capture: Jun 2009 © 2019 Google

Vegetation in these areas has been allowed to grow up and flower this year and will receive a 'hay cut' each year after 15th July. Cuttings will be removed and composted elsewhere as wildflowers thrive in low nutrient conditions. These areas have too much grass growing there at the moment, which can smother wildflowers, so this year some patches will be cleared (either weedkilled or scarified) and wildflower seeds sown over the bare ground, which is best done in late August or Sept. The flowers will then grow during autumn and next spring. Over the next few years the grass should gradually be replaced by more wildflowers, which should flower in spring and then again each autumn after their annual hay cut.

The Environment Agency currently cut Area 3 at Brook Lane/Cross Bank once a year, so no further work is needed on this area. The Parish Council and villagers are now responsible for maintaining the other two areas, strimming once a year in summer, disposing of the cuttings and sowing seeds in autumn. We will also try to monitor what grows there and which pollinators visit the area.

If you would like to volunteer and get involved in maintenance, please contact Bob Wilson (at 47 High Street, wilsonrw@btinternet.com or 01536 770912)

If you want more information on the project contact Charlotte Johnston (at 15 Cross Bank, Davies.johnston@gmail.com or 01536 772271)

Anyone with wildflower or insect identification or photography skills who would like to record the plants and insects from these areas is especially encouraged to get involved!