

Colerne Parish - update on the past 9 months activities.

1. In March last year, the Colerne Neighbourhood Plan was “made” following a parish referendum. Most of the new developments that have emerged via the Parish Council since then concern the implementation of that Plan’s policies.
2. In June the Parish Council approved a Climate Action Plan for the parish, following the example set by Box and replying to the Wiltshire Council declaration of the Climate Emergency. The Climate Strategy and Biodiversity Working group also developed a plan of work together with other volunteer groups within the parish to enact some of this plan.
3. In late September the Climate strategy and Biodiversity Working Group and Wild Colerne, the volunteer natural environment group joined forces to create a Big Green Week of events in the parish, incorporating some close working with neighbouring parishes. This aimed to explore with and educate the public in all aspects of concern relating to climate change and the environment. There were nature walks in the day, talks and workshops in the evenings, and the weekend involved a day of energy retrofit advice and optinos and a day of engaging in the natural environment.
4. We have had a representative engaging in joint talks with power network providers and B&W Community Energy, exploring options for the future, in particular for when disposal commences at the MOD sites.
5. The Parish Council has renegotiated the cutting schedules for grass areas managed by the PC in order to allow some increase in biodiversity alongside better management of sports and recreation areas.
6. There are a slowly growing number of enthusiastic volunteers wanting to engage in nurturing and natural environment. This is something we hope to develop during the coming year.
7. The closer working with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens has meant some positive planning towards making rights of way adjacent to residential areas accessible to all abilities. This is a key policy within the Neighbourhood Plan. The development of better cycleways through the parish and collecting data to support planning for some kind of shuttle link to main transport arteries will be our next concern.
8. Our Village Hall Committee continues to run a very efficient and effective facility for all ages and activities. In particular the Luncheon Club is revitalised, following Covid restrictions and the committee used the closure periods to upgrade the kitchen facilities to a very high standard. The VH is now heavily booked at all times of the week by regular groups and private events at the weekends.
9. The Parish Council’s own building, The Old School, continues to provide 4 rented units for single people, space for the Colerne Preschool Playgroup, and also for the much valued Colerne Community Cafe. This provides an important warm space for people to gather together socially and informally twice weekly.

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