

Colerne Parish Council update for Corsham Area Board. July 20th 2023

1. **Recreation ground** - the council has seen completion of upgrade work on the pavilion. There has been some major clearing of historic debris around the skate board, paid for by the PC and this has created more space for recreation and play. To celebrate the Coronation there was a parish drone photo taken on the ground and a Coronation theme for the Annual May Fair.
2. **Highways** - the request for work to be done around the C151 junction with the Fosseyway and Bath Road has happened. The safety signage has been installed. The PC is currently seeking funding from Corsham Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group to improve pedestrian road safety.
3. **Section106 funding.** - The PC is currently seeking its outstanding S106 funding for use towards the cost of modern LED flood lighting for the Colerne Rugby Ground. The use of this fund was agreed some time ago but it is proving difficult to access.
4. **Climate strategy and biodiversity Working Group** - this group continues to work at implementing the parish Climate Strategy Plan and implementing the environmental and biodiversity policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. Work in co-operation with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens has commenced installing accessible gates to Rights of Way that connect with areas of housing, as part of making the countryside more accessible to all. This is jointly funded by the PC and the Corsham Area Board. It includes improving access to our community woodland (Frank's Wood). Alongside this, in partnership with the volunteers of Wild Colerne, a local charity, work is proceeding to establish managed areas of greater biodiversity along verges in the Thickwood area, and around Watergates Common and within Franks Wood. It is hoped to restore some verges to "Protected Verge" status.
5. **Big Green Weekend** event occurred during June, focusing on a Home Energy Saving Day, and a Nature Day. This is now an annual event hoping to keep nudging the importance of responding to the impact of climate change by changes to how we live and interact with our environment. The Parish Council is encouraging residents to engage with the further Solar Together venture and is exploring ways to support residents in understanding ways in which they can engage in simple and more complex home energy saving solutions.
5. **The Colerne Neighbourhood Plan** - is proving robust in the clear guidance it gives the council, the Local Authority and potential developers regarding planning applications. It is currently having to hold up against a planning appeal which is yet to be resolved. It is also forming a core to early discussions with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation concerning future disposal of the two MOD sites at Colerne.

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Colerne Parish Council
July 23.