

25 JULY 2019

## **BISHOP WALTHAM, HAMPSHIRE**



*Source: Emma McKezie, town clerk at Bishops Waltham Parish Council*

Bishops Waltham Parish Council in Hampshire is one of the 200 plus local (parish and town) councils that have signed up to The Tree Charter. As part of the council's initiative to save green spaces in the area, they have been developing a Priory Meadow (see image above) for a number of years. The meadow is situated in a tree-edged field with a logged seating area as well as a Community Orchard (planted by the Gardening Club) and a wildflower area. The meadow is extremely important for conservation as it provides a natural habitat and food source for bees and other insects.

The council also produces a Nature Reserves Leaflet, as part of the initiative, which highlights the four local nature reserves (Fenland, Chalk Meadows, Claypits and a disused railway line) that they are lucky to enjoy. They have also collated a Pubs Walk leaflet. By creating these leaflets, the council has inspired local residents to value the countryside.

The council also have Tree Wardens for the town that attend the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee and keep an eye on trees in the town, especially those with Tree Preservation Orders, which ensures that the council are looking after their trees.

The council's Gardening Club and Bishops Waltham In Bloom groups are also active in the town. They provide borders, planters and hanging baskets, and more, as well as wildflower areas which are located at Tangier Road, Hoe Road and Cricklemede roundabout.

The forward planning initiative of Bishops Waltham Parish Council has produced a beautiful meadow for local residents to enjoy as well as creating a new habitat for wildlife. These green spaces are imperative to the health and wellbeing of residents whilst promoting the value of the countryside.

Has your council done something similar? Get in touch with NALC and let us know by contacting Claire Goldfinch at [Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk)