

27 SEPTEMBER 2019

EAST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL, BERKSHIRE

East Ilsley parish council demonstrates the passion of a community and of individual campaigners who can have such a profound effect on their communities. One parish councillor, who is also a district councillor for West Berkshire, Carolyne Culver has spear headed projects around East Ilsley to ensure that it has a green and eco-friendly future. She plays an important part in planning meetings and works with potential developers regarding local land; wildlife and, emissions to ensure that they are working within the climate emergency protocol that is being worked on within West Berkshire.

The council are currently in development with two green initiatives in the village. The first is to build a 'Community Orchard' for the village. Carolyne is leading on this with a small sub team who are identifying the right location, types of fruit trees and have just applied for matched funding from West Berkshire Council to help the council install the orchard. The entire village supports this project and is excited for it to be put into practise. The other initiative is to plant 'wild flowers' around the village. Carolyne has identified some areas in the village that would be eligible for wild flowers and again, match funding has been applied for. The idea is that areas in the village which are going to 'waste' can be made to look beautiful and to provide new habitats for different species, particularly bees and butterflies which help's with their eco system.

Additionally, West Berkshire have great difficulty in recycling various plastics so the council is taking action to helps residents recycle more. The council use a dis-used green waste recycling bin which is placed in the village for people to drop off their cleaned out crisp packets and cat food pouches (which can't be recycled here). These are then sent off to be upcycled. For example, the council has seen aprons made from crisp packets!

On 7th September East Ilsley co-hosted a GreenFest event with a nearby village called Hampstead Norreys. This was a one day event for all ages to learn more about green initiatives, recycling, upcycling, and the environment and so on. More info can be found at their website: <https://communitygreenfest.weebly.com/>

Has your council done something similar? If so, please contact NALC through the email address: Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk

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