

Acton Parish Council

Issue 11 / March 2024

Newsletter

Dear Acton Parish Resident

We have done it! I am pleased to report that the field that became known as the Barn Owl Field during its blighted potential development period is now owned by Acton Field Trust. Acton Parish Council is the sole trustee of the trust/charity and it has appointed a management committee of councillors and residents to manage it. The charity will maintain Acton Field for wildlife and for community use.

Bun Meadow surface upgrade. A big thank you to the management and workforce at Asphalt, Building and Construction (ABC) Ltd. We were expecting the complete route between the High Street and Clay Hall Lane to be upgraded by Suffolk County Council, but it seems they only had funds available for half the job. When they saw the village's disappointment ABC stepped in and contributed their labour and the materials in support of their local community. The team completed the final 50 metres of upgrade in a professional manner within one day.



Public Rights of Way Surface Improvements. In December last year Parish Councillors organised a volunteer team of Acton residents, who laid ten tons of recycled road planings on the extremely wet and muddy section of Public Right of Way 9 from the High Street to Acton Field. Extensive clearing of the vegetation also took place to open back up the width of the route so that the pedestrian footfall is spread over the whole width of the path.



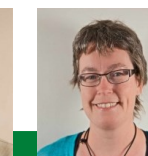
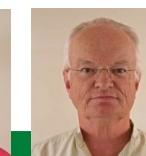
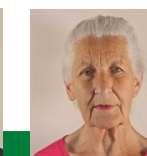
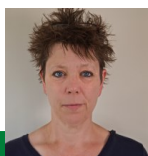
Great progress has been made on many of the items in Acton's Action Plan. The 2022 adopted Acton Action Plan can be found online at www.actonparishcouncil.gov.uk. The Action Plan will be updated during 2024. If you wish to add your ideas for community infrastructure improvements in the village, watch out for our consultation events. **The first of these will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors at 7pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024 in the village hall.**

Cllr Graham Round Parish Council Chairman

Scheduled meeting dates for Acton Parish Council

May Wed 15 May 2024	Sept Wed 18 September 2024	Jan Wed 15 January 2025
June Wed 19 June 2024	Oct Wed 16 October 2024	Feb Wed 19 February 2025
July Wed 17 July 2024	Nov Wed 20 November 2024	Mar Wed 19 March 2025

Councillors from left to right: Nick Antill, Roberta Caradine, Carol Dyer, John Gibbens, Christine Johnson, Steve Le Grys, Katie McSweeney, Graham Round (chairman), Eleanor Clark.



E Clark

Award winning Acton Good Neighbours Scheme

(AGNS) is sponsored by Acton Parish Council and private donations. AGNS provides free lunches at the Village Hall twice a month. The Community Lunch Club meets every 2nd and 3rd Wednesday each month, from 12 midday to 4pm at the Village Hall. All Acton residents are welcome.

Acton Amblers

Since August 2021 Acton has been fortunate to have its very own walking group, Acton Amblers. Acton Amblers was set up just after pandemic restrictions eased to bring people together safely after many months of social distancing and separation. Gentle exercise with others in the great outdoors is well-known to promote good mental and physical health and wellbeing. Addressing these after lockdown was a key motivation. Another objective was to allow dogs to socialise in a non-judgmental environment. It helps to support our village pub (walks normally start and finish at a pub or café) and it promotes our local footpath network and helps to keep these historical links open. Use them or lose them!

Generally, we number about 12-15 on an amble but sometimes there have been as many as 30 attending! Walks generally start and end in Acton but we have visited many other nearby villages as well, including Great Waldingfield, Long Melford, Lavenham, Edwardstone and Groton.

Walks are advertised on Facebook in the Acton Amblers group and on the Acton Massive. They tend to be publicised shortly before they take place to ensure good weather. New walkers (with or without dogs) are always welcome and there is no obligation to attend every walk!



Please be aware that although all walks have been checked in advance and a risk assessment is in place, you take part in Acton Amblers at your own risk.

New Play Equipment at Lime Tree Green

After community consultation and planning, three additional pieces of children's play equipment were added to the Lime Tree Green play area.

The new zip wire, basketball goal and table tennis table have received a big thumbs up from many residents.



The project was organised and part funded by the Parish Council. The majority of the funding came from the Babergh Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund which is from developer contributions.

Pavements around the village.

The Parish Council continues to send reminders to residents who have allowed their hedges and or garden growth to reduce pavement width. For safety reasons it is important that the full width of the pavement adjacent to your property is maintained. This is especially important where there are narrow sections of pavement. Please be sure to check for nesting birds before you start the work.

Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Steering Group has made excellent progress. The plan will now proceed to a referendum and so please come and cast your vote. As a post-examination plan, the Acton NDP is now a material consideration when determining planning applications.

Acton Wildlife Reserve - volunteers welcome

Cllr Steve LeGrys oversees the Wildlife Reserve at Barrow Hill. If you are able to volunteer to keep the vegetation under control, please contact Steve steve.legrys@actonparishcouncil.gov.uk