

Our Countryside

The location of the parish in open countryside is of strong value to its residents, over 65% of respondent's value being close to the countryside and the coast.

The former NHS land next to the Wesham Hospital Rehabilitation Unit and adjacent to countryside north of Mowbreck Lane is allocated to be developed as a new public open space (see map on page 13).

Creation of this open space is a planning obligation associated with the housing development on the site of Wesham Park Hospital.

A large percentage of people do not know about the three biological heritage sites, Wesham Marsh and Medlar Meadows and Ditch which are situated in the parish. However, there was large support for the protection of these sites. Over half of respondents use the footpaths and bridleways in and around the parish though 81% of people felt that there was a need for more information and signage about their locations.

Many people commented on overgrown hedges and the poor condition of footpaths in various locations.



“We need to improve the environment and preserve the countryside around our community.”

“We lost too much wildlife when the hedgerows and trees were removed this needs to be rectified.”

“We are concerned about the threat to unspoilt countryside of the parish from housing & industrial development.”



It was felt that wildlife was lost when fields, hedgerows and trees were removed to make way for new estates. More needs to be done to actively encourage wildlife on the perimeters of public areas, such as care of ponds, placing of bird/bat boxes, tree planting and wild flowers.

Actions

- Ensure appropriate development of the new open space on Mowbreck Lane, including possible integration with a Countryside Access Scheme.
- Implement a Countryside Access Scheme to promote awareness and conservation of footpaths, bridleways, Biological Heritage Sites, wildlife and nature.
- Produce a ‘Parish Information Panel’ to be placed at suitable locations within the town.
- To protect and improve our parish’s countryside it is important to organise opposition to any proposed further housing development on ‘greenfield’ sites.