



## We Need More Sites to Plant Trees - Can You Help?



Tree-planting in England fell well short of targets in the past few years, despite government promises to restore and plant new woodland across the country to combat the climate change crisis.

By planting more trees in our local community we can help to mitigate the impacts of climate change, as well as providing nature-rich habitat patches to support our local wildlife.

Do you have some land that our volunteers could plant trees on? If you do please get in touch with [info@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:info@boveytracey.gov.uk) so we can discuss it further.

## Friends of Mill Marsh Park

The new Friends of Mill Marsh Community Group will hold an initial event in Mill Marsh Park during August (look out for our poster in the park and Facebook updates for the date).

The event will enable the group to launch two new tree trails (visit the Bovey Tracey Information Centre to pick up yours or visit our Town website for a downloadable version), whilst seeking feedback on play park design ideas, sharing children's crafts, and hoping for some new ideas on how we can use and improve our park. It is such a great green space we want to make the most of it for everyone.

### The group hopes to:

- set up a community planting and wilding group for the park,
- launch a new memorial bench scheme,
- raise funds to contribute towards new play equipment
- set up events and demonstrations for users of all ages across different interests
- raise funds to install wayfinding lights
- create a mechanism to receive and consider new ideas for enhancing the park



If you would like to get involved or find out more information, please contact [nicky.elford@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.elford@boveytracey.gov.uk)

The first formal face to face meeting for the Group will be on **Wednesday 29th September at 7pm** in the **Riverside Community Centre** – everybody welcome, please come along and find out more.

## Community Speed Watch - Volunteers Needed

Community Speed Watch is a scheme that empowers and involves entire communities in the police's quest to drive down the speeds of vehicles in limits of 40mph and below.

Given the number of concerns raised with the Town Council and PCSO Paul Wilson, we would like to help the Town set up a local Bovey Tracey & Heathfield Speed Watch Community Group.



### How does it work?

Trained volunteers and/or Police community support officers will stand at the side of the road monitoring traffic. Speeding vehicles will be recorded, and warning letters will be sent to the vehicle owner together with educational information.

Persistent offenders will receive a further warning letter, and possibly a visit from their local neighbourhood policing team to deliver some words of advice. Persistent offenders that ignore the warnings will not receive any further letters but will be given a fixed penalty ticket or summonsed to court should the circumstances allow.

All sessions are carried out in accordance with strict guidelines at risk assessed sites.

### Why volunteer?

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to their community, for others, an opportunity to develop new skills and to feel part of the local policing team. Regardless of the motivation, what unites all involved in Speed Watch is their desire to make a difference. By volunteering to help your local police you will also be helping to make your community a safer place to live and work.

### Volunteer support

All CSW volunteers will undergo full training from the Police Speed Watch co-ordinator and will be provided with reflective jackets, signs, stationary and a speed detection device (depending on location and availability). They will be supported by our local PCSO Paul Wilson and covered by the force liability insurance.

It is not expected that volunteers will work a minimum or a set number of hours; we appreciate any time that can be given to the scheme.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more please contact [info@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:info@boveytracey.gov.uk)

## Bovey's Vital Verges

Wildflower rich verges support a wealth of wildlife. These are vital habitats for a tremendous range of species whose populations have been in steep decline. Over 1,400 different species of insects have been recorded in natural verges. These habitats were once much more common across our countryside, however since the end of the Second World War 97% of lowland meadows have been lost. Wild verges often represent the last traces of these once widespread habitats. With careful planning verges can provide wild spaces for our struggling native pollinators such as bumblebees, wild bees, moths and butterflies.

Bovey Town Council, with support and advice from residents and Devon Wildlife Trust, has been working hard to enhance verges in the town. We will still need to continue to routinely cut many verges for safety reasons. Where we can, we have significantly reduced the number of cuts to provide more time for flowers to bloom. You may have seen the swathes of oxeye daisy and the notable, and rather quirkily named, corky fruited water dropwort alongside Le Molay Littry Way.

In two locations we have created seedbeds for annual cornflowers which have been on full display during the summer. The flowers look stunning and provide great pollen and nectar sources.

The real unsung heroes are the wilder verges in the town. At Bradley Bends over 750 wildflower plants were nurtured from seed and planted over the winter. If you pause when you walk past, you'll see something different throughout the year. Some of the first plants to flower were self heal, oxeye daisy and ragged robin. As we've moved into the summer months these have been replaced by a carpet of bird's foot trefoil, wild carrot and lady's bedstraw. We'll be taking a late summer cut to allow space for new seedlings to grow for next year.

We all too often dismiss wildflower species as problem weeds. However, our humble dandelion is the foodplant for an amazing 50 species of butterfly and moth. Yarrow and bird's foot trefoil support 37 and 45 respectively.

As we look to the future we'll look after many more verges for our treasured insects and pollinators. We'll be carefully managing them to ensure any problem species don't dominate or cause a nuisance. These verges may not look as tidy as a routinely mown border but take a moment to look more closely and you'll be rewarded with special wildlife displays throughout the year.

## Bovey Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

We are expecting the Bovey Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan consultation to take place for a 6-week period which will start later this month. More information will be made available nearer the time.

## A Tribute to Cllr David Elphick



### Serving Councillor David Elphick sadly passed away in hospital on 14th July 2021

David was a committed member of the Town Council representing the community of Heathfield over a 25-year term.

He made significant contributions over the years and was extremely well liked by his fellow councillors, and we will all miss his kind and practical approach at Council meetings.

Our ongoing thoughts go to his loving family at this difficult time.

### RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENING HOURS:

**Town Council:** Mon-Fri 9am-2pm

**Library:** Mon: Closed | Tue: 10am-6pm | Wed: Closed | Thu: 10am-5pm | Fri: 10am-1pm | Sat: 10am-1pm

**Information Centre:** Opening times vary throughout the year - Please telephone 01626 832047

### Town Councillors Contact Numbers:

#### Town Mayor-

Sheila Brooke 830596

#### Deputy Town Mayor-

Debbie Fletcher [debbie.fletcher@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.fletcher@boveytracey.gov.uk)

#### Bovey Tracey Councillors

Tony Allen 836239

Jon Arnold 830340

Ulli Arnold 833376

Robert Bradshaw 07941 808534

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Jason Cole [jason.cole@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:jason.cole@boveytracey.gov.uk)

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Oliver Mills [olly.mills@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:olly.mills@boveytracey.gov.uk)

Kate Morgan-West 07967 286388

#### Heathfield Councillors

Stuart Light 07980 154690

#### Town Clerk:

Mark Wells 834217

\* District Councillor

\*\* County Councillor

### Forthcoming Town Council Meetings

You are welcome to join any of the council's meetings. If you want to attend the meeting, this is currently via remote Zoom access, but this is under regular review, based on Government guidance.

Committee meetings are usually held in the Riverside Community Centre, please email [info@boveytracey.gov.uk](mailto:info@boveytracey.gov.uk) if you would like to come along.

All Climate Emergency meetings are currently held via Zoom.

Up to date times/locations of all meetings can be found on the Bovey Tracey Town Council section of the Town's website.

Monday 6th September 2021	Planning & Environment Committee	6.00pm
	Finances, Resources & General Purposes Committee	7.00pm
Thursday 9th September 2021	Climate Emergency Bovey Tracey & Heathfield	7.00pm
Monday 20th September 2021	Full Council	7.00pm
Wednesday 29th September 2021	Friends of Mill Marsh Park Inaugural Meeting	7.00pm
Monday 4th October 2021	Planning & Environment Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 14th October 2021	Climate Emergency Bovey Tracey & Heathfield	7.00pm
Monday 18th October 2021	Planning & Environment Committee	6.00pm
	Recreation, Parks & Property Committee	7.00pm