



To residents of Chesham Bois

As you may already know, from reading our social media news or our regular column in Your Amersham magazine, changes have been made to the mowing schedule for roadside verges across the parish this season. The Parish Council is responsible for engaging contractors to mow roadside verges and clear footpaths on a devolved service basis on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council. Historically, the Parish Council adopted an intensive mowing regime between April and October, the cost exceeded the funding provided and environmental factors were not a prime consideration. Today, however, protecting the environment and improving biodiversity across land owned or managed by the Parish Council are key priorities and we are taking steps to develop and implement a long-term plan with those two objectives in mind.

This season, the frequency of mowing roadside verges has been reduced, except where traffic junctions need to be kept clear. We have also adopted 'No Mow May'; stopped the use of glyphosate weedkiller; introduced 'cut and collect' in place of 'cut and drop'; and specific areas have been selected to monitor biodiversity on an experimental basis this season: a section of Amersham Road; Woodside Avenue; sections of Bois Lane; and most of St. Leonards Road. These changes also bring us into alignment with the way in which other local councils manage verges, although you may have noticed that some have planted wildflower seeds as well. The benefits of a less intensive mowing regime include allowing bees and other insects to forage for nectar from wildflowers such as clover and dandelions, (finches love the dandelion seeds too!), and allowing wildflowers to complete their lifecycle. Also, grass cleans the air by trapping dust and particles; purifies pollutants in rainfall; captures carbon dioxide (and breaks it down into organic matter); and releases oxygen through photosynthesis. Cutting the grass and dry, short yellow grass affects these benefits.

Top tip for improving biodiversity in your own garden – [RHS.org.uk](https://www.rhs.org.uk): Leave a 1m x 1m square of lawn uncut through the summer and involve the whole family to record how many different plants and creatures you spot – you might be surprised.

We trust that we have your support in our endeavours to protect the environment and improve biodiversity in Chesham Bois.

Contact: clerk@cheshamboispc.org.uk or 01494 432585

May 22