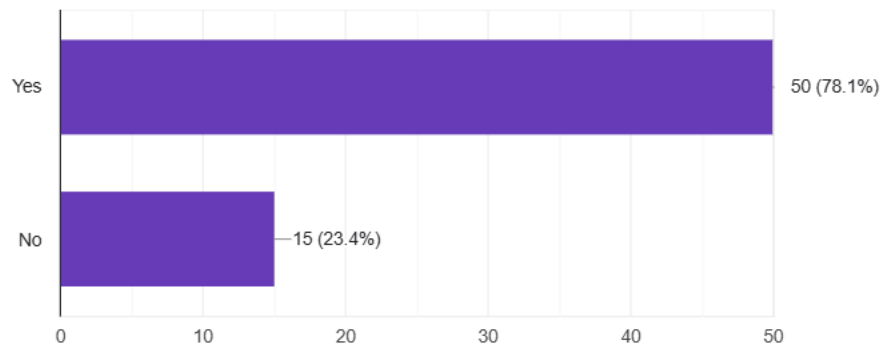


Survey – Wildflowers on the Village Green

A total of 65 responses were submitted – 22 were hard copies and 43 completed on line

1. Do you wish to keep the wild flower areas on the Village Green

65 responses



If no, please state why not

15 responses

I feel it looks a mess

Fine while flowers are in bloom - dreadful mess otherwise

I think that wild flower areas are much better suited to parks and gardens, than beside a busy road where there is constant traffic; to attract more butterflies and insects etc

Ugly

It was an unsightly mess and did significantly increase the fauna compared to all the surrounding gardens. In addition there are other more suitable areas in the village. .

Given where we are situation in rural Devon - there is no need for any "wild flower areas on the Village Green"! These were established by a group "NEW". Who appointed this group, or were they self appointed? Are/ or were they parishioners of Newton St Cyres?

Unfortunately, the 'wilding' turned out to be just that i.e. wilding mostly of grass area and NOT wild 'flowers'. If it were 'flowers' and colour, it would be more acceptable.

Not in its present form - but YES if it were actually a 'wild flower' area instead of just a 'wilding' area. 'Wilding', done properly, would include the introduction of wild boar, deer, elk and bear (according to Plymouth University). A 'wildflower meadow', much like the one up in Tally Field, is a different kettle of fish altogether and a delight. We achieved this along Prince Charles Road in Exeter a few years ago and it thrilled local residents. (Sadly, council contractors sprayed it all with weed-killer....)

It makes the green look untidy and uncared for

This years wild flowers were a disappointment - very little colour and it looked untidy. Not welcoming to the village by the side of a main road

its a village green beside a main road not a wild flower meadow. it impedes visibility at the junction and has looked a mess over the last few years. we are surrounded by fields, gardens, hedgerows and

woodlands. These areas support their own eco systems. There are also allotments if individuals want try and create unnecessary landscapes. It has always been a village green and doesn't need to be messed around with.

Flowers yes, grass as this year NO!

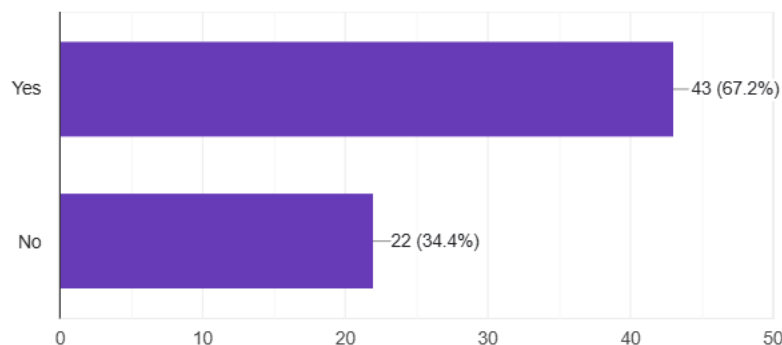
Although the first year looked good this was not the case afterwards and it simply looked uncared for.

I'm sorry to say but it looks very messy and untidy. Its in the wrong place

Messy

2. Would you like to make any changes to the wild flower area on the Village Green

65 responses



If yes, please state what changes you would like

43 responses

Planting of more daffodils and poppies

Increase wildflowers specific to various species of Bee

Mowed more regularly or a border with perennials

I would like them to be incorporated into a design for the whole area that most of the villagers find acceptable (or good!) and not as an apologetic afterthought. I think it might be better if the wilder areas could form a wildlife ' corridor ' for little critters to move along in some safety. I think it would be good to have some perennial plants rather than annual ones. I would like to see more trees and bulbs. I would like it to look beautiful not just a large expanse of mown grass with some long grass at the edges.

Go back to grass lawn

More wildflowers like in the first year. More poppies and brightly coloured flowers. Summer 2025 was a bit messy and dull with too much grass.

Would be lovely to see more wild flowers. Would be great to have some more fruit trees

Go bigger plant, more trees, shrubs

I would like the layout to be tidier - they are a bit untidy, but could have neat edges and be set back a little from the paths

Maybe keep in defined areas - so obv wild flowers and not just uncut

Restore to lawn

Reduce fertility which is promoting excess grass growth, including annual seeding with Yellow Rattle

Remove them and reinstate the green

I would like the village green to return to the state that it was in - namely looking like a village green - for at least the 40+ years that I've been living in Newton St Cyres!

As a village green it's OK to have a well-achieved area for wild 'flowers' but over the past few years the wild area has increased (a sort of creeping hayfield) and the tall grass has increased and any wild flowers are almost absent.

Not such a large area of wilding/wild flowers

More flowers and less wild grass

Not take so much of the green, wild flowers, and not so much grass crowding the flowers

Creating a 'wildflower meadow' is a real horticultural challenge (I'm quoting Alan Titmarsh!) and needs a lot of prep. In the first year of green 'wilding', rather than prep the areas and reduce the grass, quite a lot of annual flower seeds were sown in with the wild flower/grass mix which gave colour and interest which people seemed to enjoy, and it enhanced the area. However, the annuals don't reproduce and so the grass has had a field day (apologies for the pun!). Just adding packets of yellow rattle seed to challenge the grass isn't really the solution? (NSC Primary School wildflower meadow was much praised and commented on by RHS Bloom judges this year. They politely avoided making any direct comments about the village green.)

Reinstated the green to its original state (clue is in the name)

Extend the area

Augment more wild flower seeds (like cowslips)

Add flower beds of garden flowers

Perhaps give it another year to see if more variety develops. If not return to the old village green

Bigger area of wild flowers

I want to make a lasting difference to the world environment

Perhaps an idea could be to formalise the wildflower area a bit better so its more obvious where they areas are, and proper signs up so visitors can understand why it is being done and the benefits to nature and the environment. Setting it up as a good example for residents to do in their own garden

keep the flowers to one area of the green and ensure that the rest of the grass is kept tidy

If possible, a larger part of the village green set aside for wild flowers that are suitable for the location and are easy to maintain.

put it back to grass please.

Keep it to the outside ends

I am NOT in favour of the Village Green being 'handed over' to NEW . The current balance of grassed areas with a few trees, that can be managed. gives a much better impression to passing motorists, visitors and for those who live adjacent to the Village Green.

Better maintenance of the area that's not wildflowers. More diversity of wildflowers in that section.

A larger area could be planted

Reseeding with more wild flowers - this process is already happening.

It should be expanded either on the green itself or to other public areas and should be accompanied by a permanent sign celebrating the input of the community and the positive impact on biodiversity in this time of environmental crisis.

Reduce grass growth in wild flower areas by e.g. planting of yellow rattle.

I would like to see more areas converted to wildflower meadows with the addition of more trees and maybe a hedgerow or two to provide song posts, shelter, and nesting sites to encourage birds.

After the flowers had died, the Green looked awful. A dreadfully untidy mess for residents to view, and also visitors entering the village were unimpressed. Need to make the wild areas smaller and more defined, but more important, someone has to keep those areas tidy

Incorporate vegetables and herbs.

Its untidy

Return it to its original green

More flowers

3. Do you have any other comments on the wild flower area?

55 responses

With the recording of a rare bat species which is attracted by wild flower meadows, this can only be seen as an environmental positive.

Lovely area, love wild grasses

A vital foraging area for all insects

Increasing biodiversity within our village is crucial and bigger than any one of us. We should be looking at the bigger picture and it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to fulfil their endorsement of the zero carbon policy made on the 22nd of June 2021. Our wildflower meadow areas are a crucial strategy towards this and one that the Parish Council should be supporting regardless of a few villagers who may not understand the bigger picture or who are set in their ways. N.E.W. has done all the work which the Parish Council can use as one of their steps towards their endorsement. N.E.W. also works hard to change the minds of people who may not be supportive through conversations and education and are committed to doing more of this.

It seems to be more grasses than wild flowers, not good for Britain in Bloom entrys

I also think that the village green looks very untidy, being left wild in places. I would like to see it mown regularly again

It is a vital support for Biodiversity in our Village. While it may not appeal to everyone it shows a commitment we must not go back on.

It seems to have been spoilt in the past by the contracted grass cutter not being aware of these areas.

Get rid of the bit down the middle path. Ensure that edges of end areas are mowed - helps it look neater.

Great natural area, lots of positive praise from people driving into Exeter and Crediton

Have a summer party!!

It was nicer in the first year, so maybe the soil needs to be tilled and reseeded occasionally

Thanks for maintaining

Same feeling regard any other rewilding in our parish

It's a great project if it was given time to get established

If there is a vote in favour of wildflowers. I suggest you follow Axmouths policy of having small raised beds held in place by attractive wooden surrounds. These are easily maintained and can have quality meadow flowers rather than glorified weeds.

This is a very minor matter in the scheme of things, but has been a completely unnecessary development. I have tried to find out how much public monies have been spent on this activity - to , as yet, no avail?

Yes. Please turn it back to a village green as we have some excellent wild flower meadows in our beautiful area. For example, the School wild flower MEADOW is superb.

It would be nice for the green to be cut more regularly because the last few years it's grown too high but I guess that's down to budget

I think it is great to have wild life areas in the village and to promote the seed distribution of the wild flowers.

What attracted us to the village when we moved here 3 years ago was how lovely the village green looked in that it was very green, nicely mown with wild flowers around the edge, it made us think that clearly the village is well looked after and cared for by the community. The wilding around the edges is lovely so long as it is maintained properly and regularly.

Appreciation of the work put in by the volunteers!

Yes don't take any more of the green. Insects like flowers too

I think it's lovely

If the aim is to have very tall grasses, then it is usual to have a broad cut/mown edge all along the grass border to keep it from flopping on pavements, brushing on people's clothes (pollen/seeds) - see Bonhay Road, Exeter. This year's new 'wilded border' either side of the footpath to the bus shelter is perhaps unnecessary? The area for wilding has encroached/inched along and grown over

the past few years and perhaps the pathway borders aren't needed for the Parish Council scheme? However, the scything is clearly good fun and produces some good composting material for the community allotment.

Not against the idea of wild flower area, but not on the green

It looks great

It has been such a delight to see the green being home to a myriad of plant species, that look so spectacular for villagers and passerby alike

Love it - sit on "my bench" regularly

The parish council has a long standing declaration of a climates emergency, The key word in this statement is emergency. As one of the most visible actions taken in the village in response to that emergency it needs to be both continued and extended as every action, no matter how small, is needed.

I feel the situation is not right - there are other wilding areas in this village. We need a green that says welcome to our village and to my mind that should be green, neat and tidy, perhaps with garden flower beds perhaps two

I think it acts as a beautiful, visible reminder that we need to attract pollinators and other wildlife to our village and environs. It works better when the mowed areas are distinct as it off-sets what are clearly 'wild' areas.

appreciate the work of volunteers to make this happen

. More

I like the flowers

I support the wildflower area as it provides a habitat for insects and other species. I like the fact that there are designated areas so that there is a demarcation with the grassy areas. And that the grassy areas should be kept neat. Thank you.

i love it!

Ensure that the views and opinions of the residents in that area are respected

Thank you to all who are involved in developing and maintaining the wildflower areas on the green. I've heard expressions of delight from people either at the bus stop or walking in the area.

looks messy and will never be a meadow. there are enough gardens in the local area .

This is a vital and inspiring initiative for the Village. To loose it would be nothing short of tragic.

The long grass was a fire hazard to all the thatched homes around!

We are fortunate to live in a rural area with Fields , Trees and Hedges all of which are beneficial to nature and wildlife. Many gardens, ours included, have the Devon Wildlife Trust accreditation for Wildlife friendly gardening, where we make positive steps for wildlife. The Village Green is and has been what it says a Village Green! The uncared for look also impedes vision when turning out of West Town Road onto the A377. For those resident immediately next to the Green it has not been acceptable! If NEW wish to have an area perhaps they could approach a local farmer for an area of land running adjacent to some hedges. A properly managed wildflower meadow requires a lot of

hard work and commitment. Not just from 1 or 2 people but a large team. I am not in favour of a continuation of the recent use of the Green. I hope that this is helpful.

They look good in season and you need the out of season bristly look to achieve that. Works well

I enjoy it but appreciate that it can look tatty.

I think it is very important for wildlife and a community asset.

It is a real asset to the appearance of the centre of the village, enhancing what is otherwise quite a bland green space by giving it a more naturalistic setting. It's great that as a village we are supporting improved biodiversity and conserving plant species and smaller species of animals which are in decline elsewhere because of modern farming practices, increased building on green spaces and traditional obsessions with being "tidy" in gardens and open spaces. Please don't remove this valuable asset.

It's a real feel good thing about living in this village

I think the people in the bungalows by the green should decide

It is vital that we manage our public spaces not for fashion or convenience but for the benefit of everyone in the community. In 1970, it may have been to the benefit of all to keep the green trimmed and lush to enable events to take place there and for it to look fashionable for the 20th century. It is 2025 and we are facing a dark hour for our natural heritage and the environment upon which we rely to live and thrive. Events (fairs, maypole, gatherings, etc.) no longer take place on the green so the space is not needed in the same way. There is a need (even in the countryside where we assume biodiversity is pretty much OK) for more habitats for insects and food for birds. The PC should see that there is a need to take advantage of the position of the green on the A377 to demonstrate our community's attitude towards our planet. That green, set against the ancient church and the beautiful thatched cottages, is the welcoming face of Newton St Cyres and should be crowned in a bonnet of wildflowers and buzzing and singing with life.

It takes time to develop a wild flower meadow - from 5-10 years - so I suggest it needs more time to develop.

The village green is the shopfront for NSC and by showing our commitment to change its management regime to encourage greater biodiversity we are benefiting our community, enhancing its wellbeing and showing other communities what can be achieved when we work together.

In a rural area such as our village, we have plenty of wild places for wildlife to flourish (hedges/verges/woodland etc.)

People overlooking the green should decide

I appreciate the idea of a wild flower area, but locate it in a different place!

6 households that overlook the green completed the survey – all were in favour of keeping the wild flowers (although with some amendments welcomed)