

## Appendix 2: Open Spaces & Habitats Guidelines

### *Planning*

- We are clear who is responsible for each area of potential habitat. (We maintain this information in the open spaces register).
- In thinking about development & maintenance, try to enhance the rural feel of the village.
- Plant more trees where possible. (Note: The well-informed Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability Group, PAWS, say this is the top climate-change action available to us).
- We have a plan to maintain the habitat which recognises the needs of that location (e.g. the High Street should be neat and appropriate for a country village but Muddy Lane is more wild). All plans in the format used for the Village Green, which provides a description of the area, the planned tasks, when to be done, notes when work has been done, etc.).
- We speak to contractors so they understand the plan and the requirements.

### *Maintenance*

- Don't cut hedges back until the winter. Generally hedges can be cut only every two years except where they need to look very tidy. (e.g. on the High Street).
- Allow wildflowers to produce seeds in June before mowing.
- Leave old branches and logs to rot (in suitable locations).
- Compost clippings rather than leaving them on grass as they will make the soil too rich for wildflowers as they rot away (eutrophication).
- Use both contractors and Work Parties (Green Team).
- Don't disturb bird's nests (this is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).

### *Pesticides/ foreign species*

- Don't use pesticides (or use sparingly).
- Don't plant non-native species (e.g. oak tree in Pangbourne which brought in Oak Processionary moth from the continent which was very costly to treat).
- Plant species that provide bees with pollen (the following link lists suitable plants: [friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/beefriendly-plants-every-season](http://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/beefriendly-plants-every-season)).