

Denham Parish Council Offices

Attendees: Cllr Edna Austin (Chair), Cllr Sharon Williams, Bergey Sigurdardottir, Christine Kearley (Bakers Wood resident), Mike Stewart (Denham Church Treasurer)

Apologies received: Cllr Marilyn Heath

Item 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The previous meeting dated 14 May 2025 were agreed.

Item 3 Progress on items discussed at the previous meeting

Mapping from Colne Valley Regional Park is currently being prepared. It will be an interactive on-line map that will be available on Buckinghamshire Local Nature Recovery website. Christine that it should include ancient woodland. The trees at Bakers Wood/Redhill that have been planted by Bucks are now dead, due to a lack of watering. Tree watering bags should have been installed to prevent the trees from dying.

The cost of hiring a water bowser to water the whips would have been expensive and would have needed to be done 2/3 times a week.

Bergey advised the work that is being done with Chiltern Railways with a lectern to display local walks, 'connecting people to the local countryside' is the theme.

The aim is making the destinations at Denham Railway Station and Denham Golf Club Halt stop off as attractive to encourage visitors to alight and to carry out one of the walking routes. The invitation boards will be located at both stations. It was also suggested that another lectern should be placed underneath the railway bridge by the mural at The Pyghtle.

One of the routes talked about is to promote the Denham North Moor Woods circular walking route. The lecterns will feature 'QR' code that will follow 'way markings'.

Mike advised that in the corner of St Mary's churchyard six native trees have been planted and they are currently awaiting the biodiversity report, which they hope to share at the next meeting.

'No Mow May' was not done in May 2025, due to the issues experienced last year, where growth took hold and when it was cut the machines kept breaking down. From a practical point of view, it was decided that this could not happen this year.

It was asked why we collect the grass cuttings now, as leaving the cuttings encourages wildflowers to grow instead of weeds. This was a requirement that came out of reviewing the grass cutting contract when Invitation To Tender (ITT) was requested July 2024.

The Bosch project of reinstating the rear gardens is a long-term project. We did invite the representative to attend this meeting and is away on business at the moment.

Martin Baker should be approached to ask if they can send someone from their site to this meeting. Seemingly, they were very proactive with biodiversity approximately 10 years ago, as they have a nature reserve at the rear of their property. It was suggested that an email is sent through to John Martin to establish if another individual could attend on behalf of MB.

Item 4 DPC Owned Spaces

Bat boxes at Tatling End play area have been erected and they are still needed to be checked for evidence that the bats are using these boxes.

A new biodiversity area that has recently been identified is an area at Tatling End, which is common land that sits behind houses of Hollybush Lane (top end of the road). This area of land belongs to Denham Parish Council.

A question was raised as to who owns Capswood, Bergey responded to say the actual Capswood woodland is owned by the Colne Valley Regional Park, although some locals appear to be dumping their own garden grass cuttings into the woodland.

A request was made during this meeting that it would be quite useful for members of this group to be involved in the new Denham Neighbourhood Plan, as biodiversity is being a higher priority in the planning process. This plan will give everyone an opportunity to decide where future goes, and the type of development needed for the local community. This will review all five settlements within the Denham Parish area.

It was suggested by Christine that the Chair of Bakers Wood residents' association, should be involved in this process and the next public engagement meeting will take place in September, which will be a face-to-face meeting with our planning consultants 'Plan-ET'.

Item 5 Easy Ways Residents can improve Biodiversity in their own gardens and how to promote this.

A little article could be written to go into the next newsletter, which will go out to every household by end of August.

The article could give an explanation of what you are doing in your own garden. In some cases, gardens can be over tidied, which could have an effect on the natural environment. If it is over done, there could be less insects, hedgehogs or birdlife coming into your garden.

Composters and leaves in a sack to mulch down are useful to create beneficial compost in the garden.

It is a case of 'Think!' and looking at the impact of your actions.

Item 6 How to involve Local Children

Colne Valley Regional Park are delivering local community events to involve local schools. One such event is to 'Discover and explore your local geology at Northmoor Hill Wood in Denham'. This is being held on Thursday 24 July between 11am and 16:00hrs.

It was suggested at the meeting that it would be a good idea to arrange for children at the two local schools to grow seeds in pots. This could be an action taken forward for the September Services meeting, when the schools go back after their summer term.

Another is growing of vegetables, or fast-growing wild seeds, which could help in future studies on bees and butterflies.

This should be raised with local schools to build within their curriculum to start at Springtime.

Money could be made available from Communities and Events.

Brownies (age 8) and Rainbows (age 5) could also do this as a project, although there are no scouts in Denham.

The village school has a forest school area in the local churchyard and St Joseph's has a site in Chalfont St Peter.

Colne Valley Regional Park will give updates on Denham Woods at the next meeting. They are going to be hosting a guided walk around Denham Woodlands. This will be starting and finishing at Northmoor Hill Woods. This will be happening Saturday 26 July 2025 at 10am.

The Parish will publicise the two events on the six public notice boards around the parish to promote these events.

The date of the next Biodiversity meeting will take place 17 September 2025 at 7pm Denham Parish Office.

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm