

Woolverstone Parish Council notes:

- There is clear scientific evidence to show that climate change is happening and is due to human activity. This includes global warming and greater risk of flooding, droughts and heat waves with impact on wildlife and plant life
- These changes to the climate represent a real and serious threat to us all. Woolverstone Parish Council has a responsibility to play its part in helping tackle this growing danger while we still have time to make a difference.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, warns there is only twelve years for global heating to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. There is now scientific consensus on the fact that carbon impacts are causing global heating and the Committee on Climate Change, among many others, warn against the idea of complacency. *"Global warming of 1.5C"* Oct 2018
- The *"State of Nature"* report (2019) records that more than two fifths of species, including mammals, birds and butterflies have declined significantly in Britain in the past 50 years. England's farmland bird index has fallen 55% below its 1970 level, farmland butterflies by 10%. The woodland bird indicator by 24%, woodland butterflies by 58%. The trend is continuing. 13% of the country's species are at risk of disappearing; 27% of mammals are threatened. There is an urgent need to re-establish a wildlife rich habitat.
- Supporting the lead of Babergh District Council, Woolverstone Parish Council is declaring a climate and wildlife emergency and will develop policies and practices to address this emergency.

Woolverstone

- Woolverstone is located in a unique landscape which is valued by residents (evidence Questionnaire -EQ)
- Ancient Estate farmland is unique in Babergh
- Woolverstone is located in a designated landscape both AONB and AONB project area. Within this there are SSSI, SPA and RAMSAR sites.
- It has rich, diverse and abundant wildlife and flora

- However, the array of flora and fauna in Woolverstone has, in some respects, diminished in the last 30 years (Nightingales, Lapwings, Owls, Swifts, House Martins...) While noise, light and pollution has increased.
- Prepare a nature recovery plan
- Designated landscapes offer some of the most powerful solutions to the challenges of climate change.
- Preserve our roadside nature reserve (Glebe Lane)
- Seek to preserve hedgerow diversity, wildlife corridors and bird sanctuaries within farming practice
- Take on board the evidence provided by the AONB Project Area assessment report (Alison Farmer Associates). Use this to inform Planning Application responses ensuring any development is suitable and sustainable
- Challenge the use of premium greenfield agriculture land for building
- Preserve our dark areas to hold onto our night time wildlife especially bats and nightingales
- Encourage Swifts, House Martins, Barn Owl nesting boxes
- Plant trees; require replacement trees to be planted if one needs work
- Continue our Spring Clean in March; perhaps add an autumn event
- Examine planning applications for environmental standards; insulation, heating source etc.
- Maintain and strengthen links with AONB
- Continue to look for support with traffic calming; speed, noise etc. to help reduce severance, air pollution and noise pollution. (Note expected increase of at least 30% in traffic when HMS Ganges and Shotley Marina developments are built out.)
- Maintain Horsepond's green as a wildlife haven.
- Encourage interaction with our countryside and heritage assets (talks/advice/guides)
- Encourage bee friendly gardening (talks/advice/guides)
- Map and take care of our ancient trees (Woodland Trust)
- Continue to participate in AONB initiatives; fruit trees, bee plants, free the tree
- Support our bus services
- Challenge "car dependent" planning applications
- Support safe cycling routes in the village and between villages (SPCC)
- Set up a group of interested residents to plan Woolverstone's response in detail