

# CRANLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## WILD FLOWER POLICY

### **Waverley Borough Council guidelines are as follows:**

Areas of grassland that require maintenance are divided into different areas, namely amenity and conservation.

### **Amenity Grassland:**

These are subdivided into areas that require high to moderate mowing frequency and are dependent on the profile of the site; high profile sites and recreation grounds will be cut more frequently and managed more intensely than housing areas and highway verges.

**Snoxhall fields would be classed as amenity grassland, and therefore managed more intensely.**

### **Conservation Grassland:**

Where areas of grass contain a diversity of flowering plants and grasses they are managed more sympathetically as conservation areas. These are cut between once and three times a year and most importantly the grass cutting are removed each time.

Beryl Harvey conservation area is managed by Cranleigh Conservation Group as conservation grassland

At a recreation meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 it was agreed by the Council to treat Snoxhall fields as an amenity grassland area, but to leave an area of bank running from Hitherwood and outside of the dog area uncut until late summer. The general consensus was to follow the guidelines laid down by Waverley Borough Council and to add this document to the Grounds maintenance schedule.

### **The following amendments are proposed to be added to this document:**

These additional areas to be included within the Wild Flower Policy as indicated here after.

1. The four main areas within the dog area created by the walkways cut into the grass to be included within the policy. Wild flower mixtures will be sown within these areas to increase the biodiversity of these areas, this will create a wild flower meadow area, and will complement the existing wildflowers within the area
2. A 2-3 ft strip surrounding the hedgerow to the front of the dog area to be included within the policy, this area already has good wild flower content, with an abundance of blue bells during the spring period; additional wild flower content will be encouraged within the area throughout the flowering season.
3. The areas between the white fences along the access road to be included within the policy, these areas have limited wild flower content at present and some additional work to restrict vehicular access to these areas will be required, but with a small amount of work this can be achieved. The areas will then be levelled and sown with wild flower grass mixtures to increase the biodiversity of these areas.

4. A small area in the vicinity of the new pond area close to the substation to be included within the policy, over-sowing with wild flower mixtures within this area will enhance the works to be carried out within the pond area and will create in time a naturalised bio diverse area that will fit in with the environmentally sensitive plan envisaged for the play park areas. Giving good educational value to the whole area which may be able to be used by schools and nurseries within the community.

**It is hoped that by increasing the areas put over to conservation, we will create interesting wild flora areas that work alongside our amenity environments.**

**The use of environmental flora in selected areas of the recreational grounds should become more common practice, corners and non-used areas of sports ground, along with other rough areas should be developed with wild flora content as a way of enhancing our sites and encourage more natural looking areas, which in turn will help reduce maintenance costs.**

Nick Barnett CPC Grounds Manager

15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010