



# Wem Rural Parish Council

## Bio-Diversity

The landscape of Wem Rural is, as the name suggests, very rural in nature. Much of the land is generally low-lying and quite flat and is mostly made up of clay and marl – resulting from the action of the glacier that covered this area during the last Ice Age some 10,000 years ago. This is interspersed with pockets of loam, peat and sand deposits, which occur sporadically throughout the area.

The Parish Council organised a 'cycle safari' from Edstaston Village Hall picking up more cyclists at Newtown School to Wem Moss on quiet lanes and was led by trained ride leaders. On arrival at Wem Moss, a Shropshire Wildlife Trust representative was there to explain the unique features of the Moss.

The Parish Council is a Branch of the Woodland Trust Tree Charter and will be committed to the Tree Charter aims.

The Parish Council initiates and promotes litter picks within its wards on a regular basis, and advertises the availability of litter-picking equipment from Shropshire Council to community groups. The latest litter picking was under the National Great British Spring Clean banner.

The Parish Council works with communities to identify opportunities for enhancement of the natural features within our ward. Examples include advising a hamlet on hedgerow enhancement and the use of community planters for wildlife friendly plantings.

The Parish Council promotes activities and talks taking place in the local area related to wildlife, habitats and biodiversity. Examples include the talks and field trips hosted and delivered by Natural England on the Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve adjacent to our parish.

The Parish Council comprises farmers, smallholders and a qualified agricultural environmental scientist and land conservation manager among its number, bringing additional insight and expertise to its decision making.

The Parish Council considers biodiversity and other environmental and sustainability issues in reviewing planning applications, grant applications and other initiatives. For example, the Parish Council is partnering with the local primary school and recreation association to increase parking facilities but in doing so is looking to use a permeable surface to prevent surface water run-off and maintain the existing well-established hedge.

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