

CBC LETTERHEAD

Final Draft

West Bergholt & Eight Ash Green Ward
Colchester Borough Council

Borough Councillors:
Cllr Dennis Willetts
Cllr Marcus Harrington

The Town Hall, Colchester, CO1 1FR

Residents of Jubilee Meadow & Blind Lane
Other nearby Residents of Eight Ash Green

12th September 2013

Dear Resident.

MANAGING THE CHURCH WOODLAND

The planning consent in 2006 for the development of 12 houses on former Church land (now Jubilee Meadow) and for the three houses on the opposite side of Blind Lane was granted subject to a Section 106 agreement, pursuant to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, between the Borough & County Councils, the Developer and the Church.

This agreement with the Developer and the Church Board covenanted with the Borough Council to allow members of the public to have unrestricted and unhindered access without charge to the Church Woodland. Furthermore, a Woodland Scheme would be implemented for the future good management of the wood, and it is about this that I write to you.

The wood is the last remnant of 12 acres of historic woodland first referred to in manorial records of 1793 as "Blind Bullbecks" when purchased by a William Firmin of Fordham (hence the name of the adjacent public footpath: Blind Lane). The wood was given to a Church Trust by the local benefactor Mrs Searle in the late 1890s. The mature trees in the wood are covered by the Borough Council's Tree Preservation Order 20/93.

I have been advised that arrangements have been made for a Church volunteer to manage the Woodland on a part-time basis. He is:

Bill Roberts: 07761 570 454, Email: ranger.bill@colchesterborough.com

Bill will ensure that there is an appropriate balance between those parts of the wood which are to be left natural to encourage wildlife, and the glades and the paths through the wood for the enjoyment of the local community, and that the fencing and boundaries are properly maintained. He will liaise with the Borough Council in regard to management of trees covered by the Tree Preservation Order.

Bill will also investigate any misuse of the woodland, particularly fly-tipping or the depositing of unauthorised waste not originating from within the woodland. Bill will be writing an article about his work in the November edition of the Village Newsletter.

If you have any suggestions about the management of the woodland, please do not hesitate to contact Bill directly, or contact Cllr Marcus Harrington or myself on matters of policy.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Willetts
Borough Councillor