

Early in the summer the Parish Field in Woolton Hill was a sea of yellow with buttercups and there was also a lovely mix of plants growing across the field which attracted a vast array of wildlife.

It was commented that there were 'more flowers here than at Chelsea' and many enjoyed the walk along the path, including school groups as part of the children's education.

Many have asked, who is it they see working at the field and tending the ditches? This is Sean Early. The Parish Council are extremely fortunate to have Sean, one of the field's neighbours, help keep the field looking as it does.

One of the summer tasks is to cut the field for hay which is then taken for animal feed. Producing this hay is one reason why it's important that everyone, including dogs, keep to the path and that dogs are not allowed to foul on the grass thus contaminating it.

If you have walked across the field you will have seen a number of triangle areas which have not been cut for hay.

These are areas which have had additional wildflowers planted to help with the overall nature in the field, thus attracting additional wildlife.

Working with Hampshire Countryside Service, the Parish Council have put up Pollinator Patch signs at the ends of the path to highlight this.

At the time of writing the field is extremely dry, however, recent winters have been very wet, and the path material has started to wash away. This has resulted in parts of the path being under water at times of heavy rainfall. Consequently, to help reduce this problem, the Parish Council took the opportunity, once the field was cut, to lay drainage at several points where water previously collected. This will enable water to flow under the path rather than collecting by it.

Whenever, there is machinery working near or on the path, the field is closed meaning that the permissive path across the field is unavailable. The time of closure is kept to a minimum but is done from a safety perspective.