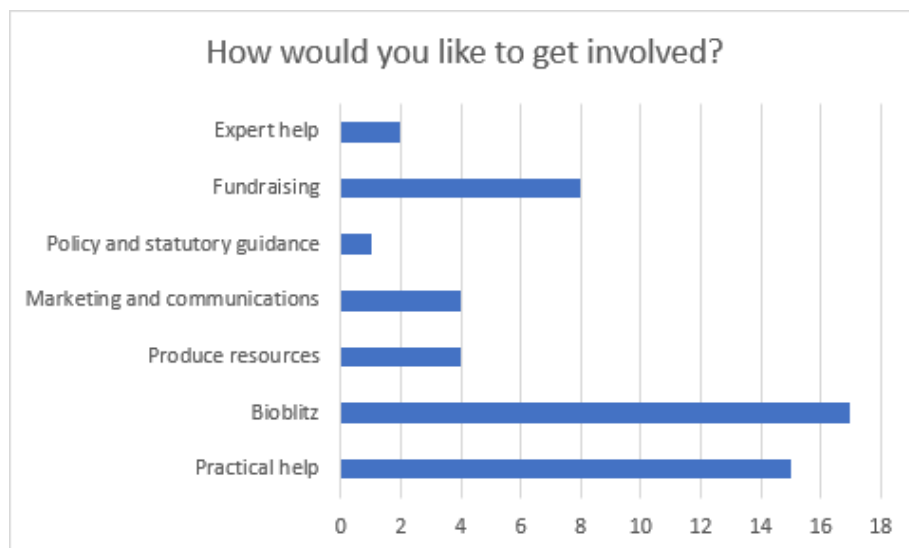
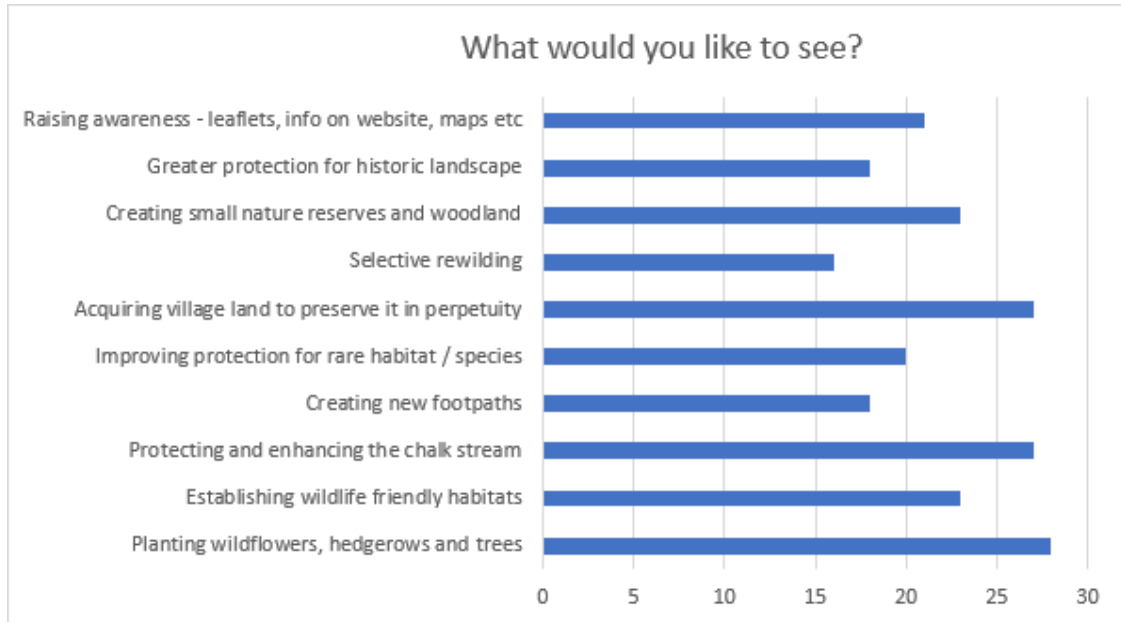


Protecting and enhancing the environment of Orwell

Thank you so much for attending the meeting on protecting and enhancing the environment of Orwell. It was great to see everyone's interest and support. Thanks to all you who completed the feedback forms – here is the analysis:



An article about the event will appear in the next Orwell Bulletin and is reproduced below.

A number of you asked if we recorded [redacted] presentation on the night. Sadly we didn't but [redacted] very kindly agreed to do the presentation again and here is the recording:

[redacted]

Bulletin Article

Orwell residents were invited to an informal meeting in the Village Hall on the 7th October to discuss the idea of setting up a community group/charity which would aim to preserve, conserve and enhance the natural environment and protect and improve the flora, fauna and wildlife of the village.



There was an excellent turn out with an estimated 70 people attending. Following a welcome from [redacted] attendees heard from several experts on the environment, starting with [redacted], Natural England's Cambridgeshire specialist. She emphasised the ecological importance of the village's Clunch Pit, Glebe Field and Chapel Orchard. As many will be aware the Clunch Pit is already a Site of Special Scientific Interest and [redacted] announced that the Glebe Field had earlier that day been designated a County Wildlife Site by the Wildlife Trust. This was in recognition of the rich diversity of flora on the ancient chalk grassland meadow found during a survey in the summer.

[redacted], General Manager and her colleague [redacted], Farm & Countryside Manager from the National Trust Wimpole then explained their latest projects. This included the extensive tree planting and habitat creation currently being undertaken on the Wimpole Estate. This was followed by [redacted] chair of the Cambridgeshire Geological Society who announced that the Clunch Pit had just been designated a Local Geological Site in recognition of its special geological features. The Society will be producing a leaflet with a map and illustrations showing the geological features.

[redacted] an ecologist and geologist concluded by giving a fascinating presentation on the geology of the Clunch Pit and the local area and outlining some of the conservation projects he has been involved in at Nine Wells and Reach and suggested some possible ideas for Orwell.

After the presentations attendees enjoyed refreshments generously supplied by [redacted] [redacted] discussed ideas and chatted with the experts who kindly stayed on to answer questions. Opinions were gathered by feedback forms, which asked for expressions of interest in a range of possible community projects. There was an excellent response with many saying that they

would like to see more planting of hedgerows and trees in the village, the protection and enhancement of the chalk streams that run through the parish and the acquisition of village green spaces such as the Glebe Field and Chapel Orchard to preserve them in perpetuity. The creation of wildlife friendly habitats such as small nature reserves/woodlands and raising awareness of biodiversity and the environment in the village were also high up on the agenda.

Those attending were also asked if they would like to get involved and support in some way. There were a lot of offers of help - ranging from cutting brambles, clearing streams and planting trees to fundraising and taking part in a village 'Bioblitz', an event which focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time.

Thanks to all those who came to the meeting and for the feedback provided. We're excited to hear the level of interest within the village and will be formulating plans and getting back to all those who provided contact information soon. And needless to say, if you are interested in biodiversity, conservation and the environment, but missed the meeting, please do get in touch!