

Environment

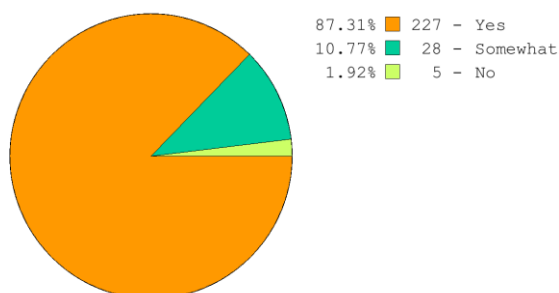
THE GREAT WAKERING
PARISH PLAN 2015

The Environment section considers the existing natural resource in and around Great Wakering plus the potential effect of additional development. 264 valid submissions were submitted.

Overview: 87% of respondents feel that open spaces and common/greenbelt areas should be preserved, 42% think that rural footpaths are not well maintained while 90% like the idea that young people could be encouraged to help protect the environment.

74% agree that there are problems caused by litter and dog fouling. The top three concerns are additional building development - 81%, the need for active preservation – 68%. Finally 55% would like to see the creation and protection of nature reserves.

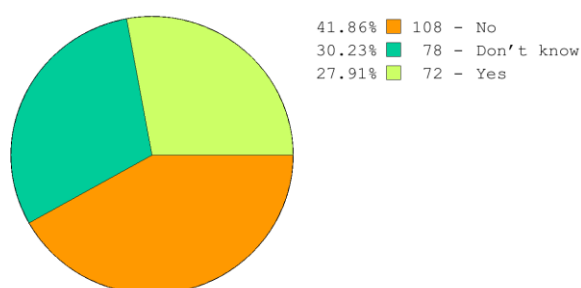
Are the open spaces, common/greenbelt and parks in Great Wakering important to you?



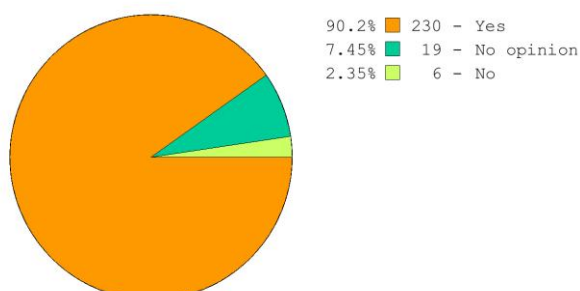
How should green belt land, nature/endangered species and ancient pathways be preserved in Great Wakering?



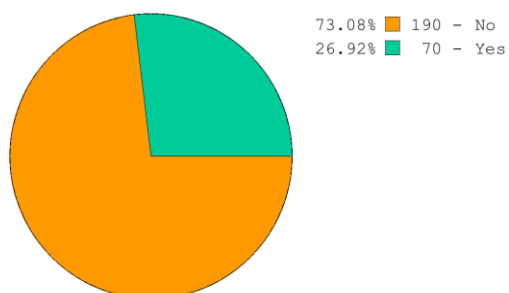
Are the footpaths on greenbelt/common and farmland etc. well maintained by the council?



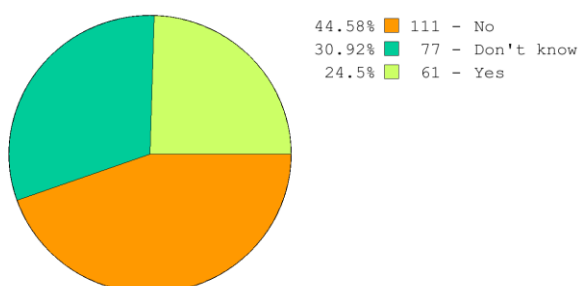
Do you think the Parish Council should oversee and act with voluntary services to encourage young people to protect the environment in Great Wakering?



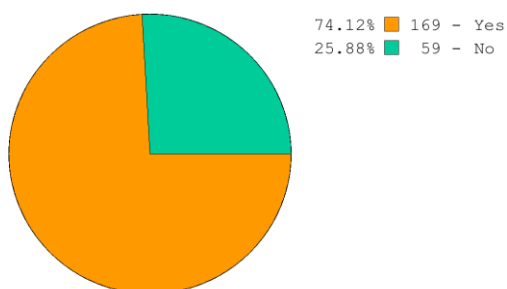
Were you aware that the library and Parish Council offices have free footpath maps and information on interesting walks available?



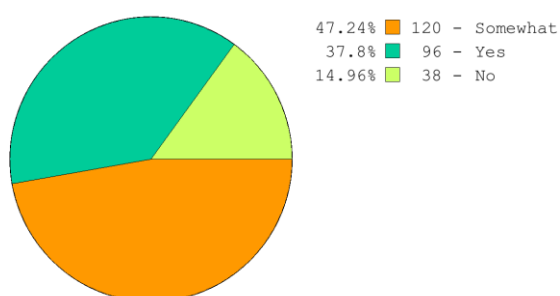
Is there sufficient seating in parks, common land and open spaces?



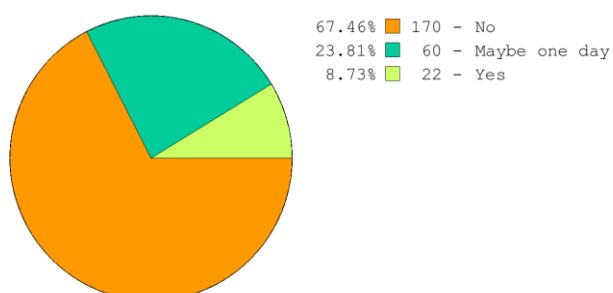
Are there problems with dog fouling and/or litter in the village, parks and green belt land?



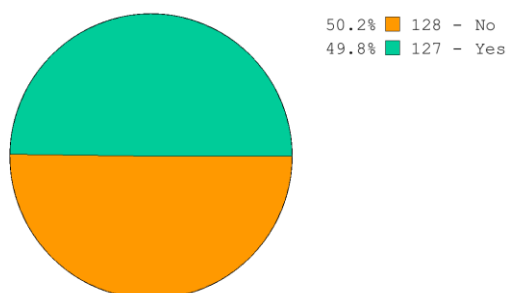
Are you concerned about cutting your carbon footprint?



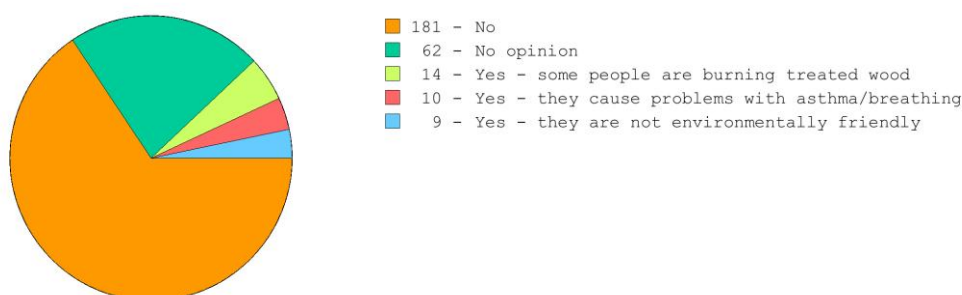
Would you be interested in having an allotment plot?



Are you aware of fly-tipping problems?



Do you feel there is a problem with coal fires and wood burners in the village?



Community Views and Comments

Q: Are there any areas or parts of the village that you think could be better used?

“Land to the West of Alexandra Road could become a nature reserve.”

“Sea wall walks, Not enough play area for children”

“...Common and... Duck Pond”

“we don't live anywhere near Rayleigh so it is not fair to base all services in that area”

“Field... opposite St

Land to the West of Alexandra Road could become a nature reserve. Sports centre. A few of us contact the council about keeping sports centre open they were not interested in us at all. Think they just wanted to sell it on. Just offered to pass our details onto someone who might have been interested.

Common, Sea wall walks Sports centre on recreation ground

Yes the sports club and the children's play area. Not enough play area for children Sports centre, Old fishing lake car parks, Seaview Drive play area. **The Common and the village Duck Pond** Co-op area Recreation ground I have lived & walked here 30 years & still get told of walks that I did not know about.

Perhaps highlight walks/cycle routes/footpaths. Sports ground & children's play area. **Toilets by the Allotments reopened for allotment users key holders** Park. Duck Pond. **Sports centre should never have been closed by the district council - we don't live anywhere near Rayleigh so it is not fair to base all services in that area. The Rec needs a skateboard park** The areas surrounding the fishing lakes **Sports Centre, Young Peoples activities** Wakering Recreation Ground needs major refurbishment and can be used for the youngsters in the village. Not much seems to happen on the area which I think is called the Wreck next to the park by the old sports centre even though it is a large area. **Field behind church hall opposite St Nicholas - empty most of the summer weekends,** could be used for all sorts of things. **Common.** The sports centre would be great for youth clubs **Increased use of the Village and Community Halls.** Gt. Wakering Common, something for the teenagers from getting bored and causing mischief. **Sports**

Nicholas - empty most of the summer weekends..."

"Sports centre. I'm sure a use could be found for this ..."

"We have such a wonderful mix of wildlife around Great Waking...It makes for a great place to both learn and relax."

"The Common is also essential both offer wildlife habitat and areas for leisure."

"Sports Centre grounds are central to the village... **Main reason we stay here**"

"We need open spaces to breathe, exercise, walk dogs, we need to give back to the land, not keep taking from Her. We can't live without plants, trees, flowers, bees, etc. and the land is not just important to us, it is home to all our wildlife"

"... retain a buffer between the new development planned for the WGW area and existing residential areas... **vital... the LWS is**

centre would be very popular if it included swimming pool and gym facilities. Public paths most alleyways between Havengore Bridge, Waking Stairs and Morins Point. The Rec. certainly seems underused Area around the old Brick Works Village Green and Old School Community Centre **Sports centre. I'm sure a use could be found for this that would really benefit the community.** The park play equipment needs expanding Sport ground, open sports centre with activities aimed at teenagers. I support a skate park.

Q: Are the open spaces, common/greenbelt and parks in Great Waking important to you?

We have such a wonderful mix of wildlife around Great Waking, more so than a lot of other places. It makes for a great place to both learn and relax. Dog walking & general walking for pleasure as well as cycling. Yes as I often look after my grandchildren and would like some better facilities to take them to particularly the under 5s. **Especially The Common as I am a dog owner** I have used the parks and playgrounds with my grandson. I have flown kites in the park too. **The Common is also essential both offer wildlife habitat and areas for leisure. Sports Centre grounds are central to the village, I walk there daily. Main reason we stay here** Mainly love being surrounded by countryside and the feeling of not being overlooked as we have farmland at the back of our house. Also nice for walks for family time and a nice environment when you have a child. **Common Stairs We need open spaces to breathe, exercise, walk dogs, we need to give back to the land, not keep taking from Her. We can't live without plants, trees, flowers, bees, etc. and the land is not just important to us, it is home to all our wildlife** All of them should be maintained Somewhat. Don't want to lose our village. **Too many houses and we become a town - no thanks.** I moved here, from Westcliff, because I grew up in a small place in Oxfordshire (Thame) and like green spaces around me. **Enjoy the countryside around Waking. Dog walker.** But do not wish for them to disappear in order to make way for new housing. **The Star lane Pits LWS (Local Wildlife Site) and adjoining land. It is important to retain a buffer between the new development planned for the WGW (West of Great Waking) area and existing residential areas. It is vital that the LWS is protected against the pressures that this development will bring.**

Q: How should green belt land, nature/endangered species and ancient pathways be preserved in Great Waking?

There should be land set aside for a community farm or food growing venture. This produce can then be sold locally to local people and money put back into that project. Self-sufficient. **The mix of agricultural and common land plus marsh areas around Great Waking attracts a lot of wildlife, some of it fragile and indeed rare. This area should be protected for future generations to enjoy and learn from.** I would like to see the Common grazed in the traditional way with sheep goats or

protected against the pressures that GW development will bring”

“The mix of agricultural and common land plus marsh areas around Great Wakering attracts a lot of wildlife, some of it fragile and indeed rare. This area should be protected for future generations to enjoy and learn from.”

“Do just enough to keep them open, but don't over manage”

“Rayleigh and Rochford have had a lot of money spent on their environment - I think it is now Wakering's turn”

“Some footpaths are poorly signed or the footpaths are overgrown and not marked.”

“The Lion Fields were barely passable last summer.

...would be nice not to have to hack through the bushes”

“With all people Why not put notices up for volunteers”

cows ***Do just enough to keep them open, but don't over manage them.*** Maintain existing areas, no need create special reserves but stop any reducing of areas e.g. sports hall. Monitor children's areas for incorrect usage and cleanliness. . ***If the parking area was to be official and tidied it might stop the fly tippers and encourage owners to park there,*** Dog walkers park at the old tip entrance and in the passing places on Common Road ***double yellows would stop the dangerous practice of parking in the passing places.*** I think we badly need more trees in Great Wakering - especially in the High Street. We are a countryside location and are a less green environment than many parts of Southend. I think Wakering is in need of a bit of attention as it is beginning to look a bit forgotten. ***Rayleigh and Rochford have had a lot of money spent on their environment - I think it is now Wakering's turn.*** Fortunately the MOD land provides a large area of land for wildlife but I am concerned about any plans to develop/sell off this land in the future. No no no building on green belt or changing the use of land for house building. Roads to Wakering are already too congested

Q: Are the footpaths on greenbelt/common and farmland etc. well maintained by the council?

In general they are. Over grown need to be maintained. ***Some footpaths are poorly signed or the footpaths are overgrown and not marked.*** This summer most of the footpaths across fields were impassable. They were finally cleared at the end of September. Only Neil Threadgold kept his footpaths nice and clear. ***Mostly, some ditch bridges need attention*** Routes are not as clearly defined as they might be. ***Some are, but not all. Sign posts aren't always obvious.*** N.B. This questionnaire is insufficiently specific as to which 'council' this refers to. Parish is responsible for the Common, Essex County Council has responsibility for maintaining footpaths. ***The Lion Fields were barely passable last summer. There used to be a double track across the field and now there is barely one. When there are no busses to get to the station in the morning and you have to walk it would be nice not to have to hack through the bushes.***

Q: Do you think the Parish Council should oversee and act with voluntary services to encourage young people to protect the environment in Great Wakering?

With all people Why not put notices up for volunteers Church groups, local school and children's clubs could all contribute to help understand nature, Maybe organise treasure hunts, nature trials etc. to get the younger people interested & engaged in our environment. ***This is something close to my heart. If the youth of our village are taught about the countryside they will grow up respecting and taking care of it.***

Q: Were you aware that the library and Parish Council offices have free footpath maps and information on

interesting walks available?

“This is something close to my heart. If the youth of our village are taught about the countryside they will grow up respecting and taking care of it”



“More seating in area where the play equipment is - not enough for mums to sit and talk”

“... and sea wall!”

“Most people clean up after their dogs, but a minority don't.”

“...only one by the Duck Pond and this does get full”

“...counted 35 cans/bottles between the Church and top 12 cottages”

Only by word of mouth Seen a circular about around the village walk. Thanks for telling me

Q: Is there sufficient seating in parks, common land and open spaces?

On the Common *Maybe not, it is no problem for my family but would think older or more immobile people would welcome seating on the Common*, and perhaps along some of the lanes. *High Street and Recreation ground*. There is nothing over or near the Common and Duck Pond. *More seating in area where the play equipment is - not enough for mums to sit and talk* As someone with mobility issues I would like to see more seats but not too many More seats please on the recreation ground - at the back near the ditch. *The Common and sea wall!* But if there are more seating areas there will be more litter so we will need more bins!!

Q: Are there problems with dog fouling and/or litter in the village, parks and green belt land?

Public footways between Conway and High Street, Mainly dog fouling in the High Street, *Dogs frequently mess outside my side fence and through the two alleys to the High St. Also the Common is like a dog's toilet*, Anywhere where owners are irresponsible, *disgusting filth on most pathways, has ANYBODY ever been fined?* There are always places where dog waste isn't picked up, on the pavements and definitely in the park. *Always a problem by the fishing lakes and along the High Street towards the park. Most people clean up after their dogs, but a minority don't.* I have seen people from outside the village let their dogs foul footpaths and not clean it up. Not a problem on the Common, *Litter* Recreation Ground and the Common. Little Wakering Hall Lane. Star Lane Fishing lakes. I know there are bins around the village, it is a shame that the bins are not always used. *Alexandra Road*, The High Street, although cleaning has improved, also Great Wakering recreation ground particularly football pitch areas. *I am a responsible dog owner and always clear up but there is a problem with fouling around the church and Common Road, we could probably do with another bin on the Common as there is only one by the Duck Pond and this does get full*, New Road seems especially bad at the moment for both litter and dog fouling. *In the winter when the nights are dark in particular* Litter from youngsters hanging out in evenings Not enough bins on the footpaths in the village, Not usually but sometimes. New Road by the fields seems to be a good dumping ground for cans and food wrappings---*counted 35 cans/bottles between the Church and top 12 cottages on one day a few weeks ago*, Dog fouling is almost everywhere nowadays, e.g. along the High Street. *Entrance to Twyford Avenue and between there and the where the lollypop lady stands. Also in park in Glebe Close. Shoebury Road from Seaview Drive up to the High Street. In the High Street itself.*

“Dog poo bins are pretty thin on the ground”

“The Sea wall and Common see a large percentage of dog owners who don't scoop”

“...never swept and rubbish blows down into Pond.”

“ Fly tipping a problem... expected to travel to Rayleigh tip - 22mile round trip”

“... measures to be taken have to be proportionate and take into account the state of the economy.”

“Reopen Sports Centre and people would not have to drive out of village”

“... some smaller (allotments)”

“.. numerous items dumped ... near Landwick Cottages”
“Constant fly tipping at the old tip near entrance to boat yard”

Dog poo bins are pretty thin on the ground, Some people seem to drop litter even when they are near a bin - not sure how they can be re-educated to be tidy ***The Sea wall and Common see a large percentage of dog owners who don't scoop***
Sports ground and general dumping of litter outside the Co-op and pubs On the whole litter in and around the village is not too bad. However the strip of trees between the old brick fields site and farmland from Star Lane to the fishing ponds is disgusting! Some of the streets, Litter in Recreational Ground a particular problem especially during football season! ***Litter and dirty gutters on the road outside the Church leading to the Common, never swept and rubbish blows down into Pond.***
High street has dirty gutters and dog fouling. ***Oliver's Crescent and the High Street***, Fairfield, Definitely with litter water bottles and cans in the park (rec) always after football matches and from the kids that sit in the (drug den) by the swings! Broken glass!!! Most people clear up after their dogs myself included, but there are some that don't bother and give the rest of us a bad name!! Don't know what more you can do - it is all down to irresponsible owners. Litter on Common, especially in and around vagrant's camp and around pathways. Community officials and police should patrol and enforce regulations more. ***Fly tipping a problem. Would be improved if residents weren't expected to travel to Rayleigh tip - 22mile round trip.***
It would be good to have more bins for dog fouling in the village. They are needed on the Common, more along the High Street, one in Star Lane near the industrial site and one further up the road, Little Wakering Hall Road.

Q: Are you concerned about cutting your carbon footprint?

Somewhat, I am concerned but measures to be taken have to be proportionate and take into account the state of the economy. So very pleased with District Council for their recycle waste program, ***Reopen Sports Centre and people would not have to drive out of village***, Somewhat It would be good to do so, but it's difficult to know how best to do this. Have done so But I am concerned with cutting what my carbon footprint costs me, Grant for foam cavity insulation which will also help with possible flooding to homes

Q: Would you be interested in having an allotment plot?

Make some smaller, Have one already, We have had an allotment for 4 years, This is only due to time available and hard work needed. I fully support allotment areas and they should be firmly kept available. Already have one, Maybe one day, Provision of an allotment is an excellent suggestion.

Q: Are you aware of fly-tipping problems?

Star Lane entrances to old brickworks. ***Star Lane near old brickwork site*** Mainly as you head along Common Road towards Potton Island, ***Have seen numerous items dumped on the dirt***

"It will be of benefit to the village if the previous refuse tip were to be reinstated"

"The ditch is being filled up with awful rubbish/adj car park area"

"It is like living in the "old days" before smokeless fuel it makes the washing smell!"

"Many would benefit from details ... maintenance i.e. the importance of regular chimney cleaning"

"*Burning unseasoned timber and poor quality coal is the underlying problem*"



track road near Landwick Cottages (the entrance to Oxen Farm), Common Road, Barrow Hall Road, Common occurrence near and on the Common, **Along Poynters Lane**. End of New Rd By the Pond. **North street as you go on to the fields**, See it around Wakering on occasion (items been left) **Constant fly tipping at the old tip near entrance to boat yard** Common Road and the back roads from Little Wakering Southend to Rochford, Sometimes down Little Wakering Hall Lane, **Barrow Hall Road and around Barling**. Although not recently; the New Road approach road to the Common is often used as a dumping ground **The unmade end of St Johns Road**. Have not seen so much this year but have regularly reported large amounts dumped in lane to Oxenham farm **It will be of benefit to the village if the previous refuse tip were to be reinstated**. It is ridiculous to have to drive to Rayleigh, Homeless man making a mess on the Common (Poynters Lane, Barrow Hall Road) Sometimes fly tipping happens at Little Wakering Hall Lane, Star Lane: by the gate into the old brickworks & the ditch between the footpath & farmers field. **The lack of a community rubbish tip (as previously existed) is little short of scandalous**, RECREATION GROUND, (Common Road. Opposite the block of houses. **The ditch is being filled up with awful rubbish/adj car park area**. Also FP13 end Seaview Drive by signpost - Pink Bags!!, Road between Shopland and Wakering has had a few problems I have seen.

Q: Do you feel there is a problem with coal fires and wood burners in the village?

It is like living in the "old days" before smokeless fuel it makes the washing smell! Both my neighbours have these and they have become increasingly popular in my road, another problem you have missed if the fact that they store large amounts of wood in their gardens, and this is not only unsightly but a concern to me, **Many would benefit from details regarding chimney & wood burner/coal fire maintenance i.e. the importance of regular chimney cleaning**. No but I wish people at my end of the High Street would stop burning rubbish in their gardens. Put it in the bin like everyone else. **We have our chimney sweep every year unlike the anchor public house as black smoke bellows out** The smoke hangs around rather than drifts off for some reason, **We can no longer enjoy fresh air through our open windows for several months of the year and our external window sills now have a black sooty deposit on them since a neighbour has installed a wood burning stove**. Some domestic and leisure premises or either not using smokeless fuel or are not maintaining their chimneys. **Personally I love the smell of coal and wood fires in the winter and in the scheme of things, it's pretty minor in carbon terms compared to all the cars etc. in the area. Burning unseasoned timber and poor quality coal is the underlying problem. It's not just wood burners but bonfires too that are causing the issue**. You can smell some houses are burning treated wood. Enforcement required.