



## Annual Maintenance Programme

### Sullivan Place School Road Verge

*Agreed 11 March 2025*

In January 2021 Waldringfield Parish Council (WPC) declared a Climate & Ecological Emergency. In declaring this emergency the Parish Council made a commitment to work towards the reduction of our community's carbon footprint, and to encourage actions that support biodiversity and the natural environment.

Similar declarations and commitments have been made by many Parish & Town Councils across the country as well as our local District and County Councils. As part of this, East Suffolk has adopted a much more conservation approach to grass cutting particularly in those areas where longer grass is beneficial to wildlife.

The WPC had developed management plans in consultation with the public in place where not cutting areas of grass is beneficial. This policy forms one of those management plans. This will be reviewed annually.

The following is the current management plan in respect of the Sullivan Place verges, which will be communicated to ESS (East Suffolk Services) to incorporate into their mowing schedule for the year coming. Identified below are the verge associated with this plan.



#### North Verge (Purple circle)

Mid-Nov-March – no cuts - This is the standard operating procedure for East Suffolk Services (ESS).

March to May – Central area to be allowed to grow, with a broad boundary mowed around this to ensure an adequate visibility play.

June – November – This verge forms part of ESS regular maintenance programme, and will be mowed at their regular intervals.

#### South Verge (Green Circle)

Mid-Nov-March – no cuts - This is the standard operating procedure for ESS.

March – September

- Broad band of mown grass around the boundaries of the verge – undertaken by ESS.
- March – July - Central areas left to grow longer, allowing the wildflowers to flourish.
- July – Central area – maintained and tallest plants reduce by hand by about 50% by volunteers;

- August/September depending on growth in the year – Central area – interim cut by hand cut if deemed necessary after inspection, but retaining at least 20cms to re-grow.
- End of September - ESS to maintain short grass across the verges for remainder of season.

The WPC will monitor the growth in the un-cut central area monthly during this period (March to September) as growth cycles vary due to conditions, and work with volunteers should reduction be deemed necessary due to growing conditions.

*To be reviewed annually prior to the cutting season – Feb/March*

