

## Station Adopters Report for Parish Council meetings – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

...On 3rd March, Vanessa Dawne and I attended an interesting zoom talk organised by Greater Anglia, with Dr Luke Dixon [Bee friendly trust] who gave a power point presentation on how to encourage bees and wildlife to our station gardens. Dawne and Vanessa have volunteered to be our group's wildlife champions and we will be looking at how to further develop the wildlife area behind the ticket machine next to the platform. Nick Delaine has made us a very nice sign which is now in situ and indicates it is Wildlife Area.

... We have continues with tasks at the garden including planting,, dead heading, weeding and watering whilst managing physical distancing. On 25th Feb, Vanessa and I met with Emma Black from Dedham Vale to consider where to site the wooden sign directing passengers disembarking to the wildlife walk starting at the Common. We will need to have a Cat Scan of the edge of the path to check it is safe to insert two wooden posts to carry the sign. Anglia Rail will pay the cost. The scan is to be Carrie out on 22nd March. Dedham Vale will then arrange to fix the posts.

We also discovered that Amazon had attempted to fix a collection point in the corner of the car park beside the neighbour's Victorian wall. After laying a concrete base, she complained about her wall which resulted in Amazon terminating their plans. It was rather alarming to find out that neither had our station adopters group or the parish council been informed and asked if it was needed. I can only conclude that Network Rail gave the agreement as they own the car park but it shows poor communication within the Rail organization which I have pointed out! There has been a large skip present in the car park which I have been told by Alan Neville is to do with drainage works being carried out by Network Rail.

... The ideas for a mural on the wall of the car park is still making very slow progress due to lockdown. We have decided to get the wall rendered and painted in a heritage green colour before any mural is decided. Anglia Rail have given their agreement to this and may be able to give some assistance financially. It would be good to use local builders and and arrange a community approach to do the work...any ideas from the PC will be gratefully received!

.... Whilst it is not possible to arrange meetings with other station adopter groups and the staff from Greater Anglia, online zoom meetings have taken place and it is helpful to share ideas with each other. Station adopters plan to host the next coffee morning in the barn on the common when we get the go ahead.

When we are next allowed to meet I am hoping to get some ideas from the group about how we can further improve the appearance of the station such as replacing some of the wire fence and possibly resiting the map that is precariously hanging on the fence near the waiting room. In view of the fact that it is a heritage station, I hope we can push for some improvements in the future!

Mary Turner  
8th March 2021