



HOUSES OR WILDLIFE?

Since 1930, 97% of the wildflower meadows in the UK have been lost. That equates to 7.5 million acres (or 12.5% of the total land mass of the UK)! This has been absolutely devastating for wildlife and almost daily we are being informed about species that we either have lost or will lose soon if we don't do something about it. Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are high on the list and this is bad news for us because we need their services to live.



Why am I writing about this in the Welton **NEWS**? Well, since the completion of the Hawks Road and Cowpasture Way developments to the north of the village an area of ground has been left to its own devices. Nature has done its work and this area has now become a wildflower meadow that is teeming with wildlife.

The variety of wildflowers and trees there are attracting a wide range of wildlife. Just walking through and taking a few photos (well, quite a lot of photos really because that's what I do!) I saw eight different butterflies including speckled wood, gatekeeper, small copper, green veined white, large white and small white, three different types of bee including bumble and honey and two types of hoverfly. A wander through first thing in the morning would find a lot more.



Everyone from the government down is exhorting us to do our bit and leave part of our gardens, however small, wild. Unfortunately, where housing developments are concerned there are suddenly deaf ears and wildlife doesn't exist. This wonderful haven for wildlife is about to be destroyed by yet another housing development in Welton. This time, Lindum Homes is planning to dig up/destroy this area to provide a further 37 market homes and, in partnership with Acis, 12 affordable homes.





People need homes but our wildlife need homes as well. It seems that we have forgotten that we are part of nature, not separate from it, and we need to give other living things room to survive as well. We should not be continually destroying their habitats. In just a few short years look

done in the area in question. We should be rejoicing, instead we are going to be standing by and watching it being destroyed.



These are my thoughts but why not write to the Welton NEWS with your thoughts. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy my photos to remind you of what we once had.

Jim Blainey

