

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the application of „Chalky Meadow „ to become an asset of community value. I understand that if it is successful in the application process, it only gives the community the option of bidding for the site should it be sold at a future date. There is of course no guarantee that the bid would be successful. Over the last 25 years I have seen it gradually transform from agricultural land to its present status. In actual fact it is home to one of the largest colonies of Common Lizards in the county (Steve Latford Essex Reptile and Amphibian club August 2016). Having recently attended a meeting in Thaxted where the guests were given a talk about the recent Wild Thaxted B1oblitz, and many other people were not surprised at the number of species identified on the site. This site has been used by many residents over the last 25 years for dog walking and general recreation, it was quite apparent that there was a diverse habitat being established, with siting's of a wide range of wildlife, and areas of wildflowers increasing. It is my view that this site and its diverse habitat must be protected for future generations of residents and visitors alike.

Community involvement in the Bioblitz was an important aspect as well .It raised public awareness to the possibility that this site may be lost under a future development of houses. There was a good degree of support from local children of all ages, Essex Wildlife Trust, Independent experts and staff from Wilderness Foundation UK.

It is, as you can see a great opportunity to save a wonderful wildlife area for the community to enjoy for years to come, and equally, an important site for wildlife to flourish.

Cllr John Freeman UDC.