

## PUBLIC OPEN SPACE VALE VIEW HIGHAM .

Since the building of the David Wilson Homes the Parish Council have continually lobbied David Wilson Homes as to their plans for the land at the back of the houses. We were always hoping that it would be left as an open space for the benefit of the residents.

Imagine our delight when John Reddington their CEO decided they were prepared to gift the land to the community. We as a Parish Council felt that this was too good an opportunity to be missed. At a Parish meeting in September 2017 we agreed to look into taking it on. It means we have to manage a small amount of verges around the new development , the balancing pool and the meadow at the north side of the development.

We have had a ROSPA report from DWHS concerning the Balancing pool, a maintenance plan and dead trees have been replaced and a grille put on one of the drainage outlets as recommended in the ROSPA report. We are now looking into a Risk assessment report which will look at any potential problems with trees and hedges and any other problems that the public should be made aware of. We are in the process of ensuring through a solicitor that land and footpath issues are addressed and everything is legal and above board.

When the land belongs to the Parish we will look into providing a guide to the public with regard to safety issues and we would also hope that we can get together a Community Working Party to oversee the care of the area ie. tree planting and the encouragement of wildlife. It will be an exiting new asset for the village and will mean that this land is protected in perpetuity for the benefit of the community of Higham on the Hill.

If you have any comments that you would like to make concerning this project please address them to myself or our Parish Clerk.

Councillor Ann Jenkins