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**Brief Report for Great Wilbraham Parish Council Annual Meeting May 2022**

During the past twelve months WEG has been active on quite a number of fronts. Rather than producing a long list of our activities we mention here just three:-

**1. Tree planting.** We have helped the Parish Council to comply with the terms of its SCDC Zero Carbon Grant by sourcing and planting around the village six young but substantial oak trees; we have also planted ten more young trees along the verge of the road from Great to Little Wilbraham

**2. Cycle Paths**. We have worked with the Parish Councils of Great and Little Wilbraham to lobby for the villages to be connected to the “Greenway” network of cycle paths reaching out from Cambridge. We have responded to the County Council’s and Greater Cambridge Partnership’s several rounds of Consultation and organised a survey of local residents’ view on cycling, to provide evidence of need.

**3. Climate Change.** We have held the first two of a series of Open Evenings to inform residents of the challenges the World is facing and to encourage discussion about what we can do locally. One evening was an introduction to aspects of the topic by some of our members; the second was a fascinating but alarming presentation by an expert from British Antarctic Survey.

Looking ahead, our interests currently include:-

**1. Our local farmers**. They are already sympathetic to environmental improvements. We will continue our dialogue with them about this and increasing public access.

**2. Cycle Paths.** The lack of any safe cycle paths is important and we will continue to lobby for something to be done.

**3. Climate Change**. our next free Open Evening is on ***Monday June 20th***, entitled ***“Your Household Energy: save energy, save money and help save the planet.”*** Please come along to the Hall for 7.30pm.

**4. The Churchyard**. We intend to help the Church improve biodiversity in the churchyard, an important public space in the heart of the village

**5. Proposed Solar Farm** at Six Mile Bottom. We strongly support the principle of increasing Solar Energy production - this proposed site *may* be a good one. We have established a dialogue with its promoters at and after the recent Public Exhibition and we will be looking hard at the implications for our villages if a planning application is made (as seems likely) – including traffic during construction, increasing local biodiversity and ongoing possible financial support for environmental improvements in our villages

**6. Biodiversity**. We will be caring for the existing tree plantings and looking for further opportunities to improve the natural environment and to cope with the effects of Climate Change.

**7. Membership**. With more members we can achieve more for all three of our villages. If you are not already on our mailing list – or if you have an idea you would like us to pursue, please contact us at wilbrahamseg@gmail.com [or telephone us on 01223 882371 (Nick Toovey)

**8. Parish Council.** We gratefully acknowledge the financial support awarded to us by the Parish Council; and we will be asking the new Council, in all its actions, to take more account of Climate Change and its effect upon our environment.