

## **Champions' Report: Open Spaces and River Colne**

The Clerk has sent all Councillors the current Open Spaces Action Plan. We would be grateful if Councillors could consider any items that they would like to add, amend or delete and let us know so that we can submit suggested alterations to BDC which reflect the views of the Council as a whole.

The River Colne and riverbank along The Causeway are among the most iconic features of the town. We have welcomed the Environment Agency's plans to carry out work to improve the appearance of the river, although we expect that the work will not be as extensive as we would wish.

However, the neglected appearance of the riverbank along The Causeway is still a cause for concern. Halstead in Bloom will be removing the VE Day display at the end of October and the grass has been cut once but there needs to be a regular grass cutting and maintenance plan. The River Improvement Group has expressed interest in looking after the area but would need the permission of the owner to do so.

The Clerk has written to the owner, John de Bruyne, about these matters but so far has not received a reply. We will continue to try to arrange a meeting with him to discuss how the area can be improved and maintained.

We are still awaiting an update from Nicola Murphy at BDC on the proposed improvements to the River Walk to the west of the town centre.

Cllr Janet Atkinson and Cllr Malcolm Fincken