

MISTLEY PARISH COUNCIL – STATEMENT TO ENSURE THE COUNCIL MEETS ITS DUTIES IN RELATION TO BIODIVERSITY AND CRIME AND DISORDER

Community Policing and Safety

Mistley has a low crime rate. The local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) provides a written report to every Parish Council Meeting and gives details of crime figures for Mistley and the surrounding area. The Parish Council is aware of its duty to consider crime and disorder implications when exercising its various functions and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the Village in accordance with The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 17). A representative from the Parish Council regularly meets with Essex Constabulary and the “Coffee with Cops” initiative which works really well in the community. The Parish Council installed a barrier gate at the entrance of the play area and sports grounds near to the Village Hall following anti-social behaviour involving vehicles, litter and intimidating behaviour. The Council pays its part-time Warden to open the gate each morning at 8am and close the gate at 6pm in the evening. Official users of the Football and Rugby Clubs and the Village Hall hirers are able to access the barrier gates outside of these times when using respective facilities.

Mistley Parish Council is committed to:

Listening to local residents’ and reporting their concerns to the PCSO. It is important that residents form part of this partnership and report urgent crimes and less urgent crimes via the relevant contact numbers, so that these can be logged and dealt with accordingly by the Police

The Parish Council will continue to work in partnership with the Police to address the issues which have been identified.

The Parish Council will continue to work in partnership with Essex Constabulary and the PCSO, also via the Local “Coffee with Cops” Meetings to endeavour to assist with delivering a service which is safe, visible, accessible and responsive to what local people in Mistley need.

Furze Hill Wood

The Parish Council owns woods known as Furze Hill Wood which borders the recreation grounds and forms part of a designated Local Wildlife Site and lies within an extension of the Conservation Area near to Shrubland Road, off of Harwich Road, Mistley, Essex. This area is used regularly and enjoyed by residents and visitors. Though a semi-natural woodland, it contains a large number of Veteran and Ancient Trees, mostly Oaks, including the famous “Old Knobbly”. The overall vision for the site is to maintain and protect a variety of accessible green spaces for the overall enjoyment of locals and visitors, whilst maintaining a richer diversity of flora and fauna. The Wood being in the Conservation Area has many Trees which have TPO’s or TCA’s (Tree Preservation Orders or Tree Conservation Area).

Biodiversity

The Parish Council’s Cemetery and Playing Fields have a number of Trees which require annual inspection and maintenance. Any work which is identified is then undertaken by a qualified Tree Specialist. The Cemetery (and Closed Churchyard) are maintained in a sympathetic manner to encourage wildlife and nesting birds.

Veteran Trees

These Trees at Furze Hill Wood are several hundred years old and show features of being very old. They are important for wildlife as they usually have cavities for nesting birds and

deadwood for beetles which are often rare species. Around Mistley, most veteran trees will be Oaks.

Footpath Warden

The Parish Council has a Volunteer Footpath Warden who reports regularly to the Parish Council. He liaises with the Parish Council about landowners, public footpath signage, access and the quality of public footpaths and rights of way. The Parish Council with the Footpath Warden continues to promote and encourage people to participate in organised walks also in partnership with Essex County Council Public Rights of Way.

Tree Warden

The Parish Council has a Volunteer Tree Warden, who is the local Tree Champion and the “eyes and ears” of the Community on Tree matters and can also be the catalyst for getting projects started and supported in conjunction the Parish Council. The Parish Council is a member of The Tree Charter Group which helps to protect our environment and open spaces. The Tree Warden Scheme was set up by the national charity the Tree Council in 1990. Part of the role of the Tree Warden is to plant, protect and promote local trees, including hedges.

Planning Applications

In its capacity as statutory consultee to the local planning authority, the Parish Council scrutinizes and comments on applications to ensure that the environment is not in any way harmed by the proposal itself or the work required in delivering. The Parish Council encourages wildlife planting areas within any new development.

Adopted 20/05/2019. Last Reviewed 18/05/2026. Next Review Date May 2027.