



**Community Assets & Opens Spaces Committee
Wednesday 9 September 2026**

Agenda Item 14 – Wildflower Meadow and Great Crested Newt Information Leaflets

Purpose of the Report

Members are required:

- To **NOTE** the report and the information to be shared to residents by FirstPort.

Background

Emma Freemantle, the council's Clerk, and Amanda Woodhead, the Projects and Events Officer, visited FirstPort's new Head of Grounds, Max Leslie, on 30 June. Max is employed by First Port to manage facilities in Wichelstowe. He is based at two shipping container style offices on Russet Close, next to what will be the new Wichelstowe allotment site.

There is a large car park at this site with a defibrillator and bleed kit available 24/7. It is anticipated that more staff will be recruited to the grounds team as the buildout at Wichelstowe progresses.

Max is keen to meet with parish council's grounds team in early September, once the grass cutting priorities have reduced, to discuss joint working opportunities, which will be mutually beneficial. There are also some areas where ownership is unclear.

Wildflower Meadows and Great Crested Newts

Max gave an overview of the many areas around Wichelstowe which will be cut only minimally or are designated Great Crested Newt habitats. Members will see the attached residents leaflets that he has created to give people some more information on the habitats around the area, along with opportunities for wildflower meadows.

A Wichelstowe Explorer day took place on 25 August, which gave residents the opportunity to learn more about the ecology within Wichelstowe, including the protected newt habitats.

Max also attended the recent Wroughton and Wichelstowe charity litter pick on Thursday 13 August, with First Port adding another £5 per bag collected to the sponsorship of the event, which raised nearly £600 for Prospect.

Pictures of the leaflets can be seen at **Appendix A**.

Report Author: Amanda Woodhead, Projects and Events Officer