



Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve

Report to Colne Parish Meeting Wednesday 13th May 2026

We have successfully established the charity Gib Hill Guardians to manage the Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve and we have a website: <https://www.gibhill.org/> There is a copy of the constitution on the website.

The Management Committee have agreed to prioritise development of the Nature Reserve in the following ways:

1. Vehicle access works at field boundaries/drainage channels. These will follow existing footpaths as much as possible and enable vehicles to access the fields for mowing and other maintenance. Three such access points were installed in 2025 costing £5172 total. At least two more are planned.
2. To promote native plant species, it's necessary to reduce the fertility of the soil in the fields. This is done by mowing the grass and removing the cuttings. We have decided to have the fields mown and move the cuttings to the edges of the fields as the most economical option. In 2025 this was estimated to cost £112 per Hectare.
3. Footpath improvements. We are looking to improve the official footpaths. Additionally, Fisher More School have agreed to improvements to the existing path into the Reserve across their land at Briercliffe Ave Lane. Also, an access route from the end of Marsden Hall Road would be desirable.
4. Redundant fencing. Old stock fencing is being removed by volunteers.
5. Hedging. Volunteers have planted more hedging.
6. Litter picking is being carried out by volunteers and local school children.
7. Information Boards. A large information board will cost about £1000. Smaller signs have been approved for each entrance:

