

SAVING LAND FROM DEVELOPERS (#3)

Crowhill Wild Space



We had been pressing TMBC for many years to release this land as a public amenity.

It is a small wild hill, home until the 60's of a Royal Observer Corps post. It had always been too steep and inaccessible to build on, but as land prices rise and civil engineering attains the impossible, the land was becoming increasingly vulnerable to developers.

During one of its cash strapped phases, TMBC decided to give in, and the land was sold to the Parish Council at a peppercorn cost.

It is very sandy soil, extensively overgrown with gorse and broom, but the central area of tussocky grass providing wildlife habitat, in particular slow worms, grass snakes and solitary miner bees.

The Parish Council have their own wildlife expert, Cllr Emma Bartlett, who is working with the Kent Wildlife Trust to set up proper management of these and the other wild areas, and during the past summer has been running "wildlife safaris" with children from local Primary Schools.