

## Green Action Plan July 2023

The Parish Council should do its part to improve the natural environment where it can. As the Parish Council does not own any land it cannot take any actions directly apart from on the village green and the closed areas of the Churchyard which the parish council manage.

### 1. Management of roadside verges for wildflowers

The Parish Council has been given permission by DCC to remove the brambles and treelets from the verge and see if the wildflowers which were historically there regrow. If the parish wishes to take responsibility for the verge and do more work in 2024 then:

- Training would need to be undertaken by every member of the council who wishes to help.
- Transfer of responsibility would need to be achieved.
- If the land is transferred the council needs to take into consideration the cost of maintaining the verge.

### 2. Planting more trees

Consider planting more trees-

- Location needs to be considered.
- Time of year for planting as spring planting causes watering issues
- Type and size of planting to be discussed as small whips not necessarily surviving.
- Set up a sponsor a tree program.
- Offer a voucher scheme to part buy trees with residents that they can plant on their land – you save all the maintenance and planting costs but the whole community still benefits from increased biodiversity and canopy cover.

### 3. Further enhance the opportunities in the closed churchyard by adding bird boxes and feeders.

The present grass cutting regime in the close churchyard has been responsible for the most fantastic display of wildflowers in the spring. Future management of the area should ensure that the grass cutting regime continues to maintain and enhance the presence of the wildflowers.

### 4. Plant more bulbs on the Green

The Green already has daffodils planted in it, but there is room for more to be plant. All bulbs planted should be native UK species.

- Change your planting schemes to pollinator friendly varieties, no doubles or hybrids.
- Encourage residents to use native or pollinator friendly plants.

### 5. 'Bees' Needs Week'

The council can promote and follow the steps we can all take to protect pollinators in Bees Needs Week, an annual event in July raising awareness

1. Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees.
2. Let your garden grow wild.
3. Cut your grass less often.
4. Don't disturb insect nests and hibernation spots.
5. Think carefully about whether to use pesticides.

We'll also be encouraging as many people as possible to spend 10 minutes in the sun to count insects for the UK's Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS)

6. Become a Hedgehog Friendly parish.

- Share the link to Hedgehog Highways online [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org).
- Put key information on the local council website.
- Put up a notice on the website about their decline and action that can be taken on your fence line.
- Part-buy hedgehog homes with residents to install on their properties e.g., the parish council buy several and sell at reduced rate to residents.
- Install hedgehog homes on parish council managed land.
- Ensure all planning applications receive a comment about hedgehog access needed for all boundary fencing. Produce a standard statement that the whole community can use, the more comments the better

7. Log Piles

- Make Stag Horn Beetle pyramids.
- Compost green waste generated by mowing the village green discreetly on the public open space.
- Encourage residents to install them on their land.