Services and Facilities Committee Meeting

23 May 2024

Appendix SF015

**Biodiversity Action Plan – 15 May 2024**

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| Site/Objective | Considerations | Outcomes | Action | Additional Information |
| 1. Whole of Area | Raise local awareness of biodiversity | Gain support for action | * To publicise all agreed actions on facebook and website * To install appropriate signage | Encourage residents to support the initiatives and get involved. |
| 1. Protect/Support Biodiversity | Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity | Connect & diversity habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species. | * Wildflowers to be grown on public areas | Leaving areas on public areas un-mowed could encourage residents to leave wild areas in their gardens to support biodiversity |
| 1. Cemetery Maintenance | Consider additional planting  Ensure wildlife and diversity is supported, whilst maintaining the site in a way that enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance  Leave areas of leaf litter/vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates | Increase diversity of habitats and food sources  Encourage insects particularly butterflies and bees  Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. | * To install bat boxes and bird boxes * To create a compost area for wildlife * To leave an area un-mowed | The cemetery lends itself to having a compost area by the bunkers and having bat boxes in the large surrounding trees.  The area to be left un-mowed would be by bunkers due to being in a secluded area of the cemetery |
| 1. Recreational Grounds (including parks) | Sympathetically maintain hedging where appropriate.  Leave some areas unmown and plant wild flowers.  Only use environmentally friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions. | Food sources and cover  Encourage insects  Sustain and enhance natural habitats. | * To install bird boxes on a selection of recreation areas. * To leave sections of recreation areas un-mowed and scatter wild flowers. * Croft Way * Town Park * Grotto Road * Forest Road * To install suitable signage advising that the areas are being left un-mown to provide habit for wildlife. | Four recreation areas have been identified to trial this initiative, which is a third of the areas maintained by the Town Council.  A pathway would be provided through the areas, with the exception of the Town Park.  The soil will be tested for acidity prior to purchasing seeds/plugs |
| Common/other open spaces | Encourage residents to remove litter and dog waste  Work with County Council on verge management, favouring biodiversity and noting areas requiring cutting for highway safety.  Encourage residents involvement in adoption of areas to look after, making it clear what is expected (peat free compost/no chemicals etc) | Sustaining, protecting and enhancing natural habitats. |  |  |
| The Build Landscape | Ensure biodiversity and net gain is considered against planning applications  Encourage biodiversity approaches – eg hedgehogs/small animal highways with permeable boundaries | Protecting and enhancing habitats  Extending habitats |  |  |
| Increasing Community Awareness of biodiversity | Consult about what residents would like to be done to consider biodiversity  Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife.  Discourage floodlighting | Engagement/ownership of biodiversity  Promote biodiversity/extend habitats  Protect nocturnal animals |  |  |
| Support Community Projects | Support hedge/tree planning in appropriate areas  Works in partnership with schools and community groups  to develop environmental awareness  Encourage voluntary groups involvement in areas of specific interest/general upkeep | Extending habitats  Promoting biodiversity/awareness and involvement |  |  |