

Wilding Verges

The local council invite us to become involved in a project to help promote wildlife. Are you and your neighbours interested in making your road verges more accessible and friendly to wildlife and pollinators? If yes, then the Local Highways Operations (West Sussex County Council) is keen to support you to make this possible. What next?

- Firstly, check with the County Council that they own the verges. Note, the verges must be on a road of 30mph or less for safety reasons.
- Secondly, discuss with your community about why the verges might change, highlighting the benefits. The Council provides downloadable resources to support informing and promoting this activity within a community.
- Thirdly, agree with your community which wilding option you want to go with:
 - o Option 1- Collect grass cuttings on the verge once or twice a year.
 - o Option 2- Collect the grass cuttings as above and plant native wildflower plug plants or seeds that can be sewn alongside grass.
- Fourth, a simple agreement is signed.
- Fifth, your verge management changes will be relayed to our grass contractors to ensure their cutting regime is adapted.

As the County Council cannot work with all groups at once, therefore any requests are filed and progressed as soon as possible. For further information please contact Jess Macey, Stakeholder and Partnerships Officer, Local Highways Operations, Highways, Transport and Planning West Sussex County Council Email: jessica.macey@westsussex.gov.uk | Web:

WSSC will be hosting 'Who Loves a Pollinator? 2021', 18th February at 7pm. This will be an extended webinar event including live music from Richard Durrant and a Q&A session with our expert panel. Dave Goulson will also be speaking to us about the importance of pollinators and what we can all do to help, while WSSC's Sustainability and Highways teams will be mentioning some of the things the county is doing to become more pollinator friendly. Here's the link to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/who-loves-a-pollinator-2021-tickets-133703957135>

