

Full Council: 26 September 2019

Motion: Wildlife Friendly Public Spaces

Councillor S. McKenna will move and Councillor J. Essex will second the following Motion:

Surrey County Council passed a motion on July 9th to improve the management of verges for the benefit of wildlife. The motion required the production of a Pollinator Action Plan as well as a range of other measures such as the ending of the use of glyphosate on verges and less frequent cutting to allow seeding to occur.

Other Councils are taking action on this, recognising the impact of toxins on wildlife. In Lewes all verges are now only cut twice yearly to be wildlife friendly and councils are being advised to apply guidance from the Plantlife Good Verge Management Guide.

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/good-verge-guide-different-approach-managing-our-waysides-and-verges>

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council are contracted to deliver some of these services for Surrey County Council and we believe this Council should also adopt and implement guidance and measures that will improve habitat for wildlife and increase benefits for people using our public spaces.

This motion proposes that the Borough Council of Reigate and Banstead undertake, within one year, to:

- Produce and implement a Pollinator Action Plan that embraces current guidance and management practice including reduction in the cutting frequency of verges, public parks and other open spaces, in order to be more wildlife friendly; and
- Ensure all contracts and practices are amended to include the banning of the application of glyphosate, (which is toxic to insect and other animal life) and substitute with non-toxic alternatives or other measures, on verges, in public parks and other open spaces.