

## **BIODIVERSITY PILOT**

### **Maes Hyfryd (Lower) Verge Map Ref 6e (adjacent to Properties Nos 34-39)**

Site visits carried out on bi-weekly or weekly basis to date

This report based on last site Visits on 6 & 8 May 2021 (see photographs).

I have split the detail into 3 areas which are separated on the ground by paths to the road, but the 3 are one area for contract purposes (PCC Contract Ref 6e).

#### **Plant Counts**

##### **Area 1 Verge Part Nearest the School - Plants/Flowers in bloom**

Dandelion - Numerous

**Ladies Smock - 1 only**

Common Daisy - Numerous

Meadow/Creeping Buttercup - a few plants Not yet in flower

##### **Area 2 Mid Part of Verge - Plants/Flowers in bloom**

Dandelion - Numerous

**Ladies Smock - 5**

Common Daisy - Numerous

Meadow/Creeping Buttercup - a few plants Not yet in flower but more than area 1

##### **Area 3 Verge Part furthest from School - Plants/Flowers in bloom**

Dandelion - Numerous

**Ladies Smock - 50+**

Common Daisy - Numerous

Meadow/Creeping Buttercup - a few plants Not yet in flower

**NB** :The Ladies Smock( aka Cuckoo Flower among others names is the **KEY** biodiversity plant on this site. The more successful pilot area appears to be 'Area 3' above.

As you can see from the photograph there is no safety issue re ingress onto the path area due to the pilot. Although ( and this is not our contract) there is grass growing onto the path and reducing the width of the pavement which we may wish to advise to PCC ( see photo 2) **(this is NOT connected or caused by our biodiversity pilot but a general H&S issue - a cut would not resolve this it requires edging to remove the matted grass/plant roots!)**.

#### **Recommendation and Options**

From a purely Biodiversity aspect and due to the current flowering plants I would have suggested and recommended no cut is currently required and continue monitoring on a weekly basis. Noting there is excess grass growth compared to 2020 when we were assessing the site for inclusion in the project. However, the PCC contractor and 1 Community Councillor has been approached by a resident complaining that the verge hasn't been cut like the rest and asking why that is so, although others have commented on how good it is to see the flowers flourishing.

## Option 1

Continue as per the original cutting regime request to PCC agreed in January 2021 – i.e. first cuts to be made in early July on 2X per month basis. This would allow for plants to finish flowering and set seed.

## Option 2 (Recommended)

Request PCC to make a late May or early June cut as opposed to the planned first cut in July - this would still allow for some of the plants to finish flowering and set seed and reduce the perceived untidiness by some residents by 4-5 weeks and stop further complaints.

**For the future I would recommend more consultation and information needs to be offered to all of the estate residents, currently only the residents at Nos 24-39 were consulted as per PCC guidance, as there obviously is a lack of understanding of the reasons and aims of the project.**



Photo 1: Indicates uncut verge Map ID 6e Biodiversity Pilot on the left and the cut verge non-pilot on the right. Taken on 10th May 2021. NB. It should be noted that part of the roughness of this uncut verge was caused by residents driving cars over it during the wetter months and it has been advised by a resident, getting stuck in the mud, leaving deep ruts. Some in fill was carried out by the car owner I understand.



Photo 2 : Shows grass which is growing over pavement area (**Not related** to biodiversity pilot but an H&S issue)

*M Kendall 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021*