



Biodiversity Update

Leaseholder AGM

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Introduction

Biodiversity Emergency Climate Change

- In 2019 the city council declared a biodiversity emergency and pledged to make Cambridge a more habitable for wildlife

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/biodiversity-emergency>

- Changes to Maintenance aims to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and manage our urban landscape more sustainably

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/climate-change-and-sustainability>



Changes to Maintenance

- Connecting people with nature and creating more wildlife habitat
- Using more sustainable management
- Most changes are to areas around housing land e.g. highways verges and greenspace
- Reduction of glyphosate-based herbicides across the city as we understand people's health concerns and environmental impacts
- Changes to cutting , e.g not around trees, leaving areas of longer grass, meadow creation and planting more bulbs
- Publicising our Pesticides spraying schedule

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/weed-spraying-schedule>



Current projects

- Wildflower Meadow trial St. Matthews Street, seed & turf
- Bulb planting, rivers of 'colour'
- Installing bat boxes on trees in communal gardens
- Putting up bug hotels to support our insect populations
- Creating green roofs on bike sheds that provide habitat for wildlife and absorb heat mitigating against changing climate
- Mounting trellis and planting honeysuckle to improve the aesthetics of our communal areas and provide habitat for pollinating insects



Completed Projects & Future Plans

- East Road project: green roof, bat boxes, bug hotel, trellis for honeysuckle. Wild flower meadow and bulbs
- Davy Road, meadow, bug hotels, bat boxes
- Bulb planting areas: Lichfield Road, Wadloes Road, Anstey Way, Fanshawe Davy, Monkswell, Thorpe Way & Fison Road
- Do you want to nominate your estate to be more sustainable and wildlife friendly?
- Swift boxes, hedge hog houses, hedges



Anyone can get involved and do more for their 'on the doorstep' environment

- Happy Bee Streets – adopt your street or gardens for wildlife

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/adopt-your-street-to-help-improve-biodiversity>

- Make environmental decisions for your area - we are proposing a resident led Biodiversity Survey to enable residents to shape the future service.
- Keep fit and meet new people and do more for nature? Volunteer and help manage our wildlife habitats or be involved with biodiversity surveys



MOTION FOR A DECLARATION OF A BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY – May 2019

This Council notes with concern recent reports from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on global species and habitat loss, and also that Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (Greater Cambridgeshire) combined has one of the lowest percentages of land cover of priority habitats, natural green spaces and designated nature conservation sites in England, with only 5.5% of the land surface having statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations and only 6.5% being priority habitat.

We recognise the importance of a healthy and biodiverse environment that ensures our City's future prosperity and enforces the wellbeing of all who live, work and study here. We therefore pledge to provide leadership and to ensure that we work with all organisational departments, partners and our communities to reverse the decline in biodiversity and deliver measurable biodiversity net gain within Cambridge and the wider region. Further to this, Council:

- (1) Declares its recognition of the global biodiversity emergency and the local impact this could have on the communities and businesses we serve
- (2) Pledges to act during the first year of Motion being accepted, to secure future measurable biodiversity net gain for Cambridge, building on past achievements
- (3) Pledges to develop plans for further action in second year of Motion being accepted and beyond to secure further biodiversity net gain, based on a full assessment of the scientific evidence on how best to achieve this goal. In recognition of this biodiversity emergency, during first year of Motion being accepted Cambridge City Council will:
 - ☐ Make the Council estate, more hospitable to a wide range of plants and animals, including on our parks and open spaces.
 - ☐ Publish a Parks Biodiversity Toolkit to encourage community engagement with habitat creation such as flowering meadows for pollinating insects.
 - ☐ Identify how the City's open spaces function as part of a Cambridgeshire coherent ecological network and prioritise areas for protection and enhancement.
 - ☐ Set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, seeking to increase community engagement with habitat creation such as bee banks and ponds.
 - ☐ Work to improve the City Council Nature Conservation Strategy, building on the significant work already delivered since its adoption in 2006, by embedding measurable biodiversity net gain across the authority.
 - ☐ Work in partnership with institutions, schools, businesses and community groups, to raise awareness and encourage wider biodiversity action across the City by:
 - o Providing a range of public engagement and awareness campaigns to provide advice to residents and businesses on how to protect and enhance habitats within their neighbourhoods.