

Appendix 2 - Street Scene standard maintenance regime for Wildflower Meadow Sites

| Activity | Frequency |
|---|---|
| Cut a border edge around the wildflower meadow area of the site | Every 2-3 weeks (March to August) |
| Assessment of site for any environmental penalties (e.g. dog fouling). | Hot spots reported to Enforcement Team. |
| <p>Conduct a litter pick of the site.</p> <p>Site walked prior to cut to inspect for materials that would damage the mower.</p> | <p>Every 2-3 weeks (March to August) for mown edge.</p> <p>Every 2-3 weeks (August to November) for whole site.</p> |
| Empty rubbish bins if present on site. | As per required cleansing schedule. |
| Clean Signs | As required. |
| Conduct a full cut of the wildflower meadow area of the site once seeds have dropped. | From August each year |
| Continue with a full cut of whole site. | Every 2-3 weeks (August to end of season, October/November dependent on weather) |

Appendix 3 - Resident Letter Template for sites in residential/urban settings

Dear Resident,

Re: Wildflower Meadow Project – [insert site name, location] site

The Council's Biodiversity Team wanted to contact you to tell you more about Denbighshire County Council's Wildflower Meadow Project.

As a Local Authority, we have a statutory duty to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Council has also declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency. We have therefore taken steps to enhance this area for biodiversity, by encouraging a wildflower meadow to establish. To give the site the best chance of success, it has not been cut between March and August to allow flowers to grow and drop their seeds. The site will undergo an end-of-season grass cut each year, which will take place from August onwards, as part of the Council's wildflower grounds maintenance management plan. The photographs below show an example of how some of our current wildflower meadows have altered over time.



Wildflower site – year 1



Wildflower site – year 2



Wildflower site – year 3

Should additional planting be required to encourage the site's transition to a wildflower meadow, we will source species native to your local area, which will be planted in the early autumn. The species chosen will be an important food source for rare and declining pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. We would be happy to arrange a planting day and/or to provide you and other local residents with wildflower identification training, so that you can help to undertake monitoring and get more involved, should you wish. Please contact the Biodiversity Team on the contact details below to register your interest.

You can also find out more information about the project on our web page at <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/environmental-health/climate-and-ecological-change/wildflower-meadow-project.aspx>.

We hope this goes some way to explaining the aims of the project and the importance of your site at [insert site name, location]. Your support in our efforts to protect and enhance our sites for wildlife is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

The Biodiversity Team

Denbighshire Countryside Service

E-bost: bioamrywiaeth@sirddinbych.gov.uk

E-mail: biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk

Appendix 4- Plan for Communication and Engagement

| Estimated Date | Detail |
|--------------------|--|
| January | New potential sites to be shared with Ward Members to enable feedback to be provided about any legitimate concerns about specific locations. |
| February | New sites to be publicised (in advance) to residents and City, Town & Community Councils, including the use of targeted letter drop at sites in residential/urban areas (see Appendix 2 for letter template). |
| February | New sites to be added to our public mapping tool for residents to easily view all site locations. |
| March and April | All on-site signage (to explain what we are doing) to be placed on site prior to non-cut starting on any new site. |
| March to September | Continuation of general and targeted communications about the rationale and benefits of the project, including regular updates of the web page on our website and social media posts. Engage with residents positively to involve them with the project and get more community buy in. |
| March to September | Provide concise and consistent communication to residents in response to negative feedback/challenges (see Appendix 5 for standard response to feedback). |
| Summer | Arrangement of wildflower identification training, as appropriate, with local residents. |
| Autumn | Arrangement of planting days, as appropriate, with local residents. |

Appendix 5 – Copy of standard response to negative feedback/challenges

Dear [Resident],

Thank you for getting in touch. We have recently identified [enter wildflower site name] as a key area to increase local wildflower habitat. As a Local Authority, we have a corporate responsibility to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems.

We have therefore taken steps to enhance this area for biodiversity, by encouraging a wildflower meadow to establish here. The site will undergo a biodiversity cut which will take place from 1st August onwards with the arisings being removed from site. This will ensure the nutrients are not returned to the soil and delay the sites transition to a wildflower meadow.

After the first year an assessment of the site and its wildflower species will be made. Should additional seeding be required, we will source a specially prepared seed mix of species native to your local area, which will be sown in the early autumn. The species chosen will be important food sources for rare and declining pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies, as well as being attractive in their own right.

To give the wildflower meadow the best chance of success, we will not be undertaking cutting between March and August to allow the flowers present on site to grow and drop their seeds before being cut. Meadow plant species may take several seasons to establish. Specific site conditions such as aspect, soil pH and local climate can affect which species flourish within the meadow and determine exactly how it will look once established.

You can find out more information on our web page at

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/environmental-health/climate-and-ecological-change/wildflower-meadow-project.aspx>.

Your support in our efforts to protect and enhance our sites for wildlife is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

Kind regards,

The Biodiversity Team

Denbighshire Countryside Service

E-bost: bioamrywiaeth@sirddinbych.gov.uk

E-mail: biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk

Appendix 6- Detail of consultation

| Forum | Detail |
|--|--|
| Partnership Scrutiny Committee | As highlighted in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7, the Wildflower Meadow Project has been discussed at as part of the discussions about the Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2016-2019 and the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy. |
| Cabinet | |
| Council | |
| Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Working Group | The Wildflower Meadow Project was discussed in July 2021 and the Group are supportive of the Wildflower Meadow Project and look forward to hearing the debate at Scrutiny. |
| Public consultation | The Climate and Ecological Change Strategy, which included the action to extend the Wildflower Meadow Project, was subject to consultation with the public during November and December 2020. |

Appendix 7- Relevant Powers and Duties

| Powers/ Duties | Detail |
|---|---|
| Section 21, Local Government Act 2000 | Scrutiny's powers to examine the matter and to review and develop policies. |
| Sections 7.2 and 7.4 of the Council's Constitution | |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | As a Local Authority, we have a statutory duty to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems. |
| Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration | Council declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in July 2019 which included the action to improve biodiversity across Denbighshire. |
| Section 13.2 of the Council's Constitution- Principals of Decision Making | <p>All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having regard to tackling climate and ecological change. |