

## Kirkbymoorside Town Council

### Information for the meeting on Monday 18 November 2024

#### 13. Wildflower Friendly Verges

- a. To receive an update on the wild flower areas trial
- b. To receive proposals for revisions to the grass cutting schedule, deferred consideration from the meeting dated 21 October 2024, Minute 24096
- c. To consider revisions to the 2025 grass cutting schedule

Update on the wild flower areas trial

November 2024

The wild flower areas were cut at the end of October and on November 2nd and 3rd volunteers raked the cuttings away and piled them under the adjacent hedges as approved by NYC. This was a very difficult task because the grass cuttings were wet and covered in fallen leaves. In addition some of the grass had been flattened rather than cut and was 400mm long. Where the grass had been cut it was at least 15mm long. The two areas south of the A170 were cleared. This took 18 man hours. The area north of the A170 was not raked partly because of lack of time and also because it was covered in a thick layer of fallen leaves.

Yellow rattle seeds supplied by the North York Moors National Park for the Grubs Up Campaign, were sown mainly on bare earth sections on the bank west of West Lund Lane. Some was sown on the level area north of West Lund Lane. There are no plans to plant additional seeds next year. We will let nature take its course as we continue to monitor the biodiversity of the area.

I'm sure the Town Council will want to express thanks to the volunteers who helped with this difficult task at very short notice

In 2025 the wild flower areas need to be cut in early spring and the cuttings removed. There should then be no further cuts until September and no later than the end of September. The grass must be cut when it is dry to avoid it being flattened by the machinery. After that the cuttings should be left in place for a week before being removed. Ideally some machinery should be used for this but if that isn't possible then volunteers will need to be recruited again.

Cllr Chris Dowie 5/11/24.



After final cut, before raking:





After final cut, raking in progress:





After final cut, after raking:

