
Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Information for the meeting on Monday 20 October 2025

10. Grass verge management

Correspondence received from members of the public in support of the wild flower verges

I am emailing re Town Council meeting on Monday to express my dismay at the news that the wild flower project in town may stop . I have been involved only in a small way , raking cuttings etc but was so proud that our little town had joined the bigger NYNP project to provide pollination corridors and was starting to take biodiversity seriously. Now it seems that progress may all be lost ? As with many things in life wild flowers take time and work , it is completely unlike a few bedding plants in a tub , and we haven't given them time.

Biodiversity in gardens is of course important but not enough by itself and does it have to be one or the other? Can't we have planters in town and wild verges? Are people really so offended by a few native flowers ? The project has been a real success,(just look how many species were found in the count) despite the best efforts of a few residents to cut when they shouldn't on land that isn't theirs and contractors not following instructions but those are teething problems not a reason to stop.

I would ask the Town Council therefore to reconsider and take a wider range of views into account .

Thank you

██████████

Dear Councillors,

I was disappointed that the Kirkbymoorside Town Council recently voted to abandon the wildflower verges project along the A170.

Given the UK is now one of the most nature depleted countries in the world it is vital we do all we can to halt the decline.

Compared to frequently mowed grass, wildflower verges with a diverse selection of annual and perennial plants (majority native) will support a vast array of wildlife, sequester carbon, and build soil health.

They also have the potential to engage volunteers, cheer people up, and provide a sense of pride in a community. A good example is Sherburn-in-Elmet Town Council's wildflower and biodiversity project which brought residents together and won a national award.

Link to Sherburn-in-Elmet project: <https://www.sherburninemet-tc.gov.uk/wildflower-project/>

I am pleased to note that the Council is committed to reviewing opportunities to improve biodiversity within Kirkbymoorside and will develop a strategy in consultation with local residents.

Please know that many of us have ideas and experience in this area and would gladly support biodiversity-boosting initiatives in Kirkbymoorside. There are multiple ways to design and manage wildflower verges so I hope this can be trialled again with input from residents and local experts.

Towns that incorporate such initiatives (including wildflower verges) show leadership and give residents something else to be very proud of. If done well it can attract more visitors and inspire other towns and villages to follow suit. I'd like that for Kirkbymoorside.

Yours faithfully,

██████████

I write to express my dismay and annoyance that the current policy to allow wildflowers in the A170 grass verges to grow naturally and drop their seeds before being cut is being abandoned.

I was so pleased when the Town Council committed to the rewilding project, and I am extremely disappointed that you are cancelling that promise almost immediately before the wildflower even got properly established. I have enjoyed seeing the more natural roadside verges, which with their cut visibility splays still looked attractive and cared for, even if the drought stopped them looking their best.

I was very pleased that the planting of yellow rattle had been successful, and I was delighted that 41 species of wildflowers were identified in the wildflower verges; I was looking forward to hearing how many more species had arrived by next year.

I was proud of the Town Council for supporting the Grubs Up project and helping to promote biodiversity (in line with NYC's approach), and I am very disappointed that you would so quickly change your mind due to a few trivial complaints, without properly balancing that minority view against the massive benefits to wildlife this project was just starting to bring. I feel this is a shortsighted, knee jerk reaction, and I'm saddened that the Town Council didn't have the courage to stand up for its policy.

The UK's flying insect population has declined by as much as 60% in the last 20 years, and creating food rich corridors along major roads is essential to try and help reverse this trend. Whilst it's true that farmers are allowing more wildflowers to grow on their land, insects, especially pollinators, need a food rich route to get from one area of plants to another, and, if allowed to, the grass verges of major routes can provide that perfectly.

Please reconsider and ensure that in redrafting the grass cutting policy, pollinator pathways along the A170 are reestablished.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Re grass verge cutting.

I would like to support all the comments made by [REDACTED] (*detailed above*) It would be good if the project was given a fair amount of time to establish.

I would also query the fourteen grass cuttings a year, which seems a little excessive? The grass cutting machinery will be adding to pollution levels from use of fuel and residue from the brake pads.

Surely it is a matter of educating people as to the benefits of reduced mowing? I think the scientific evidence is available.

Regards

[REDACTED]