

SPRING AWAKENING: URBAN MEADOW

Turning heads, turning the tide. Epsom & Ewell councillor NIGEL COLLIN on a county wide vision for colourful verges

We are pleased to learn that as part of last year's Surrey's Greening project, SURREY WILDFLOWERING PROJECT (SWP) will promote county wide wildflowering. SWP is chaired by Nigel Collin, a local councillor in College Ward. Nigel is actively promoting the project as a result of Surrey's greening initiative competition last year: "Scientific research has highlighted the climate emergency and the threat to our planet. One effect is the decline of indigenous insects. In an attempt to reverse this trend, roadside wildflower meadows are springing up across the UK and helping wildlife in a big way (before and after: image below). As well as encouraging bees,

butterflies and other insects to flourish, the sight of a wildflower verge has an uplifting effect on us all."

In recent years, several Surrey Councils have worked with local groups to incorporate wildflowers into greenspace that would otherwise be unused. For example, on selective roundabouts in and along highway verges.

Surrey Wildflowering Project's aim is to build a partnership that enables wildflowering in our county, as well as promoting and celebrating borough/district diverse countryside and urban environments - including highway verges.

SWP's progress has been adversely impacted in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. However SWP has continued to build up its networks and volunteers. Hopefully, this will enable a resumption of activity in 2021.

CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

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