

# Telford & Wrekin Council – wildflower verge project

## RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES: Case Studies

### Locations across the Borough of Telford & Wrekin

#### Establishment of a wildflower verges & meadows

Partners/Funders: Mostly paid for using council funding however, additional funding came in as part of the 3yr Buglife Beelines project and some Parish and private funding received.

#### Costs:

- Across all sites (LNR's, parks, open spaces and verges) - £15k - £20k
- Budgets were spent on contractor work – ground prep including power harrowing or scarifying, seeding and rolling and the wildflower seed itself
- Some Parish/Town Council funding received for open space wildflower seeding and Fujitsu bought £1,000 of wildflower seed for volunteer groups



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### RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES PROJECT: Telford

Urban Telford as a new town is in quite a different position to the rest of Shropshire as it was designed as a “modern forest city” with new roads and good traffic links connecting the traditional old towns of the area with new housing, retail and industrial areas. The verges alongside these routes are generally wide and flat and many have poor quality soil lending them to greater botanical diversity than some of our rural highway verges.

The scoping, surveying and the revising of cutting regimes on suitable verges has been done gently for over 20yrs but in 2022, we were allocated specific funding to identify more locations that could be seeded and managed more sustainably for biodiversity and reduce unnecessary mowing.

Meadow areas receive a cut and collect of the arisings and we start this process around the third week in August. Contractors spend over 2 months completing this work which equates to 739,249m<sup>2</sup> – or the equivalent of 65 football pitches.

**Donnington Wood Way and Wrockwardine Wood Way verges**



The above are simply a result of cutting regime changes from 12 cut to meadow cut  
and some patience

## Wildflowers in open spaces



We have cultivated and sown native wildflowers on open spaces, playing fields and within housing estates to improve biodiversity.

Edgmond Parish Council supported this project and paid for the seed and we worked with the Edgmond Wildlife Group to identify suitable areas on the local playing fields.

### **Edgmond playing fields**

### **Donnington Recreation Ground**



## Meadow operations

Scarification of a Green Guarantee Site prior to over-seeding at Wombridge – part of the Buglife project. A change from 16 cut, high amenity grass to a single meadow cut



Completed meadow cut in Aug at Lodge Fields Local Nature Reserve, Ironbridge



## Volunteer involvement



Volunteers sowing seeds at Apley Woods LNR above and at Dohill LNR below



**Sign erected on selected new meadow areas**



We understand the need to communicate when we reduce mowing regimes, particularly in residential areas and try to balance the needs of recreation (ball games, dog walking etc) with our goal to encourage wildlife in urban areas and improve habitat connectivity. This sign helps to communicate our objectives.

**Partners**

