



RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES PROJECT (RSVP)

LUDLOW – Sheet Road: Establishment of a mini meadow on a housing estate.

Grid reference SO 52527 74333

Partners/Funders: Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP), supported by the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, through the AONB Conservation Fund,

Costs:

- £85 donated by the Ludlow RSVP and Ludlow Incredible Edible group for printed leaflets to consult local householders.
- Support from NFU Ludlow for car parking
- Wild flower plants including Yellow Rattle grown and donated and planted by Ludlow RSVP (lots)
- Approximately 30 hours volunteer time, planting, mowing, scything and raking verge.



Twitter and Facebook @ShropsVerge

Contact: shropsverge@gmail.com

RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES PROJECT: LUDLOW

Presentation on restoring verges given by RSVP to interested Incredible Edible Ludlow group in 2020 pre-Covid and in February 2021 small local RSVP Ludlow volunteer group was formed, one member being a local botanist.

The group contacted RSVP and Shropshire Highways portfolio holder for support and to inform of intention to restore a verge on Sheet Road, Ludlow.

This was an ordinary grass verge on one of the main routes into Ludlow.

It was chosen because it is a wide grass verge with a pavement between the verge and the road and because the junction has a wide visibility splay. Therefore, the verge planting would not cause any visibility issues for cars turning into, or out of, the adjacent road.

Support was given from RSVP with a plan and one of the local volunteer's gave a presentation to Ludlow Town Council about the planned RSVP Ludlow project.

Wildflower plants were grown as plugs by Ludlow volunteer group and the local community leafleted about the project with the result that help was offered with growing plants for the verge and with watering.

RSVP signs provided for public information.



Verges sign version 2.pdf



Verges sign version 3.pdf

Litter picking, early mowing and arisings removed and planting by local volunteers took place on Friday 30th April. A VERY positive response from local people and lots of people stopping to find out more about RSVP.

List of plants either sown or already present made as part of data collecting and to establish an initial benchmark: Red Clover, Birds Foot Trefoil, Red Campion, Ox-eye daisies, Orange Hawkweed, Lesser celandine, Sorrel, Self-heal, Bugle, Dandelion, Daisy, Cow parsley, Buttercup, Cranesbill

Radio Shropshire interview given and local press release written.

A very ordinary verge in Ludlow 2020-21



Volunteers set to work intentional planting and engaging with passing public



Results: Spring 2021 after only one season
meadow starting to grow and full of spring/summer flowers and insects.



Results: Summer Ludlow Mini Meadow – the pavement edge kept mown and signs visible for public information.



Maintenance

Volunteers keep a watchful eye on the mini meadow keeping the front edge mown, very little litter thrown and dog excrement all but disappeared. Beginning of August verge scythed and arisings left to dry as a meadow then raked off and removed ready for next year.



2021 - 22

Volunteers have maintained this verge as a meadow and would like to expand to project to further sites across Ludlow by recruiting more volunteers to repeat this example of creating a mini meadow in an urban setting.

