

# TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



## **WILDFLOWER POLICY**

### **Introduction**

East Sussex County Council are responsible for the grass verges in our area and welcome requests for wildflower or meadow verges in suitable locations. This encourages bees, butterflies and other important insects to the area through interconnected wildlife corridors. The grass is cut once in October by East Sussex County Council with the grass either being collected (for wildflower verges) or left (for meadow verges).

### **Inspections**

For a wildflower or meadow verge to be considered, East Sussex County Council will require through their application process, a list of plants, flowers and wildlife on the verges, including photographic evidence and dates the species were recorded. They also require evidence that we are in agreement to the request.

If a request for a wildflower verge is made direct to us, this will be considered at a Planning & Highways Committee meeting. Similarly, if a resident applies directly to East Sussex County Council and they in turn notify us, the application will be considered at a Planning & Highways Committee meeting.

If we are in agreement to an application, we will need to agree with the applicant whether they undertake surveys approximately every 6 weeks in the spring and summer months to ascertain what is growing, or whether it is undertaken by ourselves.

### **Applications to East Sussex County Council**

The East Sussex County Council Highways team accept applications between 1st June and 31st August, to provide the best time frame to identify flowering species. They do not accept applications without details of any species. The process including application form, can be found online at:

<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/services/services-wildlife-verges>

During the winter following the application, a County Ecologist will assess the area and a decision will be made on whether to designate the site as a wildflower verge, meadow verge or if it is to remain a standard urban verge.

Once the County Council have made a decision, they will inform us and the applicant. We in turn will inform the grass cutting contractor if the verge is to be designated as a wildflower or meadow verge, so they can amend their grass cutting regime accordingly.