

Motion to the Council to increase the importance of nature in Chichester by six measures

1) Trees

The Council is requested to note:

- The importance of trees in slowing the pace of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the air, as well as providing a habitat for wildlife
- The contribution trees make to the environment in our towns including shading and cooling, pollution and noise mitigation, as well speeding up floodwater drainage and improving the quality of our street scene
- The Government's pledge in 2018 to plant 11 million new trees by 2050, including in towns and urban areas

In support of the national campaign to increase the number of trees being planted, the Council is requested to:

1. Appoint a District Tree Champion
2. Agree a review of current policies on and attitude towards the planting of trees in our rural and urban area with a view to introducing a more proactive policy to increase the number and regularity of trees planted
3. Recommend West Sussex County Council consider a strategy to educate children in understanding the benefits of trees and tree planting
4. Recommend an urgent **Tree Summit** with the City Council, Parish Councils, District Council and County Council, BID and the Tree Wardens and members of the public to work out how to plant more trees
5. Recommend officers investigate funding streams to enable residents and community groups to fund the planting and future maintenance of trees

2) Wildflowers to support pollinators

The District Council is responsible for various areas of land in the district (for example New Park and Priory Park). The way in which the council's teams manage this land which is under our control as a District Council assets has an impact on wildlife and amenity. Being cut several times each year means grass is cut before many wildflower plants have had a chance to flower. Wildflowers need to be available for insects when in flower and to be left long enough to have seeded before being cut. Cutting regimes should be timed to allow wildflower areas to self-perpetuate and improve the wildlife value of the land.

The Council is therefore requested to:

1. Review and reduce the timing and frequency of grass cutting across the district to increase biodiversity and manage some of our land as wildlife habitats
2. Work with partners to produce a pollinator action plan to guide cutting contracts and communicate the resulting plan and reasons to residents

3) Pesticide Free District

The Council is requested to:

1. Formally congratulate the Property Manager of the City Council on limiting the use of dangerous chemicals which could endanger the health of the City Council employees and the wider public
2. Recommend that the Property Manager coordinates a city wide reduction in the use of pesticides
3. Recommend that the City Council consider joining the Pesticide Free Towns Network which envisions minimised use of pesticides by replacing them with sustainable alternatives

In line with the Pesticide Free Towns Network the Council is requested to:

- Ban the use of herbicides and pesticides in public areas under council's control
- Help extend the ban of pesticides and herbicides to private areas with public access and agricultural areas next to where citizens live
- Support the greening efforts towards local biodiversity enhancement already being championed by Transition Chichester
- Develop and promote a campaign aimed at informing citizens about the transition to become pesticide-free, and the reasons for it; encourage citizens to actively support the transition by promoting the use of sustainable alternatives in private gardens and allotments
- Communicate with and involve all stakeholders
- Increase local biodiversity through municipal and citizen-driven activities

4) Green bus stops

The Council is requested to work with Stagecoach, Parish and County Councils to consider initiating the use of Green roofs for bus stops. We recommend that sedum or other plants are used on the roofs of bus stops to attract more bees as pollinators, provide more plants to improve air quality and to be a visible sign that the District Council is actively reducing our collective carbon footprint.

5) Greening Flower offer in the park displays

The Council is requested to encourage more sustainable forms of planting by:

- Drought resistance planting
- Using pollinator friendly planting to encourage bees
- Using locally grown flowers instead of plants from abroad
- Using native plants
- Using perennials and wildflowers as much as possible to draw the public's attention to the importance of supporting native species and encouraging bees

6) Advice to Planning Applicants

The Council is requested to recommend to the Planning Department that it sends out a list of ideas that all new applicants for planning can use to "green" their applications by introducing environmental measures such as habitats for hedgehogs, wildflower planting, protecting and increasing bat corridors, installing green roofs or walls or

using permeable paving, harvesting rainwater to water the garden, changing power providers to renewables, installing bat and bird boxes, planting trees to support bat corridors and provide shade, less rigorous grass cutting regimes.

Councillors are invited to view the advice given to residents in the South Downs National Park here: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Core-06-Ecosystem-Services-Technical-Advice-Note-householder.pdf>