

Council – 15th July 2021

Notice of Motion

Environmentally sound management of roadside verges

Southend Council notes that:

- Road verges are home to almost half of the UK's wildflower species, which in turn are home to hundreds of species of pollinators, from beetles to bumblebees.
- In September 2019 Southend Council declared a climate emergency, in recognition of the existential threat that climate change poses, and committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions for the Borough by 2030.
- Bees and other pollinators have been in decline for at least the last 30 years, due to widescale habitat loss and use of pesticides and weedkillers.
- The use of glyphosate and other chemical weedkillers has a profoundly adverse effect on the natural environment and is a contributory factor in the decline of fauna and flora vital to the ecosystem.

Southend Council therefore resolves:

- To work to pilot a scheme whereby roadside verges on non-residential roads in safe locations in Southend can be planted with wildflowers to provide increased biodiversity and natural habitat.
- To carefully coordinate maintenance of all roadside verges to prioritise the natural environment of the borough.
- To phase out the use of glyphosate and other such environmentally damaging chemical herbicides and pesticides within the Borough.

Proposer

Cllr Matt Dent

Seconder

Cllr Aston Line