

Council 9th September 2021

Notice of Motion

Bee bus stops and green roofs

Southend on Sea Borough Council notes that:

Brighton, Leicester City and Cardiff are examples of local authorities working with a home advertising and infrastructure partner to develop 'bee bus stops' planted with wildflower and sedum plants, to reduce the decline of pollinating insects while incorporating solar panels for smart lighting.

Installing these across the most built up and traffic heavy routes, would provide a green roof corridor for biodiversity, and improve the environment, capturing pollutants while enhancing visual amenity within aspirations for Southend as a nature smart city.

We also need to transfer this to a much greater scale in our air quality action plan, due to the residential sectors contribution to CO2 emissions, with power continuing to be supplied primarily by fossil fuels.

The University of Sheffield's Green Roof Center contributed to the 'green roof guide'. This includes information about significantly reducing peak flow rates and total water run off (which could compliment the SUDs programme), increasing lifespan of waterproofing membranes by two or three times, reducing the heat island effect by cooling roofs in summer and insulating in winter, reducing energy consumption and other contributing factors to climate change.

The green roofs can also significantly reduce noise transfer and provide biodiversity that would be lost by building on brown field sites, which the university describe as some of the most biodiverse. Green roofs have the potential to provide amenity space or enhanced visual aspect while improving local air quality.

All of the benefits of green roofs in an urban landscape can form part of our defence against poor air quality, lack of amenity space and improve health and wellbeing into the future.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Incorporate Bee bus stops into the nature smart city action plans, exploring suppliers, how to offset costs with advertising revenue and giving the project a fast track to be completed.
- Research the benefits of green roofs to the environment and to health, with a view to green roofs being incorporated into the Local Plan.

Proposed by

Cllr Kay Mitchell and Cllr Aston Line

Seconded by

Cllr George and Cllr Wexham