

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BIODIVERSITY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2023

STATEMENT and QUESTION from Ms Sue Bliss, Matlock Local Resident

"I'm hoping that the destruction of wildflowers, (on many sites within a few metres of my home on Morledge) which are a valuable habitat and source of sustenance for insects won't be repeated next spring.

Please could the Biodiversity Sub-Committee let me know what progress has been made in changing the mowing regime to help reverse the decline in biodiversity."

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your question.

Your recommendation to alter the mowing regime to enhance biodiversity is one that the District Council has already undertaken. The District Council operates a monthly cut rather than on all verges that has been proven to enhance diversity. In addition, areas that have been identified under the Biodiversity Project has been left to two or three cuts a year.

The Biodiversity Sub-Committee will look to continue the Biodiversity Project under a new Biodiversity Action Plan. The subject of mowing regimes will likely be covered in the plan. Fortunately, mowing season has ended and the Council has six months to put forward a new management regime. This will be done in a structured manner to include highway safety, local users, accessibility and encompass other perspectives.