

Symington Wild Flower Project; Symington Road South Community Consultation



Project Aim

During 2020's Covid19 lockdown, many roadside grass verges were not cut as often as usual, which resulted in wild flowers emerging among the longer grass.

Under continued management by Transport Scotland/Amey and Ayrshire Roads Alliance, and with the support of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's 'Nectar Network' (of which South Ayrshire Council is a partner), Symington Community Council is proposing management of the verges along Symington Road South in a manner that encourages a habitat of wild flowers and plants.

We recognise wild flowers are fickle and the creation of such habitats may take several years. However, if successful, the project will increase biodiversity, provide a pollen and nectar rich site for pollinating insects, such as bees and butterflies, and provide a colourful entry to the village.

Verge management will continue to prioritise safety, but the verges along Symington Road South are wide enough to enable generous areas of wild flowers.

Why encourage wild flowers on our roadside verges?

According to the Scottish Wildlife Trust; *"Pollinators are in serious decline across the UK. With over 95% of the UK's wildflower meadows being lost since the Second World War, places where pollinating insects can thrive are now very restricted. Nectar gives insects energy to travel across the landscape so a lack of refuelling sites prevents this. Without food and shelter, not only can these pollinators not reach the crops but they are also isolated from others of their kind. An isolated insect population is vulnerable because, if it declines for any reason, it cannot be boosted or replenished from a nearby colony."*

In our view, this project can be Symington's contribution to the Scottish Government's 'Pollinator Strategy for Scotland', the first objective of which is *"to make Scotland more pollinator-friendly, halting and reversing the decline in native pollinator populations"*.

As well as our aim to support pollinators, we want to ensure the survival and natural spread of both common and rare species, for their own sake, for the sake of the wildlife they support and environmental benefits they bring, and to enhance the contact with nature experienced by users of the road network. To that end, our aspiration is for the proposed wild flower habitat to be regarded as an educational resource that enthuses young and old in the species we are able to attract.

Do you agree with the aims of this project?

Before commencing further, we are keen to ensure that the views of the community are heard. So we would appreciate it if you are able to complete a very brief questionnaire; [click here](#) to view. The consultation ends on Sunday the 14th of March 2021.

If you would like further information about the proposal to create wild flower verges along Symington Road South, please contact the Community Council:

By email: symingtoncc@hotmail.com

By phone: Dave Houfe (Community Council member) 07792 818139

We would also love to hear from anyone interested in volunteering to help with the project.