

Proposal for wildlife area adjacent to, and to the west of, the south end of Lincoln Road, Glington.

Introduction

The village questionnaire clearly showed that the residents of Glington are in favour of providing for our local wildlife, particularly with reference to creating a wildflower meadow. A field-sized space would be ideal, but a lot can be done with small areas. I suggest that we begin with the green space on the west side of Lincoln Road, just north of the 'McDonald's' roundabout. At present it is simply grass with an undulating line of young native trees, and it is mown several times a year with weedkiller applied periodically to the edges. To begin the process of meadow creation, all that needs to be done is to reduce mowing to once a year in late August and stop using weedkiller. It would also be a good idea to provide a fence around the site with notices to inform the public that this is a developing meadow, and remind mowing contractors that it is not to be cut.

At this stage a Bee Bank and a deadwood habitat could be created (Information can be provided how to construct these). The Bee Bank would provide much-needed nesting space for solitary bees (ground-nesting solitary bees are very small, and they are not aggressive. They do not defend their nests so don't present a danger to the public). Both the bee bank and the deadwood habitat can use waste materials in their construction, logs, trunks etc. from tree work, clay subsoil and limestone from the demolition of old buildings or from building sites.

After a two year settling-in period, the meadow can be assessed to see whether we need to add any variety to the native plants already there.

The site could be made invaluable to our local wildlife, and perhaps provide educational opportunities for local people, and possibly for the local schools.

Important considerations

No chemicals should be used around the perimeter.

The trees should be retained. If necessary, 'woodland edge' species of plants like ramsons, garlic mustard, violets, primroses, sheep's parsley etc can be added if the area under the trees remains bare, and/or deadwood habitats and bug houses can be placed between them

Bird boxes could be sited in suitable locations. If any of the trees are large enough, bat boxes could be installed as well.

I had thought of including a pond, but the adjacent roads would present a danger to visiting amphibians and hedgehogs so it would perhaps be unwise.

Maintenance

This project should not require much in the way of ongoing care, but must include an acceptable maintenance plan or it is worthless. This should include:

No chemicals whatsoever used on the site, or at the perimeter.

The meadow area mown only once a year in late August, and the cuttings removed.

Regular visits made by a suitable person to check the features and do whatever maintenance is necessary – for instance repair of the bee bank, the fence, litter-picking, etc.

Judy Staines