

Management of verges – a proposal to the Climate Action Group

The verges under consideration are:

1. Behind the finger post at the junction of Drakes Lane with the road through the village
2. Between the bus shelter and Rose Cottage, alongside the school playing field

Plan A: Our original plan had been to let the verges go unmown during 2021 so we could see what flowers, if any, are already present and then plant plugs of wild flowers in autumn of 2021. This is one of the first actions our group has instigated – a flagship project if you like - and so needs to be perceived as successful and an improvement to the village. Those of us who have tried to cultivate wild flowers in grassy areas know only too well that results can be very disappointing. So, we have discussed an alternative plan that will achieve the aim we set out to achieve; to encourage pollinators.

Hence we wish to put to you **Plan B**

1. Area behind the finger post

Left unmown and planted up with shrubs and plants that are suitable for a part-shaded area. Below is a list of suggested varieties of native species that might be suitable and provide plants suitable for bees and other insects and also provide interest through the year.

- a) Three shrubs as 60-80cm whips:

Gelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
Hawthorn (*Crataegus mongyna*)
Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum lantana*)

- b) Selections of bulbs:

Bluebell	Snowdrop	Wild Tulip
Lesser Celandine	Wood anemone	Primrose
Pignut	Wild Daffodil	

- c) Herbaceous plants:

Cyclamen	Gladwyn	Monkshood
Dog violet	Greater Stitchwort	Primrose
Foxglove	Sweet Cicely	Red Campion
Garlic Mustard	Sweet Violet	Stinking Hellebore)
Giant Bellflower	Meadow Cranesbill	Woodruff

The suggestion is that in the April Village News we invite villagers to donate bulbs and plants, thus avoiding incurring costs. We could well decide to grow some of these plants from seed ourselves. If necessary, next year we could purchase bulbs or plants to complement what we already have.

2. Area between the bus shelter and Rose Cottage

The 2m of verge along the road side is generally well trodden by school children being dropped off by their parents and so we will not plant up this strip. It should be mown as it is at present.

During 2021 strim in alternate strips perpendicular to the road (around 3m), leaving areas where wild flowers are already in evidence to grow up. In these areas we can manually pull nettles and any other plants that we don't want. Then, in autumn this year, we can decide how best to manage this area, but aim to plant up the back of the verge with a mixture of shrubs, bulbs and herbaceous plants, in a similar fashion to that done behind the finger post.