



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council



# Pollinator Policy

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# Why?

- Pollinators are essential for agriculture, biodiversity, our wider environment and wellbeing.
- They maintain the diversity of wildflowers and support healthy ecosystems, particularly by helping plants to produce fruits and seeds which birds and other animals rely on.
- In addition to the honeybee, there are at least 1,500 species of insect pollinators in the UK. Most are native species of bumblebees, solitary bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, beetles and flies.
- Pollinators face many pressures, including habitat loss, pests and diseases, extreme weather, competition from invasive species, climate change and pesticide use.
- The purpose of a Pollinator Strategy is to set out the actions we are taking in the council's parks and open spaces to help reverse the decline in pollinator populations.



# National Pollinator Strategy (2014)– Defra

Primary aim- to expand food, shelter and nest sites across all types of land in the UK so that pollinator species can survive and thrive

- More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats supporting our pollinators across the country.
- Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events.
- No further extinctions of known threatened pollinator species.
- Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public of the essential needs of pollinators.



# The Environmental Act 2021

- Operates as the UK's new framework of environmental protection
- The Act includes provisions to strengthen and improve the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including mandating a net gain biodiversity through the planning system and a duty for identified Responsible Authorities to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy by the end of 2023
- North Northamptonshire Council is an identified Responsible Authority



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# A North Northamptonshire Pollinator Policy



**An overview of the policy to be  
presented to the August Executive  
Committee**

# North Northamptonshire Pollinator Policy Key Actions

## Improve habitats for nesting and overwintering pollinators

- Keep some areas of long grass throughout the winter as a refuge for insects. Cutting should be carried out in a 3-year rotation to ensure that areas do not become rank and lose floral diversity
- Acknowledge the importance of bare ground areas for ground-nesting species.
- Leave patches of nettles and other larval food plants for butterflies and moths.
- Avoid planting new specimens of tree species which can be damaging to bumblebee species, such as *Tilia petiolate*.
- Where relevant enabling projects that create bee 'hotels'



# North Northamptonshire Pollinator Policy Key Actions

## Reduce Pesticide use

- Reduce pesticide use -Wherever practicable, aim to reduce the use of pesticides and ensure that any treatment application is minimised (by spot spraying etc) with the most up to date technologies and products.





# North Northamptonshire Pollinator Policy Key Actions

## Participate in pollinator projects and action

- Communicate to and engage with communities in areas where significant change is likely such as through our 'Pardon the weeds, we are feeding the bees' signage etc
- Support or deliver projects aimed at increasing the diversity and abundance of pollinating insects
- Involve people, where appropriate, such as through volunteering in parks etc
- Include pollinators in our Education Ranger led Outdoor Learning programmes with schools and groups



# Delivery plan

- Publish policy on web– Autumn/Winter 2022
- Identify further areas of land to increase natural regeneration (notably Wellingborough) - with a phased plan for introduction – using ‘feed the bees’ signage - Autumn/Winter 2022
- Review use of pesticides (notably Wellingborough) – Autumn/Winter 2022
- Train and develop staff – Ongoing
- Publicity campaign (notably Wellingborough) Winter/Spring 2023
- Introduce new mowing regimes and signage – Spring 2023





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Thank you and  
any Questions?