



Let it grow!

No Mow May, Bloom in June and beyond.

As in previous years, some of the grass verges in the village will not be mown during May, June and July. The areas in question are the Waterlow Road verges, and the corner of Ash Keys.

The Parish Council appreciates this is a controversial subject, with many having strong views. Indeed, the Parish Council were split when deciding whether to go ahead with the project this year, but the majority of Council members were in favour.

Following feedback from residents, last year the Parish Council put a survey in the Annual Report that was delivered to all 800 households in the village. Unfortunately, only a very small percentage of surveys were completed and returned. However, of those that did response, 67% were in favour of the grass being left uncut in May & June.

We also asked if residents would prefer the very edges of the grass to be cut (under the benches, and around the junctions). 42% of respondents said yes, 50% said no, and 8% didn't mind. The Parish Council do feel that it is important that the junctions are kept clear and as such these areas, along with a small strip next to the footpath and the road will be cut regularly, leaving the main areas of verge to grow.

It is the intention of the Parish Council to have the grass cut in July. However, to encourage the wildflowers to set seed and return next year, we plan on leaving small "islands" of wildflowers alone until at least the end of July. 83% of people who responded to our survey were in favour of this approach.

FACTS:

97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930's, along with a vital food source for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Butterfly numbers have reduced by 50% since 1976, and 13 species of bee are now extinct.

Rural honey bees have to fly further than their urban counterparts to find food.

Long grass, along with wildflowers, benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. Even leaving the smallest patch of grass soon adds up to a significant proportion and can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities, and the climate.

This is not a cost cutting exercise – during May & June our contractors are more than fully engaged elsewhere in the village, there is always plenty to do!

VIGO WILDFLOWERS:

Orchids tend to flower from June onwards, so we won't see them at all unless we leave the grass to grow!

Common Spotted
Orchid



Pyramidal Orchid



Ox-eye Daisy



Heal-All



Bee Orchid

