

Date: 14 May 2018

Use: Immediate

Ref: SW3999

Wychavon left buzzing for pollen

Wychavon District Council's Civic Centre has a brand new garden full of nectar and pollen rich plants thanks to volunteers from West Midlands Butterfly Conservation and the Friends of Avon Meadows.

The new Pollinators Garden at the Civic Centre is one of 10 Places for Pollinators that West Midlands Butterfly Conservation will be helping to create in different parts of the region over the next two years.

With pollinating insects in serious decline in Britain, the Places for Pollinators project aims to encourage people to create habitats in their gardens or at workplaces that are filled with plants and flowers rich in nectar and pollen.

Mike Williams, Publicity and Marketing Officer for West Midlands Butterfly Conservation said: "Gardens can never replace natural habitats, but we can all play a part in providing places for bees and butterflies by growing plants that are rich in nectar and pollen. Even the smallest of gardens have a part to play and just a window box or a plant pot full of nectar-bearing plants can supply a vital feeding station for insects.

"In larger gardens, nectar and pollen can be provided throughout the season and there may be opportunities to include plants on which butterflies and moths can lay their eggs. Wildlife friendly gardening is not just about choosing the right plants; it is also about avoiding herbicides and pesticides and not using peat-based composts."

Mike added: "We're pleased that Wychavon District Council has joined our Places for Pollinators campaign and we hope that our demonstration garden at the Civic Centre will show what can be achieved in a relatively small area, and that it will inspire others to follow our example. We are also grateful to C J Wildlife for providing the plants."

The new garden provides a selection of plants like bugle, red valerian, sweet rocket, phlox, scabious, cranesbill and buddleia, which are very attractive to many species of insect.

Lynn Stevens, senior parks and green space officer at Wychavon District Council, said: "Where possible, we try to do our part for the parks and open spaces in Wychavon. We are very grateful to West Midlands Butterfly Conservation and the volunteers for their work at the Civic Centre, and we can't wait to see what a beautiful garden it will become."

Since the 1940s, 97% of wildflower meadows have been destroyed. This decline has damaging effects on wildlife and people, especially in areas like the Vale of Evesham with its long tradition of market gardening, chiefly because of the reliance on insects to pollinate the plants that provide the food we eat.

For further details of the project and the Places for Pollinators campaign, contact Mike Williams on 07802 274552, email wmbutterflies@gmail.com or go to www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. **Butterfly Conservation** is the largest insect conservation charity in Europe with over 30,000 members in the UK. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. It runs conservation programmes on over 60 threatened species of butterfly and moth and manages over 30 nature reserves. Further information www.butterfly-conservation.org. Much work is delivered through the charity's regional branches and the West Midlands branch holds an annual programme of events aimed at raising awareness of the region's butterflies and moths (www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk).

2. CJ Wildlife

CJ Wildlife have over 25 years' experience in researching and developing products to help you attract, care for and enjoy the wide variety of wildlife in your garden.

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