



Broadbridge Heath Parish Council Encouraging Biodiversity

“Nature offers us all precious breathing space away from the stresses and strains of modern life, it enables us to experience joy and wonder, to slow down and to appreciate the wildlife that lives side-by-side with us.” - Sir David Attenborough

It is widely recognised that we are facing a global environmental crisis. Climate change, extreme biodiversity loss and plastic pollution are posing an unprecedented threat to humanity and the natural world.

Here in Broadbridge Heath, we have been impacted by huge amounts of house building, new roads and loss of wildlife habitat. BBH Parish Council are committed to help improve Biodiversity, and working closely with West Sussex County Council we are hoping to create new, flower-rich habitat on some of the wide verges along the former BBH Bypass.



You may have already seen the work in progress but using a mix of good quality UK-sourced wild flower seed, over 3000 square metres of ground has been seeded recently. This includes the swan neck area, small triangle and larger verge of the downgraded bypass. It will take a little time for the seeded areas to become established but in time they will provide a vital source of nectar for countless bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects during the summer months every year. These insects will, in turn, provide food for birds and mammals, including hedgehogs and bats.

The new ‘meadow’ areas will be carefully managed to maintain their biodiversity and to ensure that once the flowers have finished they do not become unsightly. It is planned to cut an informal path through the largest meadow area so that it is possible for everyone to get really close up to the flowers and the insects they support!

Whilst we wait in anticipation over the winter months for the seeds to grow may we remind you of the “Top Common” area (corner of Byfleets Lane, opposite BBH Cricket Club). In current weeks local village Volunteers and Green Gym supported by local ecologist David Bridges will be carrying out some Winter Work in preparation for next year. This year over 19 species of Butterfly have been spotted here – let’s hope 2021 will see that number increase! It is a beautiful area for a walk or even a moment of reflection in these complex times.

Special thanks to local ecologist David Bridges for his support with this project.

