

RENATURING PILOT

OUTLINE:

Trial a renaturing project on the Greensward Village Green, establishing a biodiverse habitat that is both environmentally sound and aesthetically pleasing.

At the moment 25% of the South Downs National Park is managed for nature. South Downs National Park's goal is to increase that to 33% by 2030.

South Downs National Park wants to work with Parish Councils and other key stakeholders to make the area a better place for nature and people, where wildlife can flourish, habitats thrive and where everyone can experience nature and wildlife at its best. They say *'we want nature everywhere, for everyone'*

This is our call to action as a parish to support our local environment and lead by example by communicating funded environmental projects. My proposal would be to trial a project where we work in collaboration with EDGL to add an area of 100Sq meters of wild seeds to the Greensward village green to create a wildflower stripe. This would be down the south end, away from the trees (because they need light) and done in a way to enhance the area. We are mindful of the greensward being a neat and tidy area and the project would be mindful of this to create something that works for the area whilst also ensuring the village green is an example of a positive environmental project.

Example of how a wildflower section and manicured lawn can work in partnership to enhance the area



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The greensward estate is a great opportunity to focus on one of the areas [southdown national park](#) are trying to address and that is the beelines. This area of land has the perfect conditions to create a wildflower corridor. The iconic chalk grassland of Southdown attracts a multitude of bees and butterflies through the addition of wildflowers. We are currently facing a challenge of the continued deterioration in chalk in the grasslands and these species are on the decline and need support. By creating a wildflower corridor linking species rich chalk grassland to sites which are in need of pollination we will be starting our journey in supporting the environment. The wildflower seeds would be different to the ones already planted the other side of the village, encouraging different varieties of insects to the area.

COST

The contractor would be responsible for preparing the ground and managing the seeded area/s, working in collaboration with the EDGL to ensure an aesthetically pleasing design that works in partnership with the area, for example a tear shape. To maintain the area and provide the seed. By investing the money into an experienced contractor we can ensure the ground is prepared and managed well, giving the project the best chance of success. Quote of £500 attached. Whilst the aim was to try and get multiple people to quote for the job many were unable to, due to lack of time and back log of work

SUPPORTORS

EDGL will also prepare a proposal for submission to the Parish Council requesting the funding to enable this Village environmental project and are supportive of the project

Lesley Durso has also reported to the RA and they have confirmed their support for the project.

NEXT STEPS

Approve the project and for the council to support with funding the project. Then to begin work. Time is of the essence, as it needs to be seeded no later than the end of November. Parish to communicate the project via the newsletter and website to start to help inspire parishioners to do something similar with their gardens.

SUMMARY

The project would be a proactive, led by example campaign supported by the council to support the Southdown national park in its mission to renature the park. The project would be considered as a trial and if successful could be expanded in future, but before that would happen EDGL would take into consideration other uses of the greensward (e.g the summer fete), together with feedback from the community.