



East Dean & Friston P a r i s h C o u n c i l

Date: 06 January 2022

Title: Report Item 9 – Designation of Wildlife Verge on A259

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To report on a proposal from East Sussex County Council

Recommendations: To support the proposal

The parish council has been contacted by the Asset Management team at ESCC's department of Communities, Economy and Transport, with a proposal to designate a section of verge on the A259 eastwards from Cophall Lane to the parish boundary (and beyond) as a Wildlife Verge.

Over 97% of Britain's ancient flower rich meadows have been destroyed since the 1930s. However, nationwide, there are around 200,000ha of road verge. These currently support over 700 species of wild flowers, including 87 threatened with extinction. This gives highway authorities an opportunity to help to redress the balance.

Within East Sussex, there are around 1500ha of highway verges. About 26ha are designated as Wildlife Verges which the Highways Authority manages for the special wildlife they support.

East Sussex Highways wishes to work with the public, other local authorities, and other organisations who may wish to propose additional wildlife verges around the county, with selection based upon sound ecological criteria.

The verges marked on the attached map have been proposed by a local resident as new Wildlife Verges under the scheme.

As part of the designation process which will also include a meeting involving the county ecologist during January, and a final review by ESCC's contract manager, in advance of those meetings, the Asset Management team would be grateful if the parish council could confirm that it has no objection to this designation.

There seems no reason to object to the proposal, particularly as the verges in question lie mostly outside the EDF boundary and run across the Eastbourne Downlands.