



**Date:** 06 October 2022

**Title:** Report Item 9 – Environmental Projects

**By:** Cllr M Bustard (Lead Member - Environment)

**Purpose:** To agree to grant the Greensward Company the sum of £600 to be spent by them on re-seeding a portion of the Greensward

**Recommendations:** To approve the grant of £600

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The Lead Member supports this project, even recognising it is on private land. All the parish may derive a small knock on benefit and it is an Environmental matter.

Full details have been supplied by the Greensward Company and are appended to this report.

**EAST DEAN GREENSWARD LTD**  
**Greensward Diversification Project**

**Introduction**

East Dean Greensward Limited (EDGL) has agreed to establish a wildflower meadow on the lower (southern) part of the Greensward. This will initially cover an area of approximately 100 square meters and be comprised of native annual and perennial plants that are indigenous to chalk downlands. The initial area is relatively small so that the planting can act as a pilot scheme to allow the evaluation of the visual and ecological impact of the wildflower meadow on the area.

**Proposed activity**

During October 2022 the mowing contractor has agreed to cut the designated area very short to begin with. He will then scarify the surface to allow wildflower seeds to penetrate the soil. The area will then be seeded with a suitable wildflower mixture and left.

In spring 2023 the area will be left unmown to allow the wildflower plants to establish. After flowering and seed-drop in the late summer, the area will be trimmed to remove dead growth. In order to prevent the accumulation of vegetative matter and to keep the area looking tidy, the Residents' Association Environment Group will be invited to remove the loose cuttings. After this the contractor will resume mowing as usual. Mowing will stop again in spring 2024 and continue following the pattern outlined above in future years.

**Cost estimate**

The contractor has estimated that the cost of preparing the area (cutting/scarifying) and applying a suitable wildflower seed mix will be £600.00. EDGL would be very grateful if East Dean and Friston Parish Council is able to support the project with this amount. EDGL would appreciate a decision in time to undertake the project during October 2022.

**Related initiatives**

If the initial wildflower meadow is successful and appreciated by residents, then EDGL will consider the need to extend the area or to introduce new wildflower meadows in other parts of the Greensward. EDGL may approach the Parish Council again to request further funding.

The Residents' Association Environment Group conducted a botanical survey of the Greensward in 2022 and found that it comprises a very diverse variety of plant species in addition to grasses. Some more unusual wildflowers including orchids, cowslips, etc., were located near the top (northern) part of the Greensward. The Group has suggested that if this area was left unmown for a few critical weeks during the spring (known as 'no-mow May'), then these plants might flourish. EDGL will be considering this proposal at a future meeting. No funding will be required for this initiative, but it would be helpful if the Parish Council could indicate their support to the mowing contractor.

David Tennant  
EDGL Secretary  
September 2022