



**Ise Valley**



**2015 ecology event**



**Desborough Green Space**


# Local Pollinator Strategy





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## 1. Summary

1.1 The Local Pollinator Strategy Task and Finish Group was established by the Research and Development Committee, following a successful motion at Council in December 2014, to explore ways in which the Council could seek to improve the plight of pollinators both in its own activities and by influencing others by its own example

1.2 The terms of reference are set out in Appendix 1, along with the membership of the Group.

1.3 The Task and Finish Group met three times to consider its approach, survey the Council's current activities and take evidence from individuals and groups.

1.4. It took evidence from the following groups and individuals, as well as from KBC officers.

Natural-Ise

Wildlife Trust

Newton Field Centre

Northants Bee Keepers Association

Moulton College

Highways England

KBC Staff

The Group is most grateful for the time and energy given to this research by those people and by KBC staff.

## 2. What we know about them

2.1 Most bees are pollinators. They eat pollen and nectar from flowers. When the pollen sticks to their bodies, it gets transferred between the flowers they visit. This fertilises the plants in the process, allowing them to reproduce, and grow fruits and seeds. This process is called pollination. Insects, like bees, that transfer pollen between plants are known as pollinators.

## 3. The Strategy

3.1 Following on from a gathering with partners and other interested parties it has been established that there is much momentum within the Kettering Borough for improving areas for pollinators and offering more pollinators food.

3.2 The aims of this policy are to ensure that where possible pollinators are considered in decision making processes and land management.

## 4. Background

4.1 If pollinating insects went into serious decline, the health of our £100bn food industry, which is at the heart of our economy, would be damaged. Without the service nature provides, some of that food would become a lot harder to grow and more expensive.

4.2 The beauty not just of our countryside but of our gardens and parks too would be severely affected. Britain would become a much more drab place.

4.3 That is why taking action to help these insects is a key part of the priorities of this strategy to improve the natural environment and grow the rural economy.



Desborough Green Space

## 5. National Pollinator Strategy

5.1 This strategy will support Defra on the implementation of the National Pollinator Strategy.

5.2 It will set out to ensure our public campaigns and land management plans promote, and are consistent with the Bees' Needs message and advice.

5.3 Defra's strategy has a vision - to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us.

5.4 In creating a local strategy for the Kettering borough the aim will be to promote aspects of the National Pollinator Strategy relevant to urban areas and public land to a broad range of stakeholder groups including the public and businesses.

## 6. Actions

6.1 Consider these simple actions from bees needs when managing KBC land:

- Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen as food for bees and other pollinators throughout the year. For example, pussy willow, primroses and crocuses in spring, lavenders, meadow cranesbill and ox-eye daisies in summer, ivy and hebes in autumn, and mahonia shrubs and cyclamen in winter.
- Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles and dandelions to provide other food sources (such as leaves for caterpillars) and breeding places for butterflies and moths.
- Cut grass less often and ideally remove the cuttings to allow plants to flower.
- Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects, in places like grass margins, bare soil, hedgerows, trees, dead wood or walls.

- Think carefully about whether to use pesticides especially where pollinators are active or nesting or where plants are in flower.
- Engage with the public and encourage through the website pollinator friendly gardening practices
- Map pollinator habitat and identify target sites, survey current sites and put information on the website about species found on KBC land.
- Work with schools to promote pollinator friendly habitats in surrounding open space and school grounds through our Operation Spring Bloom scheme and ecology events.
- Review the strategy annually and in line with the national strategy when further information and advice becomes available.
- Include a prize for best pollinator garden amongst the council owned houses in annual competition.

6.2 Responsibility for the actions listed in Paragraph 6.1 will lie with the Grounds Maintenance Team led by Sarah Parr, Grounds Services Manager.

6.3 A number of the actions would be extensions or modifications of existing working practices and can be easily monitored by the team throughout the year.

6.4 Not only would the strategy be reviewed annually, an annual report on the effectiveness and implementation of actions could be produced and brought to the Research and Development Committee if required.

Mawsley pollinator event

