

Agenda item 31 New Management Plan for Beryls Meadow

The Clerk has asked for advice from a wildflower meadow expert, on the management of Beryls meadow and this plan is based on the advice received .

Observations

- the presence of thistles and nettles denote a fertile area
- scything and mowing the grass will have not have a particular impact on the fertility of the grass, it will take many years
- the fertility of the area is in the top 3” of top soil, this should be removed to create the correct environment for wildflowers. This is a mammoth task and not feasible.

Suggestions

Remove the soil in 2 small areas (2 x 2 sq. mts) and plant with annual cornflower mix, mixed with ox eyed daisies, these will produce a display next year, if the removing the soil has removed the nutrients.

Plants another 2 areas (2 x 2 sq. mts) without removing the soil and planting the same mixture to see if they grow. These areas will also seed and produce seeds which will spread the wild flowers.

It has also been this is carried out within the month, when the soil is warm and there are heavy dews. Also the birds have plenty of other food to eat.

Proposal

This Autumn

- Crown lift the trees to allow mowing
- To mow the area with the STC rotary mover, numerous times to reduce the height of the grass and thistles.
- Remove the top soil on 2 sites and plant Cornflower and Ox Eyed Daises
- Leave grass on 2 sites and plant Cornflower mix and Ox Eye Daises



A mix of 5 native annual wildflower species. NCA1 is best sown either on its own or included as part of a perennial wildflower meadow mix, to give some colour in the first year while the perennial species become established



Leucanthemum vulgare A well known wild flower with lovely, large, white daisy flowers. Also known as the Dog Daisy. Often seen in meadows and on roadsides. Bee Habitat Creation, Lawn Rewilding, Middle Flowers for May-July, Perennial

Spring

- Mow the grass as usual and assess the wildflower growth.

Summer

- Continue to mow the whole area and assess the success of the planted areas

Autum

- Plant extra wildflowers in relevant areas and add more areas to wildflowers as agreed.

The plan is to incorporate wildflower areas and picnic areas. Which can be enjoyed by all residents.

Costs

This Year

Seed Cost £23.00

Future

The wildflower specialist has offered to assess the area in the Spring/Summer next year.

Depending on the success of the trial, the council to decide on the next step and July Town Environment meeting 2024

Proposed Cllr L Harris

Compiled by L Wright