



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 March 2021
Subject:	Opportunities for Roadside Wildflower Planting Schemes

Summary:

This report outlines opportunities for partnership working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust concerning the trialling of roadside wildflower verges.

Actions Required:

To support the establishment of a partnership between the Council and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to trial a community led scheme for natural environment enhancement.

1. Background

Further to the report by officers on 9 December 2019 progress on selecting suitable locations or setting up a scheme for trialling new roadside wildflower verges has been delayed whilst prioritisation has been given to the response to the global pandemic.

In recent weeks however work has commenced on exploring the opportunity to enter into a partnership with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to establish a trial scheme to focus on community led natural environment and biodiversity enhancements including the potential of wildflower verge planting. It is envisaged that such a scheme will also seek other natural environment enhancement opportunities such as tree planting – both roadside and within parish held land – and pollinator schemes.

This will enable the Council to trial and establish wider costs for a more extensive programme of alternative verge management across the County.

The trial scheme and any potential changes to established verge management in the County will help the Council deliver its biodiversity duties in the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 and targets within the emerging Green Master Plan such as carbon neutrality.

2. Conclusion

That undertaking a focussed trial will enable the Council to establish the costs and benefits of wider alternative verge management across the County and that officers continue to explore and undertake community led schemes in focus areas (yet to be determined).

3. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Highways & Transport Scrutiny Report 9 December 2019	LCC Internet

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