

BIODIVERSITY PILOT Summary Update June 2021

PCC Contract Areas

Maes Hyfryd (Lower) Verge Map Ref 6e (adjacent to Properties Nos 34-39)

Site visits were carried out on bi-weekly or weekly. Purely from a biodiversity aspect the pilot has been a success, but some complaints received from residents who deemed verge was becoming unsightly. Decision Taken by CC to ask PCC to cut 3 weeks early due to complaints from some residents, verge cut by contractor 14/6/2021

Maes Hyfryd (Upper) Slope Map Ref 6c (adjacent to Pilot Street & Green Meadow)

Site visits were carried out on bi-weekly or weekly. Unfortunately PCC took the decision to cut the slope at the same time as 6e, without consultation. This cut was not requested by CC and effectively has curtailed the Pilot. It was due to be cut in September. Whilst monitoring was made for the spring flowers this area was expected to continue to be productive into the summer. Unfortunately plans for to produce a Plant ID sheet (Gill) to issue to local residents and the Ysgol Llandudoch children to encourage involvement will not happen. We are still awaiting details and why this area was cut earlier than requested without consultation.

Maes y Dre Slope Map Ref 3b (opposite Ferry Inn)

Site is monitored almost daily by Gill W part of the slope was cut in error in early spring by the contractor, however the main show of wildflowers in these areas is from early summer into Autumn. This is an ongoing pilot area and results so far show this year are following the pattern of its previous success in past years. Signs were erected this week to highlight that this is a biodiversity pilot area following the issue at 6e above and asking for consultation before any work is carried out.

CC Contract areas

Pinog and River frontage and Wildflower Bank (Map ID Various)

The main show of wildflowers in these areas is from early summer into Autumn, although there was a good show of Scurvy Grass throughout the spring and due to the reduced cutting on the landside of the riverside this has been able to establish itself across the path. Flag Iris's are currently in bloom and are spreading in the Marsh areas. The area is monitored bi weekly (at least). As in previous years the Hemlock Water Drop wort is being carefully monitored and removed on a regular basis by the contractor, to reduce its spread in the marsh and surrounding area (this is for H&S reasons as highly toxic if eaten).

Verge at Y Feidr nr Ty Johnny (Main entrance to village)

This area has not been cut until July in previous years to allow for spring flowers to flourish and once again there was a good display of Primrose, Daffodils and violets. Unfortunately due to a formatting issue with our software the cut date was inadvertently brought forward by 1 month. We have now taken steps (change in software) to ensure this will not happen again and our system is more robust. However, Gill W. was in the process of re-seeding a private bank nearby and we took the opportunity to place some of this seed on the verge. It was also noted that the cut was exceptionally low and more detailed instructions re mower height will be issued in the future.

M Kendall 17th June 2021