



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>BIO-DIVERSITY WITHIN COUNCIL - UPDATE</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>10th November 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our natural environment
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

Further to the information item to committee (Sept 2020) Members requested more information on the selected wildflower sites and how they complement traditional bedding plant sites.

## 2.0 Background

Following the successful introduction of a number of wildflower sites two years ago a number of other sites were identified for 2020 as being appropriate for this type of management. Not only do wildflower sites save money over traditional bedding plant presentations but they go some way to saving our endangered insect wildlife. This approach has proved successful in the eyes of the public who have contacted Council to express their approval (see appendix below).

Some additional sites have now been identified for 2021. Members should note that the following criteria is used when deciding which sites may be appropriate for wildflower planting

1. Safety Concerns – some beds located on roundabouts/roadside verges need regular attention (weeding/watering) throughout the summer when planted with bedding plants. Significantly less attention is needed when planted with wildflowers thus reducing the number of visits, risk to staff and labour cost.
2. Lack of any previous planting regime - many sites are not new but are additional and chosen for their suitability for wildflowers.
3. Sites which previously had shrubs/bushes which have become overgrown/unkempt and attract litter and vermin.

The emphasis will be to continue to offer a variety of floral presentations picking the most appropriate location for either bedding or wildflowers. The following table shows the ratio of wildflower to 'traditional' bedding plant sites proposed for 2021. These numbers may vary slightly in future years depending on the success at each location but it is anticipated that we will continue to bring a blend of presentations to suit all tastes and encourage our pollinators.

	Bedding	Wildflowers
Ballymoney/Moyle Area	20	5
Coleraine Area	34	17
Limavady Area	15	4
Total	69	26

## Appendix

Below are selection of comments received over the past 6 months.

I was in Coleraine yesterday and I saw the flowerbeds at the bottom of Queen St and along Millburn Rd. They are lovely and so nice to see flowers for pollinators. Also the roadside verges are really good this year. Buttercups everywhere. It's either less mowing or the very good weather. So well done.

Please convey to the appropriate department the appreciation and thanks of many people for the beautiful wild flower gardens at, among many, the Abbey Street car park bed. Very attractive, they encourage a brightness of spirit and attitude in these difficult times.

We just LOVE the wild flowers!

Thank you so much!

Can your parks folk prepare a fact sheet and contacts for seed so that we can all colour-up our wee corners?

Well done, and thanks again!!!!

I want to congratulate you on the wonderful beds of wild flowers in Coleraine. I live on Millburn Road and I pass them on my way into town as well as when going to Spar. They are delightful. Thank you.

Good morning,

I just wanted to send a quick note to congratulate those who organised and implemented the planting of wildflowers in and around Coleraine car parks and roundabouts. They are absolutely beautiful and such a joy to see especially in these strange and difficult times so thank you and well done - it is much appreciated! I also now feel inspired to recreate something similar at home in my own garden!

.....who asked me to pass on to those responsible how beautiful the wild flowers were around the car park in Abbey Street in Coleraine. She is an avid Bird and Wild flower enthusiast and says they are absolutely stunning.

Hi

I absolutely love the wildflowers you have in the beds around Coleraine and further afield. The beds and roundabouts look fantastic and the flowers just keep re-blooming at different stages. Wonderful to see diversity instead of the standard, uniform bedding flowers. On that note, please could you tell me where you got your seed mixes from? I would love to have that kind of display in my garden.

I just want to say how amazing your wild flower floral displays have been this summer on the strand road and the various flower beds throughout the town. We had family visiting from Dublin who used to work in Botanic Gardens and they were highly impressed. I'd love to find out the name of the seeds you used as I'd love to buy some for my garden next summer.

Thanks for any help you can provide and thanks so much for making lockdown at whole lot brighter with your amazing displays.

I would also like to compliment the council on their usual excellent work with the floral displays around Coleraine. The new wild flower areas are a delight and a great attraction for our besieged insect life. Many thanks

Just to say how much I like the wildflower planting in Coleraine and elsewhere. Colourful and so good for biodiversity. Please ensure it is kept up