

Full Responses to the Consultation on the Draft Action Plan for Pollinators

August 2013

Responses 1 - 20

Consultation Response Form – Pollinators in Wales

Your name: Gwen Potter

Your address: Glantrenfawr, Heol Glantren, Ceredigion

Question 1: Do you agree with our vision for pollinators in Wales?

Broadly – yes.

Question 2: Have we identified the main areas of concern for pollinators in Wales or are there further issues you want to identify?

Yes – although a future area of concern may be lack of incentive on a European or UK level for landowners to consider pollinators.

Although visitors enjoying 'the natural environment' has been mentioned, one major issue that has not been identified is lack of education for all ages in the importance of invertebrates and pollinators. A knowledge of the importance of pollinators in young people is crucial for the future, while the urgent action required needs educated people to support it.

Question 3: Do you agree with the outcomes identified, and the areas for action to achieve them? Your comments are welcomed.

These actions are welcome, however there is a glaring gap as neonicotinoid pesticides, specifically, are not mentioned. These pesticides have a more detrimental effect on bees than other pesticides.

Overall, the reduction on pesticide use in general would make a huge difference and incentives should be offered to achieve this.

Further funding for species rich grasslands would also be welcome within Glastir.

Question 4: How could you contribute further to the areas for action identified? How could we support you to do so?

Incentives to manage land for bees

Question 5: Would you like to be involved in developing the actions needed to achieve the outcomes? If so, in what way?

N/A

Question 6: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them: Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here:

I speak on my own behalf, and not on behalf of the National Trust.

From: Meryl Davies [mailto:meryl.woodlands@gmail.com]

Sent: 09 April 2013 14:27

To: BioDiversity
Subject: BEES

I would like to offer a suggestion towards helping to increase the bee population in Wales, and in the UK generally for that matter.

STOP CUTTING THE ROADSIDE VERGES.

STOP CUTTING THE GRASS VERGES BETWEEN LANES OF DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS.

ALLOW THE WILD FLOWERS AND GRASSES TO GROW.

This would also save on fuel, therefore saving on pollution, help to improve our environment, and save on the cost of labour and machinery.

The farmers get the blame for so much, but this time I think the councils must take a lot of the blame.

In addition, the Spring / Summer wild flowers along the roadside are so beautiful and they are free. It is criminal to cut them down.

Thank you for reading this. Please consider my suggestion.

**Meryl Davies
The Woodlands
Devils Bridge
SY23 3JW**

From: [<mailto:hmaclehose@hotmail.com>]

Sent: 09 April 2013 15:24

To: BioDiversity

Subject: bees and pollinators

I wish to add my name and comments to those who share my concerns about the decline of these insect populations.

One of the apparent main culprits would appear to be the use of neonicotinoids as a spray on fields planted with oil seed rape and other crops. . Experiments carried out at various universities world wide have come to the same conclusion therefore it would seem madness to continue in this chemicals use thereby eliminating yet more pollinating insects. The current UK government seems inclined to prevent the ban of such chemicals in Europe for a period of 2 years so I would hope the Welsh government would have more sense and go it alone on this matter.

Sincerely

Heather MacLehose

From: di webster [<mailto:mail4di@dsl.pipex.com>]

Sent: 09 April 2013 18:06

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Consultation

Main issues are, Weather, Lack of forage, pesticides and varroa mites (for honeybees only).

Reduced pollution will help somewhat towards the weather but, only if the rest of the World including the useless English/USA Governments play ball.

Same goes for the pesticides. Unfortunatley US and English Governments cant/wont see further than the end of their noses and are only in the business to line their pockets and reduce human populations at the expense of the Planet. Believe the Welsh will do much better.

From what I've seen when I've been in Wales you already do quite well in the wild forage stakes, however more can always be done. Wasteland could be planted out with native wild plants, trees.

Wide verges could have the hedge/fence bottoms and inside section of verge done similarly.

People should be discouraged from replacing gardens etc with concrete, gravel and tarmac. Everyone should be encouraged to grow their own herbs, fruit, veg and flowers in pots, baths, tyres, window

boxes etc if they have no where else to do so. If done organically or near so then they will have healthier/fresher foods in their diets and be helping pollinators. Help should be (may already be) available to help beekeepers to look after their bees. Many bee(keepers) havers I know, would rather not know about bee disease, this is an horrendous attitude to have. Not aware if this is the same in Wales.

All pollinators need access to shallow water sources, so ideally smallish ponds/pools with tapered edges could be incorporated into the bigger wildflower areas.

Hope this helps.

Please do not take exception to my comments on the 'other governments':.)

Di Webster. Cornwall. (Beekeeper and wild life lover).

From: ilyan [mailto:ilyan.thomas@virgin.net]

Sent: 09 April 2013 20:54

To: BioDiversity

Subject: pollination

String up any Politician who votes against banning the nicotinoid sprays.
Ilyan

From: Roselle Angwin [mailto:roselle@fire-in-the-head.co.uk]

Sent: 10 April 2013 09:29

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Bee decline

I live in England but feel very strongly about bee decline. We're doing all we can here in Devon, and are about to create hives in our field. Congratulations, Wales, for leading the field (as you have done too with badger vaccination).

We so hope England will follow suit:

Consultation Response Form

Your name: Roselle Angwin

Email/telephone number: roselle@fire-in-the-head.co.uk

Your address: Higher Beenleigh Barn, Nr Totnes TQ9 7ND

Question 1

: Do you agree with our vision for pollinators in Wales?

100%

Question 2

: Have we identified the main areas of concern for pollinators in Wales or are there further issues you want to identify?

As far as I can tell from England

Question 3

: Do you agree with the outcomes identified, and the areas for action to achieve them? Your comments are welcomed.

Yes

Question 4

: How could you contribute further to the areas for action identified?

I will continue to disseminate info on social media networks, and we'll continue to do what we can on our own 2 acres

How could we support you to do so?

Please keep me informed

Question 5

: Would you like to be involved in developing the actions needed to achieve the outcomes? If so, in what way?

As in 4 above

From: Violet McLaughlin [mailto:evescloset07@hotmail.com]

Sent: 10 April 2013 15:48

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Protect the pollinators

Though not a resident of the UK, I have read and agree completely with the "Consultation on the Draft Action Plan for Pollinators for Wales." Action needs to be taken to protect the honeybee and other pollinators. We cannot stand idly by as these populations continue to decline; we are dependent upon the services they provide, it is vital for our survival. Any substances that are detrimental to the health of the pollinators need to be outlawed. It is clear what the culprits are. We must do something about this rapidly growing problem before this Earth becomes uninhabitable for us humans.

From: susan loose [mailto:lemursloose@yahoo.com]

Sent: 10 April 2013 16:12

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Response to Consultation on the Draft Action Plan for Pollinators for Wales WG 17702

Dear Biodiversity Team,

Consultation Response Form

Your name: Susan Loose

Organisation (if applicable) S.Loose Farm and Garden Services

Email/telephone number: lemursloose@yahoo.com

Your address 2 Waterloo Terrace, Park Road, Newbridge, Wrexham, LL14 3YT

Question 1

: Do you agree with our vision for pollinators in Wales?

Yes, it is so great to see this issue being taken on board and I really look forward to seeing some action and results.

Question 2

: Have we identified the main areas of concern for pollinators in Wales or are there further issues you want to identify?

I think you have done a really good job of identifying the main areas for concern. The other issue I would highlight is awareness. This is mentioned in the document but the biggest hurdle to overcome is changing peoples awareness, attitudes and perceptions to speed the fulfillment of the plan.

Question 3

: Do you agree with the outcomes identified, and the areas for action to achieve them? Your comments are welcomed.

Yes on the whole. I would love to have the time to go through this thoroughly and comment on each section. There is a lot of work identified here which will certainly help but I wonder how much funding and expertise will really be invested, this will obviously be where the plan holds up or falls down. I fully support spending to acheive these objectives.

Question 4

: How could you contribute further to the areas for action identified? How could we support you to do so?

I have a peice of land of around 6 acres in the Ceiriog Valley which I bought with the main aim of protecting it as an important peice of semi/unimproved grassland which I consider to be of high value to wildlife, pollinators in particular. I can continue to manage this in a pollinator friendly way but I would like help in identifying the specific species present, it is good for wildflowers bumble bees, butterflies, moths and various wasp species amongst others. I am happy for this peice to be recognised as an important natural asset to Wales and I would like some support in having a way to register this as a pollinator friendly patch and to gain some recognition and protection for this for the future.

Question 5

: Would you like to be involved in developing the actions needed to achieve the outcomes? If so, in what way?

Yes. If I can be of any use. I am involved in several local conservation based organisations and have many contacts with similiar privately owned peices of land who would also be interested in having these put 'on the map' in some way as pollinator friendly patches. When I enquired a few years ago about whether there was any way of registering my peice as a private reserve or conservation area with the local council, I was told there wasn't. Recently I have been advised that if you have certain rare species identified on the land some designation may be possible. I would be very interested in being involved in any stakeholder/discussion/action groups formed around this plan

Question 6:

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

I have been very concerned over recent years at the increase in the use of herbicides by councils. In particular in the Ceiriog Valley, the roadside edges are frequently being treated with round up (I presume), by Wrexham Council even on the small upland roads where I have been used to collecting herbs and wild fruit over the years. I feel this must affect the wildflowers and pollinators and would like to see specific policies to prevent this kind of practise increasing.

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here:

Many thanks, Sue Loose

From: Kerry Lane [mailto:kerry.a.lane@googlemail.com]

Sent: 10 April 2013 19:14

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Response to Consultation on the Draft Action Plan for Pollinators for Wales

Consultation Response Form

Your name: Kerry Lane

Email/telephone number: kezereky_the_first@hotmail.com

Your address: 7 Pretoria Terrace, Shrewsbury, SY1 2SA (I work in Wales)

Question 1: Do you agree with our vision for pollinators in Wales? Yes

Question 2: Have we identified the main areas of concern for pollinators in Wales or are there further issues you want to identify? Yes

Question 3: Do you agree with the outcomes identified, and the areas for action to achieve them? Your comments are welcomed. Yes, although I think you should ban the neonectonide pesticides as their is substantial evidence of their effects and as you mention in the consultation, following the precautionary principle is a good idea.

Question 4: How could you contribute further to the areas for action identified? How could we support you to do so? Get Wales in bloom on board and support community groups to initiate bee friendly planting, eg. incredible edible style and what about encouraging councils to promote bee keeping on all allotment sites?

Question 5: Would you like to be involved in developing the actions needed to achieve the outcomes? If so, in what way? I can't think of a specific way I would want to be involved, but something may come up!

Question 6: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Thank you for such a well considered and sensible proposal
Kerry

From: Carolyn_Thomas@flintshire.gov.uk [mailto:Carolyn_Thomas@flintshire.gov.uk]

Sent: 11 April 2013 13:05

To: Light, Gemma (ESD - LNFM)

Subject: Re: Consultation on the Draft Action Plan for Pollinators for Wales

As a Local Authority Member and biodiversity champion, I get approached by NWWT and bee keepers about the management of our grass verges.

They ask that the grass is not cut too short because of nesting bees and that only one swathe is cut in rural areas to create a wildlife corridor and habitat.

It can be sometimes difficult as a Councillor to raise awareness of the importance of our grass verges with other Councillors who will argue that they look untidy and worry about highway safety. Sometimes, when I explain to councillors that a strip is left long for habitat they then understand, it doesn't occur to them. In Denbighshire they tried to introduce a cutting regime but then some councillors complained it looked untidy and they all ended up being cut drastically and more than necessary. In Flintshire we tried to introduce a new policy where just visibility splays on junctions would be cut in rural areas and one swathe in June but because of the changes in structure of staff and the amount of rain some weren't getting cut at all and others too much, there was inconsistency and then the new policy and biodiversity wrongly got blamed. We are trying again this year.

Grass verges add up to a lot of land that are in the control of local authorities and so a difference could be made and perhaps more emphasis could be included in the report. If there is some direction from the Welsh Government encouraging Local Authorities to manage grass verges in a good way and to plant pollinators or leave existing ones to flourish (instead of just planing daffodil bulbs and cutting to amenity

grass levels up to hedgerows) then it would be helpful. Also, a consistent approach across all Authorities in Wales may be helpful.

I remember walking up the lane by my house thinking there was nothing to see until I got to the top and the views opened up, but now I look at the verges and hedgerows and see all the variety of species on the way up, it's just about understanding and opening up to a whole new world.

Regards

Carolyn

From: Salena Walker [mailto:salena.walker@gmail.com]
Sent: 12 April 2013 13:02
To: BioDiversity
Subject: Consultation Response Form

Consultation Response Form

Your name: Salena Walker

Email/telephone number: salena.walker@gmail.com

Your address: Flat 3 Glan y Mor House, Conwy Old Road, Penmaenmawr, Conwy LL34 6UY

Question 1: Do you agree with our vision for pollinators in Wales?
Yes

Question 2: Have we identified the main areas of concern for pollinators in Wales or are there further issues you want to identify?
My main areas of concern have been addressed.

Question 3: Do you agree with the outcomes identified, and the areas for action to achieve them? Your comments are welcomed.
I agree with the outcomes but I feel more emphasis needs to be placed on eradicating agro-chemicals in Wales and making it an organic nation. Creating awareness, food and habitat for pollinators is really important but without addressing the issue of agro-chemicals the pollinators you support through awareness, food and habitat creation will be effected by the agro-chemicals and killed.

Question 4: How could you contribute further to the areas for action identified? How could we support you to do so?
In the past I have delivered workshops around schools to raise awareness of bees and delivered bee habitat workshops. Further funding for these kind of workshops would help all Primary schools in Wales to have bee awareness workshops. I think that extending funding or help to every individual with land could help. Possibly bee friendly seed packs and habitat creation packs could be sent out to Welsh households.

Question 5: Would you like to be involved in developing the actions needed to achieve the outcomes? If so, in what way?

I would like to be involved, especially with the delivery of workshops. I am also in the middle of buying some land and I would love to develop a part of the land into a pollinator sanctuary and run pollinator awareness workshops on the land.

From: Les Wilkins [mailto:les.wilkins@btopenworld.com]

Sent: 12 April 2013 14:11

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Consultation on the Draft Action ,Plan for Pollinators for Wales

I have read this document, and am hopeful that if most of the factors documented in it are properly dealt with, there is reason to be optimistic about the future of pollinators in Wales.

Is there anywhere I can register to be notified when the finalised action plan is available?

Regards,

Les Wilkins

From: Amanda (Wheeler) Martin [mailto:amandawheeler1@googlemail.com]

Sent: 12 April 2013 16:01

To: BioDiversity

Subject: Action Plan for Pollinators

I write to say please, please, please support the Action Plan for Pollinators.

Speaking as both a farmer's daughter and a very concerned member of the public, I feel we must pursue absolutely every path to reverse the decline in managed and wild pollinators.

This is our very food chain that we're talking about; and while artificial pollination is available to us, that comes at an unacceptable cost - both in monetary terms and in the domino effect on the environment that a permanent loss of our pollinating insects would have.

As a tax payer, I fully support the use of public budget to finance a) research into what factors are causing the decline in pollinating insects, as well as b) implementing immediate projects to bolster and encourage our remaining pollinating insects - such as habitat & feeding sanctuaries, especially given late flowering this year due to the cold weather.

If you wish to contact me, my preferred method is by email (we need to save the trees too).

Yours faithfully

Amanda Martin

3 Suddern Cottages, Salisbury Lane, Over Wallop, Stockbridge, Hamps SO20 8JJ

From: Lynn Dicks [<mailto:lvd22@cam.ac.uk>]
Sent: 15 April 2013 22:06
To: BioDiversity
Subject: Response to consultation on Pollinator Action Plan

Dear Welsh Government

Attached is my relatively brief response to your consultation about the Pollinator Action Plan.

Best wishes

Lynn Dicks

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Dr Lynn Dicks
Research Associate and NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellow Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge CB2 3EJ.

Web: <http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/zoostaff/dicks.html>

Blog: <http://www.valuing-nature.net/blogs/lynn-dicks>

Action Plan for Pollinators for Wales – a response to consultation from Dr Lynn Dicks, University of Cambridge

15 April 2013

SUMMARY

- The Action Plan for pollinators is an excellent initiative from the Welsh Government.
- Its best points are its multifarious approach to generating action and its focus on monitoring.
- It would be better if it contained some commitment to reducing pesticide use and some funding allocated to conservation or monitoring of wild pollinators.

1. The draft Action Plan for Pollinators is a brilliant initiative and one that other UK Governments should emulate.
2. The Plan provides an accurate picture of what we know about the status of pollinators in Wales. It identifies the main groups of pollinators (honey bees, bumblebees, solitary bees, some wasps, hoverflies, butterflies, moths, some other flies and beetles). It communicates clearly that we don't exactly know whether numbers of wild bees are declining, only that some bee species have become less widespread. We have excellent monitoring data for butterflies and moths, and they show serious on-going declines.
3. The Plan discusses why pollinators are important to Wales. As well as their role in crop pollination, it highlights their importance to natural habitats and cultural landscapes, which has not yet been formally evaluated. Over 70% of tourists in Wales come mainly for the 'quality of the Welsh environment', so this value should not be forgotten. In turn, the Plan clearly identifies the semi-natural habitats that are important in supporting pollinators - species-rich grassland, heathland and flower-rich woodland and hedgerow.
4. The Action Plan identifies five main threats to pollinators: agricultural intensification, habitat loss, disease, agrochemicals and climate change. To address these threats, it suggests four target outcomes, which have associated actions. In brief, the outcomes are: diverse and connected flower-rich habitats, healthy pollinator populations, Welsh

citizens who are better informed about pollinators and a sound evidence base on pollinators.

5. So will this Plan save Welsh pollinators? Does it have the power to reverse the very serious declines we find in whichever pollinator species group we look closely at? Given the current state of knowledge about pollinators, it is difficult to say for sure. But the plan has some really good things in it. Here are its best points and areas where it could be improved.

6. Best points

- 6.1. Pollination will be highlighted as a key biodiversity issue in many policies and sets of guidance. This multifarious approach, using existing routes and networks to generate action, seems likely to be effective. For example, pollinator guidance will be fed to farmers through the Government's farm advisory service Farming Connect, to land managers through National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty management plan guidance, to woodland managers through Natural Resources Wales and to urban managers through the Green Flag Awards. This is great. I have been shocked by the complete absence of pollinators from standard guidance issued to farmers on how to grow different crops, even crops that depend on pollinators such as [strawberries](#).
- 6.2. The plan recognises the urgent need to monitor wild pollinator populations. If we don't start monitoring numbers of wild bees and hoverflies systematically, we won't know whether any actions are working. The area of 'pollinator-friendly habitat' will also be monitored. I look forward to indicators being developed and data emerging.

7. Areas for improvement

- 6.3. There is not a lot in the plan about pesticides. Under the 'healthy pollinators' outcome, the plan is to monitor pesticide use. A national commitment to reduce pesticide use, reduce unnecessary pesticide use or reduce the impact of pesticides on pollinators would be very welcome. France, the biggest agricultural producer in Europe, has such a plan ([Ecophyto](#) 2018), so why not Wales?
- 6.4. The only funding commitment in the document is a promise to fund the [National Bee Unit](#). This focuses almost exclusively on managed honey bees, which provide a limited component of the pollination service (probably between 5 and 50%) to crops or wildflower habitats. Could some of these funds have been committed to wild pollinator conservation or monitoring?
- 6.5. On page 1, the Plan states that sunflower is the key crop globally that benefits from hoverfly pollination. I do not know of any evidence for this. Hoverflies are not included as sunflower pollinators on the International Pollinators Initiative's [Pollination Information Management System](#). Carrot and possibly apple would be better examples of crops that benefit from hoverfly pollination.
- 6.6. The Plan is a little vague on what resources pollinators need (page 2). It neglects to mention larval resources needed by hoverflies, butterflies and moths for example.

Please note, some of the preceding text was published on 15 April 2013, on the Valuing Nature Network blog: <http://www.valuing-nature.net/blogs/lynn-dicks>.

From: Peter Watson [mailto:petetheplan@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 16 April 2013 18:53
To: BioDiversity
Subject: SAVE THE POLLINATORS

Dear Team, please see attached; I would be glad to assist in any way appropriate.

Kind regards,

Peter

Peter Watson | BSc Architectural Technology (CIAT Accredited)
Atlas and Partners - Architectural Services

Red Gables, Trelessy Rd., Llanteg, Pembrokeshire SA67 8PU,

POLLINATORS

The rise of pollution and the decline of pollinators form almost identical graph lines over the same three-decade study; enough correlation to include pollution as at least a contributory factor if not a major cause.

If pollution is proved to relate directly to the decline of pollinators, and the decline of pollinators is seen as a threat to people, then more concentration may be focused on why pollution is being allowed to increase.

There are two major contributors to pollution that could be decreased with profitability all round, and to nobody's real disadvantage: -

- Unsustainable sourcing of manufacturing materials, and
- Unregulated sales-promotion-and-packaging.

Unsustainable sourcing of *any* materials causes environmental damage, verified by the decline of bumblebees and butterflies. Unregulated sales-promotion – junk-mail; if we didn't receive junk-mail (in case anyone ever reads it), we'd browse the Internet to price and locate our needs – which alone would eliminate about 50% of paper-waste pressure on landfills. And these are the sort of percentages we need to be looking for; whereas re-cycling helps, it won't reduce landfill deposits by enough to save bumblebees and butterflies from extinction, their fate directly related to landfill-pollution.

These are just two obvious areas that need to come under refined regulation, which would undoubtedly benefit the land and the population, and, of course, bumblebees and butterflies, flowers, fruit-and-veggies, and a long list of co-dependents.

Yours sincerely

Peter J Watson BSc H< *Peter J Watson*

From: nigel moss [mailto:n_a_moss@hotmail.com]
Sent: 18 April 2013 08:40
To: BioDiversity
Subject: Draft action for pollinators - response

re Q3

The huge potential of road side verges needs greater prominence. Local authorities cut these too frequently rather than cut to promote wild flowers. Even the conservation verges they designate are often mismanaged.

An obvious example is the A48 in the Vale of Glamorgan which is cut more often than is needed for road safety. Highways management seems resistant to change so needs Welsh Government to require Local Authorities and Highways Agencies to reduce cutting frequency so as to promote plants other than grass. They should work with Plantlife.

http://www.plantlife.org.uk.gridhosted.co.uk/roadvergecampaign/why_are_road_verges_so_important

Thanks

Nigel Moss
Oaklands Cottage
Hensol
Pontyclun CF72 8JY

rom: christina davison [mailto:christina.davison123@btinternet.com]
Sent: 18 April 2013 14:03
To: BioDiversity
Subject: pollinators

Dear Sir,

I am very concerned about the way the councils manage the highways and byways and grass verges.

Grass has been very slow this year but the grass cutters are out cutting the grass around the daffodils! As soon as the grass verges begin look attractive , with lush green grass, dandelions buttercups and daisies, the grass cutter demolishes them leaving the verges looking decimated.

The bees appear, feed off these plants and as soon as they are cut, the bees disappear

The area in Bridgend on the Industrial estate used to look beautiful in spring covered in daisies but with continue cutting before the flowers set seed, they are almost disappearing

A lot is said about farmers not giving enough thought to conservation and I am sure this may be true but no mention is ever made regarding councils who cut everything down before it has a chance to live!

I would like to see cutting restructured and none done except in areas of possible danger until flowers set in July particularly in the Vale of Glamorgan and a full survey made into the wild plants in the hedgerows.

From Llampha ,Ewenny through the Vale are ancient lanes and hedges. Please consider this and allow the hedgerows flower in all their glory.

In order to protect the remaining few butterflies and bees I would suggest that all councils are forbidden to cut grass and verges and country lanes until the wild flower seeds have set in July and August.

I appreciate that areas where there is a danger to motorists must obviously be considered on grounds of safety

There is nothing more pleasing than fresh green grass in the spring time. The daffodils and the profusion of primroses look delightful in the longer grass. Along come the strimmers and hours time and money are spent cutting the grass around them ! They are left look totally unnatural.

There has been little growth in the grass this Spring. The violets, buttercups and dandelion flowers open in the sun. The bees settle to gather nectar and along come the hedge cutters and all we have is desecration . The wild flowers are demolished on the verges leaving the bees and butterflies with out food. No colour or beauty left and the bees disappear instantly.

If grass verges are left we will have a succession of wild flowers throughout the summer months making it far more pleasurable to walk the lanes whilst protecting our wild life and saving the councils and the tax payer a great deal of money

Please can we have a review of this situation

Yours faithfully,

Ms Christina Davison

From: IAN RABJOHNS [mailto:ian.jessica123@btinternet.com]
Sent: 18 April 2013 15:54
To: BioDiversity
Subject: Fw: Pollinators

Pollinators.

When instigating action plans for such a group on a countrywide scale, actions are often targeted through the existing major schemes. e.g. agri-environment programmes.

This could easily exclude conservation of some of the most diverse pollinator localities because these are now very small plots (islands) which may be too small to benefit from such schemes.

It is vital that if these islands are to remain in good bio-diverse health, when the vast land area is pollinator poor, that assistance is given to these small areas to help maintain them.

A particular standpoint is the need for these plots to be able to maintain a correct level of grazing. On very small holdings, say less than 6 acres, and even larger, this is increasingly difficult, as the ability to run, beg or borrow such small flocks of sheep becomes impossible.

Old orchards, where they exist, are good examples of this and often support high numbers of pollinators.

I Rabjohns

From: Peter Bissmire [mailto:pbiss@pbcls.com]
Sent: 21 April 2013 08:16
To: BioDiversity
Subject: Action on pollinators

Sirs,

We are always delighted to see insects active in our garden and tend to maintain it in such a way that they are encouraged by the presence of nectar providing plants and not discouraged by decking, excessive tidiness and attempts at "pest" control.

Put bluntly, pollinators are encouraged by giving them something to pollinate.

Fruit trees (cherry, plum and ornamental apple) provide blossom early in the season, Bumble bees love early flowering heathers (native heathers flower locally in August), Primulas (native and cultivated primrose and cowslip relatives) seem to enjoy our pennant sandstone and boulder clay soil and spread freely around the garden - so we let them, Various succulents provide late season nectar...

Regarding species decline,

up to some 5 years ago we had a small colony of leaf cutter bees that enjoyed the warmth of a shallow "flower" bed atop a local stone wall.

We have not changed our practices but these have now disappeared.

It does occur to me that one joined-up habitat lies within the direct control of local and national government.

I refer, of course, to road verges.

Where possible, an appropriately broad strip should be managed to encourage wild flowers.

This would involve infrequent mowing and scrub control to be carried out in a staggered programme, cutting short sections at different times of the year, not long stretches in a single operation.

The introduction of eyebrights and yellow rattle to parasitise the grass would also help here.

It would also be nice to see more being done to control 2 invasive species that tend to smother competition, namely, Japanese knotweed and bracken.

Reducing bracken on our hillsides would allow its replacement by heather and bilberry, both plants beloved of, amongst others, the small copper butterfly.

It would also reduce fire risk - an additional payback.

I hope these thoughts are helpful.

Best regards

Peter Bissmire

Consultation Response Form

Your name: Annie Paine

Organisation (if applicable)

Email/telephone number: anniepaine@hotmail.co.uk / 07804 624795

Your address: Ty Pren, Cilgwyn Road, Newport, Pembrokeshire SA42 0QG

Question 1: Do you agree with our vision for pollinators in Wales? Yes

Question 2: Have we identified the main areas of concern for pollinators in Wales or are there further issues you want to identify? The relationship with the public, getting people activated - switching on the people who buy food, have gardens, and use public spaces

Question 3: Do you agree with the outcomes identified, and the areas for action to achieve them? Your comments are welcomed. Broadly yes

Question 4: How could you contribute further to the areas for action identified? How could we support you to do so? I help manage a woodland/orchard in Llantwit Major, run by Transition Llantwit. We would love to have beehives at the orchard, if there were any support available.

Question 5: Would you like to be involved in developing the actions needed to achieve the outcomes? If so, in what way? Yes, if there are educational materials available, could these be taken into schools and community groups? If not, I could help to produce them.

Question 6: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them: Engage with members of the public to get them on side. Educate. The majority of people don't relate to this issue. I'm thinking of all those who buy food, who have gardens, and who use public spaces - ie all of us! I would like to see people start to feel that they have a stake in all this - the type of agriculture (caring about local produce; growing their own); how they manage their gardens (getting away from the green-desert-lawn, and hopefully banning concreted-over front-gardens) and learning to love public spaces that are pollinator-friendly (understanding changes in mowing regimes on grass-verges/ roundabouts) . Stop local authorities using pesticides on verges and around pavements. Get every school involved.

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here:

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