

# Biodiversity for the Parish

This Plan is to assist all property owners in the parish to help with biodiversity on their property. Start small and see what happens.

## **Bird Boxes**

Purchase (or self-make) and install boxes in carefully selected locations on buildings or mature trees. The addition of nest box cameras will enable residents to observe and appreciate wildlife present. Modern houses don't have holes for birds to nest in! Modern gardens often don't have shrubs and hedges for cover. House sparrows have declined by over 70% since 1977. House martins have declined by nearly 50% since 1999. Swifts have declined by 60% since 1995. To help we need to address all these factors.

Benefits:

- Increases nesting sites around the site.
- The addition of nest-box cameras will enable residents to observe and appreciate wildlife present.

## **Grass cutting:**

Areas be left uncut to encourage wildflowers and insects. A small patch, a margin it all helps.

Birds in Buildings Birds associated with human habitation are in steep decline. Wet summers, lack of insect food and loss of nesting sites are the main cause v

Benefits:

- Encourage bees, insects to attract more birds.

## **Flowers Wildlife Enhancement:**

Wildflower seeds and plug plants increase floral diversity at a low cost. Plant plug plants and scatter seeds into spaces in existing grassy areas in April-May after main frosts have finished. This will help create more habitat and increased resources for pollinating invertebrates like bees.

Benefits

- Greater floral diversity creating more habitat and increased resources for invertebrates and other wildlife such as birds and small mammals..

## **Plant a Native Wildlife Hedge:**

Hedgerows of native plants provide food, shelter and nesting sites for wildlife. Wildflowers and bulbs can be planted at the base.

Benefits:

- shelter, and nesting sites for wildlife.
- Screening benefits (noise mitigation, privacy, hiding unsightly objects and views).

## **Provide vertical planting**

Where space is limited, you can increase floral diversity by growing climbing plants. Wildlife-friendly climbers include honeysuckle, jasmine and clematis. They can provide a useful source of nectar for pollinators.

### Benefits

- Increases overall floral diversity where space may be limited.
- Provides important nectar sources and host plants for a wide range of invertebrates. Fruits and seeds provide an important resource for a variety of wildlife.
- Structure also provides suitable nesting sites for birds and overwintering habitats for invertebrates.

## **Leave or plant ivy as a food resource**

Ivy is a useful nectar source at a time of year when other resources are in short supply. The blossom is visited by high numbers of bees, wasps, butterflies, and other important pollinators like hoverflies. Ivy's leaves, berries and structure are also important for a wide variety of wildlife.

### Benefits

- An important nectar source at a time of year when other resources are in short supply. Ivy blossom is visited by high numbers of bees, butterflies, and other invertebrates, many of which are important pollinators (e.g. hoverflies).
- Ivy is the single most important nectar source for the Ivy Bee, a colonial species of solitary bee that has now become well established in southern England.
- The berries and foliage are important food for many animals with some species particularly associated with ivy (e.g. Holly Blue butterfly and numerous moth species).
- Ivy stands provide good nesting sites for birds and important overwintering sites for invertebrates, such as the Brimstone butterfly, which spends the winter as adults hidden away from predators.
- Ivy is a useful native screening plant being evergreen and provides shelter and cover during winter months.

## **Bug hotels and nest boxes for solitary bees**

Install artificial bee nesting boxes and habitats for wildlife to shelter (bug hotels) in suitable locations. These can be bought or home-made using natural materials. Making sure they are secure and well positioned is vital.

### Benefits

- Increases nesting sites
- refuges from predators and overwintering sites for a wide range of invertebrates.

## **Create log piles or loggers for invertebrates**

Dead wood is useful for wildlife. Log piles and loggers (sunken logs) provide structural habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and mammals and a crucial resource for wood-feeding and wood-boring invertebrates.

Benefits

- Provides structural habitat for invertebrates, reptiles and mammals and potentially nesting sites for some birds such as wrens and robins.
- Provides a crucial resource for wood-feeding and wood-boring invertebrates.
- Loggers are particularly effective for providing suitable resource for the nationally scarce Stag Beetle (if present locally).

## **Create natural nesting sites for invertebrates**

Drill holes into existing tree stumps to create nesting sites for bees, wasps and beetles as well as other invertebrates, increasing invertebrate diversity and encouraging wood-feeding invertebrates.

Benefits:

- Creates nesting sites for bees, wasps and beetles as well as other invertebrates, increasing invertebrate diversity and encouraging wood-feeding invertebrates.

## **Hedgehogs**

Purchase (or self-make) and install habitat homes in carefully selected locations. Modify boundaries to allow hedgehogs to move freely around the site.