

Agenda Item 12i

Council Meeting of: 13 October 2021

CON - Boshier/Payter-Harris

AGENDA ITEM 12(i) - Biodiversity enhancement in urban Portsmouth

Amendment

Under Council notes, in the third bullet point, delete the words ", the Labour Party want more to be done and action to be quicker." And replace with " this Council believes that more can be done to improve our City"

Delete both bullet points under "Council resolves:" and replace with

- To request that Scrutiny Management Panel and the Transport, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee reviews all relevant policies and practices on urban biodiversity that might harm or undermine local ecosystems, such as grass cutting across the city, re-wilding on allotment plots to improve habitats for insects, including bees. In general, approaches should aim to positively contribute to re-wilding and support other approaches to re "greening" Portsmouth.
- That Scrutiny seek views from residents, interested community groups and ward councillors.
- That Scrutiny report back with recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.

Proposed by (Name) _____ Councillor Simon Boshier

Signed _____

Seconded by (Name) _____ Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

Signed _____

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AGENDA ITEM 12 (i) - Biodiversity enhancement in urban Portsmouth

1. Delete second paragraph
2. In par 3, line 4, replace "the Labour Party" with "people of all parties and none"
3. Replace Par 6 with the following:
 - Since May 2018, the Council has done much, much more than just inform people about biodiversity. It has acted, for instance on the city's housing estates alone:

Area	Plants, shrubs & native hedging	No. of Trees	No. of Daffodil Bulbs
Somerstown	2,000	170	22,390
Paulsgrove	2,000	16	47,000
Landport & Portsea	2,800	167	128,850
Buckland	23,500	330	118,900
Total	30,300	684	317,140

In addition, the following wildflower and meadow areas are sown each year, starting between 2018 and 2021:

- **Baffins ward:** Copnor Bridge, the junction of St Mary's Road and Milton Road at Kingston Prison, Tamworth Park
- **Central Southsea ward:** Devonshire Avenue
- **Charles Dickens ward:** Lake Road, Queens Street
- **Copnor ward:** College Park, Althorpe Drive, Copnor Road
- **Cosham ward:** Portsmouth Road
- **Drayton and Farlington ward:** Zetland Field, Eastern Road roundabout
- **Eastney and Craneswater ward:** Canoe Lake
- **Milton ward:** Bransbury Park, Bransbury Gardens, St James' Green, Milton Park
- **Nelson ward:** Mills Road
- **Paulsgrove ward:** Hempsted Green
- **St Jude ward:** Clarendon Gardens, Western Parade, Southsea Castle Moat, Rock Gardens, Ladies Mile
- **St Thomas ward:** Pembroke Triangle

The following areas are being trialled for 're-wilding:' being left to allow development of natural grassland / wildflowers, rather than being subject to a regular mowing regime

- **Copnor ward:** East Bastion (seaward side),
- **Cosham ward:** Langstone Gardens
- **Fratton ward:** Kingston Rec play area
- **Hilsea ward:** Alexandra Park sports field
- **Milton ward:** behind Glasgow Road, Kingsley Road
- **Nelson ward:** Stamshaw Park
- **St Jude ward:** Duisburg Way, Pyramids (seaward side), Clarence Parade car park
- **St Thomas ward:** Long Curtain banks (north and south facing), Pembroke Gardens, Pier Road (near Clarence sports ground)

Wildflowers are also being explored for South East Hampshire Rapid Transit schemes and, though the PFI, the M275 Mile End junction, the Spur Road roundabout and Oakhurst Gardens.

In addition, Council has turned about two hectares of Portsdown Hill - south of Kintyre Road, in the area around Cliffdale Gardens, the main viewpoint car park area and areas near Fort Widley - into a managed countryside site.

There are also a range of sites where different regimes have been pursued since May 2018. These include:

- Western Fort Cumberland
- Milton Common
- Foxes Forest at Hilsea Lines
- Farlington Triangle, home to one of the few natural populations of water voles in Hampshire.
- Sites affected by the sea defence project: Anchorage Park, Langstone Harbour, Milton Common and Tipner

However, more must be done. That is why the administration has asked the Council to pursue more projects, for instance:

- Wild flower turf at Atherstone Walk
- A large meadow area and - with help from the Portsmouth District Bee Keeping association - a bee hive for Gloucester Terrace
- Wild flower meadows at Kingston Road
- A new meadow at Princes Place
- Living walls at Grafton Street and Estella Road
- Make the successful return of Landport Community Garden the first step towards encouraging council residents to 'grow their own'

Council welcomes and supports these initiatives. Council also recognises that it must not do this alone. Therefore it congratulates Cabinet's approval of a community greening fund to help local community groups do just that.

Council congratulates Bramble Infant School in winning the first tranche of this money. Its plans for a range of activities, including growing its own food, making its lessons more nature-oriented and encouraging children and parents to look after the trees and wildlife areas they will create, are excellent.

Council also welcomes the excellent relationship councillors have with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and how it has helped councillors on various projects, including:

- Councillor Horton and former Councillor Pitt on Fawcett Road and Frances Annie Place
- Cllrs Sanders and Stagg backing Tamworth Road residents joining the 'Wilder Portsmouth' initiative, helping local people create wildflower meadows at Tamworth Park and exploring another one on Edenbridge Road.

Council notes the Cabinet approving a greening strategy in March 2020, which committed to planting 30,000 trees by 2030. It also notes the extensive work already done, including:

- 50,000 at Horsea Island
- Working with the Tree Council to expand the MP for Portsmouth South's 'Vote 100, Plant 100' to cover the north of our city too
- Securing Tree Council funding for:
 - 200 mixed native whips on Baffins Field
 - 200 mixed native whips at Great Salterns
 - New trees on London Road, the Hilsea Sea Defence area and John Wesley Gardens
- Backing the Charles Dickens Community Orchard project, with planting in, among other places, Portsea, Buckland and - to mark D-Day - Port Solent.
- The extensive work done by the Parks department to plant hundreds of trees over the last three years.

4. Below Council resolves:

a. Delete and replace Paragraph 7, sentence 1, to read:

The words "To request that the Cabinet reviews and updates" with " Council welcomes the work done so far on improving the city's biodiversity and urges it to go further by asking the Cabinet to review and update"

Council welcomes the work done so far on improving the city's biodiversity and urges it to go further by asking the Cabinet to review and update all relevant policies and practices on urban biodiversity that might harm or undermine local ecosystems.

b. Delete all the words after " ecosystems" and insert as a new second and third sentence:

"In particular, there should be a full consultation with all plot holders before any changes, if any, are brought forwards. An initial consultation with all Chairs of allotment committees has seen them express real concern about increasing the amount of wilding allowed on allotments."

c. Reinsert the current final sentence of Par 1 should form a new paragraph 2 (adding "That, " at the start to read " That, in general,

approaches should aim positively to contribute to re-wilding and support other approaches to re"greening" Portsmouth."

AMENDED MOTION therefore to read

Council notes:

- Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. The dramatic decrease in biodiversity across the world is both caused by, and is also contributing to, the acceleration of the climate crisis.
- Whilst we are aware of the policies being developed as part of the new Local Plan, we want to accelerate implementation of a better approach to biodiversity now rather than waiting for 18 months or more to do so. When it comes to green issues, people of all parties and none want more to be done and action to be quicker.

Council believes:

- As part of the Council’s strategy to address the climate crisis, measures to enhance biodiversity should be central. Small actions taken by residents and the Council can increase the cumulative, positive impacts of re-wilding.
- Local Authorities in the UK, and abroad, have taken a variety of measures to enhance biodiversity, such as re-wilding the tops of bus shelters or on council buildings, extensively planting wildflowers and greening built-up city areas. These are examples but the scope is virtually unlimited to make a significant impact to local biodiversity and by corollary have a direct effect upon our local environs and climate change.
- Since May 2018, the Council has done much, much more than just inform people about biodiversity. It has acted, for instance on the city's housing estates alone:

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Council resolves:

- Council welcomes the work done so far on improving the city's biodiversity and urges it to go further by asking the Cabinet to review and update all relevant policies and practices on urban biodiversity that might harm or undermine local ecosystems. In particular, there should be a full consultation with all plot holders before any changes, if any, are brought forwards. An initial consultation with all Chairs of allotment

committees has seen them express real concern about increasing the amount of wilding allowed on allotments.

- That, in general, approaches should aim positively to contribute to re-wilding and support other approaches to re"greening" Portsmouth.
- To request that the Leader of the Council provides bi-monthly updates to Members on the progress of this initiative

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Darren Sanders

Signed _____

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Dave Ashmore

Signed _____

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