

## **Information regarding bee posts from Coastal Partners.**

When investigating various options for bee posts a few years ago, a number of experts in the field were contacted:

- Buglife
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Sussex Uni – Experts in this area

They highlighted that large hotels are sometimes criticised for attracting parasites, but the jury is out on that, which is why we will carry out checks on the bee posts to spot if it is a problem. If it is we would then need to ensure the tunnels are adequately cleared out, but the bees should naturally do this themselves.

They all highlighted that we need to get a mix of food (nectar from a mix of sources) and nesting habitat.

### **Food Source**

We have the planted large areas of wildflower meadows which is fantastic. However, as I have highlighted before needs to be adequately maintained so they do not lose their biodiversity value. If an area of wildflower meadow is not adequately maintained it will lose the mix of flower species and a few species will end up dominating the meadow, this will reduce the suitability of the habitat for all pollinators which will make all the work we have done on increasing the habitat null and void which would be such a waste. Therefore, this maintenance needs to be adequately funded to ensure it is both carried out and in the appropriate way, so that we can keep a good mix of plant species and the diversity of these meadows remains high. Coastal Partners have recently carried out a survey on the meadows which showed that there is already a biodiversity decline due possibly both lack of and inappropriate management in some meadows that are only 5 years old.

### **Nesting habitat**

Then from a nesting point of view we have the bee posts, we are also creating bee banks which will need areas of bare ground to be maintained in future, these are good for ground nesting bees. We will also be having less managed areas such as long grass and patches of scrub will provide more useful habitat features – especially for nesting bumblebees and overwintering insects.

I hope this give you reassurance that we have consider all aspects of these enhancements

### **Information**

Insects are pollinators of 80% of all plant species in Europe, including most fruits, many vegetables and some biofuel crops. The economic value of pollination services in the UK is uncertain due to the small number of existing studies. Current estimates of the economic value of pollinator services are in the order of hundreds of £millions, however these estimates rely heavily on incomplete scientific information linking pollinator services and productivity impacts. Economic impacts may vary according to geographical, climatic conditions, the intensity of land use etc. Pollinators also provide wider functions in maintaining our natural ecosystems and have a cultural and social value which needs to be recognised. Further evidence is required to improve

economic estimates, including to capture the value of marginal changes in pollination services.

### **National Pollinator strategy**

The UK Governments vision is to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us. Ensuring good practice to help pollinators through initiatives with a wide range of organisations and professional networks including managers of public and amenity spaces, utility and transport companies, brownfield site managers, local authorities, developers and planners.

Wildflower meadows Flower-rich habitats, such as meadows, are crucial to supporting pollinators by providing good sources of nectar and pollen throughout the summer and also shelter and nest sites. Conserving our remaining flower rich habitats directly supports pollinators and brings other benefits including protecting threatened plant populations and the wildlife that depends on such habitats. We will work with Plantlife and others to raise the profile of initiatives already underway to conserve and create good quality wildflower meadows.