

## **Motion to Town Council (23 June 2021) - Managing verges for biodiversity**

We note that the Town Council (CTC) has a statutory duty to have regard to the protection of biodiversity. We note the value of road verges to biodiversity through supporting wildflowers and invertebrates, and the impact of different verge management practices on either reducing or enhancing biodiversity.

We propose that the Council encourage the management of road verges in and around Charlbury to promote wildflowers and biodiversity, drawing on guidance in the "Good Verge Guide" published by Plantlife in January 2021 and "Managing Grassland Road Verges: a best practice guide" (Plantlife, 2019).

We call on the Council to

- write to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to ask what they are doing to improve verge management for biodiversity across the County and explore how OCC can work with CTC to support this in the Charlbury area;
- write to main local stakeholders responsible for the management of verges in and around Charlbury, to make them aware of the Plantlife guidance and invite them to work with CTC to support biodiversity;
- with the support of the Environment Working Group (Land and Nature Team), draw up a detailed management plan for the verges in and around Charlbury;
- provide information to the public (through the town website, and the Charlbury Chronicle) on the importance of verges to wildlife and what we can do to support this.