

24/2/3.1
(iii).

Biodiversity Initiatives - Town / Parish Council Expression of Interest 2025

Central Bedfordshire Council is wanting to support more town and parish councils to increase biodiversity and enhance the local environment by managing road verges for the benefit of wildlife.

Town and parish councils can work with Central Bedfordshire Council to:

- Trial no-mow sites as part of Plantlife's No Mow May campaign
- Reduce the frequency of grass cutting in urban areas
- Promote wildflower growth on suitable road verges

With over 97% of British meadows destroyed since the 1930s, Central Bedfordshire Council's biodiversity initiative celebrates the potential ecological value of roadside verges by supporting wildflowers to flourish. Wildflowers provide habitat and support the creation of pollinator corridors that link green spaces, which helps conserve nature.

By taking an environmentally sensitive approach to roadside verge management that meets road safety requirements, Central Bedfordshire Council and Town and Parish Councils can work together to improve biodiversity and encourage wildlife.

If your verges are managed by Central Bedfordshire Council, please complete the expression of interest form and a member of our team will be in touch: <https://forms.office.com/e/cWs4cLpWLh>

Please let the team know about any sites you think could be included in the project. Suggested sites will be reviewed by a member of our team. Road safety remains a priority for the Council, therefore some sites might not be suitable for this project.

Expressions of interest must be made before the following deadlines to ensure your council is able to participate from this year:

No Mow May - 11th April 2025

Reduced grass cutting* - 30th April 2025

Wildflower verges* - 30th April 2025

*For registrations in 2025, changes will commence from the 2026 growing season.

