

# **Wick Community Council Green Space Project**

## **Introduction**

### **Natural Regeneration**

Natural regeneration of wildflower and grass seed is one of the cheapest and easiest methods of enhancing the plants present in grassland. This process is entirely about grassland management and, although slower than transferring seeds using green hay, brush harvesting or a seed mixture, it does have the advantage that wildflowers appear once the right conditions are reached. Restoring semi-natural habitats by natural regeneration from the seed bank, the use of local green hay or colonisation from plants in adjacent areas, is the most effective and ecologically robust method for improving plant diversity at these sites for the long-term.

Importantly, these methods also help safeguard the distinctiveness of local flora. This is part of the magic of wildflowers; a Norfolk wildflower meadow, with green-winged orchids and pepper-saxifrage, will be different in character to a Carmarthenshire wildflower meadow with whorled caraway and lesser butterfly-orchids - which is what makes both of them special. Commercial wildflower material only carries a small proportion of the genetic diversity available in native plant populations and without a requirement to meet high quality standards, non-responsible suppliers are producing and selling low quality wildflower seed.

### **LNP - Community Meadows Project**

The Local Nature Partnership are offering the use of a cut and collect machine to help cut and harvest meadows and green areas to try to improve the quality and diversity of the species present. This is done through the collection of cut material, which removes the dead plant matter from the surface of the meadow. This stops the decay of the material and the huge release of nitrogen into the soil which hardy grass species thrive off. Allowing for less common species of wildflower to grow and compete. Secondly the LNP are running a grassland harvesting project in which we have purchased a brush seed harvester which we are using on species rich meadows across the Vale. This seed we plan on using on sites which need improving, some of which have already been decided. However, we plan on having a good amount of seed left over which community groups and community councils are more than welcome to use on their own sites. The benefit of this method is rather than buying seed which could come from abroad or a completely different type of meadow, it comes from great examples of meadows within the same county.

Area shown in photo below Common Land managed by Vale Council contracted by Community Council. Line outlined in Blue, potential Hedgerow planted to create border between Cricket Pitch and Play Park. Same area outlined in red potential orchard tree planting. Native, Welsh Heritage if possible. Planted enough distance apart to allow for mower to cut around.



Areas highlighted in Yellow Vale Council owned areas managed by the parks department. Potential for improvements with wildflower areas left to grow long. These areas can be marked out and given to the parks team. As well as potential areas to improve as your driving through the village atheistically with planters. These areas can be discussed with parks teams and with volunteers who are committed to looking after these areas.



Area highlighted below owned by Wick Community Council, managed by homeowner which the land sits in front of. Current management mown very regularly. Discussion to be had with homeowner about potential plans for plot. Ideas include creating hedgerow around the area. Creating Hedgehog houses placing them in the centre letting the area grow wild with light management. Or potentially letting sections grow long and managed as meadow. Other idea whole area left to grow long with strip along the edge cut.



Areas highlighted in Yellow potential wildflower areas. Area outlined in Blue, potential for bulb planting, list of best bulb species to plant supplied if needed. Area outlined in Red potential hedgerow planting to help mask BT boxes which were installed.

