

## Parish Pollinator Pledge

### What's it all about?

Did you know there are around 1,500 species of insect pollinators in the UK? They are vital to growing much of our crops and for plants to flourish in our fields and gardens. Unfortunately, they are facing a number of threats meaning populations are in decline.

We want Hampshire to be a place for pollinators (such as bees, butterflies, wasps, flies, and beetles) to thrive, and for everyone to appreciate just how great they are ([read some background to pollinators and the strategies in place to help them](#)). To do this, we're looking for local councils or community groups to 'pledge' to take an active part in helping to improve their local environment for pollinators, and also to help raise awareness among their community of the importance of pollinators.

Ultimately the Parish Pollinator Pledge initiative hopes to create a network of pollinator champions across the county who will be able to share ideas and stories and encourage others to take on their own actions to benefit pollinators.



### What will it involve?

- Before you set any pledges, you'll need to complete a simple **habitat survey** - this will be a chance to look at your green spaces and note the habitats and features (you won't need any specialist knowledge to do this). We also recommend you complete a basic **species survey**. Forms and guidance to help you complete both surveys are available in the [Parish Pollinator Pledge toolkit](#).
- Next, you'll need to read the guidance in the [toolkit](#) to help you create your own **Local Action Plan for Pollinators** (as part of the pilot for this project we'll be offering some workshops to help with this).
- After you've created your action plan, it's time to '**pledge**' **five actions to help pollinators** - share these with us and spread the word on social media #pollinatorpledge.
- It's now up to the local community to deliver your action plan!
- Share your progress and achievements with us (and on social media #pollinatorpledge).
- Monitor your pollinators every year by completing a **species survey** (you don't need any specialist knowledge, simply recording if you see a bee, wasp, butterfly or beetle will be enough to measure improvements in biodiversity).

## What are some examples of the actions we could take?

Actions don't need to be big or complicated, most often low impact and low-cost changes to local green space management can make a big difference, such as reduced grass mowing or encouraging local wildlife gardening.

As part of the Parish Pollinator Pledge initiative there may be a small amount of funding available to help deliver some of your actions, for example for wildflower seed and plants, building bug hotels, citizen science projects or running identification training workshops.

## Sounds good - how do we get started?



We're currently trialling the project with a few Parish Councils but if you'd like to take part feel free to download the toolkit and get started. A few things to consider before you get going:

- Delivering a local action plan for pollinators will need to be a community effort, so make sure you've talked to your local council or community group about the project and get their support.
- Have a good look through the [Parish Pollinator Pledge toolkit](#) - this will give you a better idea of what's involved.
- Let us know you're ready to get started by completing [this form](#), then use the toolkit to guide you through the process.

We hope the toolkit will have all the information you need to take part, but we're also here to offer additional advice and support if you need it, in particular with the creation of your local action plan.



[VIEW THE TOOLKIT](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

## Background – National Pollinator Strategy 2020-23

The 2013 State of Nature Report highlighted a loss of more than 50% of bees, butterflies and moths studied over the last 50 years. As a result, in 2014 DEFRA launched '[The National Pollinator Strategy for England](#)' with the vision '*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 us all.*' The 10-year Strategy aims to address the decline and vulnerability of our pollinator populations through 5 themes.

1. Supporting pollinators on farmland
2. Supporting pollinators across towns, cities, and countryside
3. Enhancing the response to pest and disease risks
4. Raising awareness of what pollinators need to survive & thrive
5. Improving evidence on the status of pollinators and the service they provide.

### **Did you know?**

*Since 1900  
England has lost  
20 wild bee species  
and another 35  
species are at risk.*

## What is Hampshire County Council doing to help our pollinators?

Hampshire County Council, led by the Countryside Service, is developing its own pollinator strategy and action plan, which it hopes will become the catalyst for a wider partnership approach to securing a future for our pollinators. Based on the themes in the national strategy, the Countryside Service is working to four core principles:

- Wherever possible and practicable, land owned or controlled by the Countryside Service will be managed for maximum benefit of Pollinator Species.
- The Countryside Service will seek to influence through partnership and support pollinator friendly land management amongst other landowners.
- The Countryside Service will encourage public engagement and educational activities that highlight the biological and economic importance of pollinators to the people of Hampshire.
- The Countryside Service will encourage research and evidence collecting that will help inform and guide future strategies and plans for pollinators in Hampshire.

### **Did you know?**

*The Countryside Service  
manages over 3,500  
hectares of land (of which  
86% is designated for its  
importance for nature  
conservation), as well as  
4,600km of rights of way.  
Much of the Service's land  
management activities  
already involve working  
for the benefit of  
pollinators.*