

Wem Area Climate Action Forum [WACAF]

Proposal for a trial wildflower meadow

A group of volunteers from WACAF would like to trial a wildflower meadow. Part of our work in addressing the climate crisis is to improve the value of our green spaces across the town. This includes developing areas to increase biodiversity, create opportunities for advancement of education across the community, as well as benefits for health and wellbeing.

The area is currently mown grass and is situated along the left side of the footpath from Barleyfields to Guttery Close, adjacent to the fenced play area. [see photo] The entire green space is apparently referred to by the Council as Wheatfields. The area is approximately 10m long and 2-3m wide.

We have noted the councils move to leave some areas of grass unmown. We would like to use this small area to trial a wildflower meadow. Our plan would include;

1. Scarification of the area to reduce the grass top growth.
2. Sowing of yellow rattle to establish an area of less grass and more wildflowers.
3. Planting of wildflower "plug" plants.
4. Mowing or scything the area to cut the wildflowers and grasses twice per year. Removal of the "waste material" from the site.
5. Signage to tell the public what we are doing and why in a succinct manner. Signage used by **Restoring Shropshire Verges Project** might also be helpful to remind the mower not to mow. NB. RSVP is working with SCC in other parts of the county to increase kerbside biodiversity.
6. Website contact for public to respond.
7. Taking advice from Shropshire Wildlife Trust with regard to the best practise in planting and management.
8. Listing the plants before and after, monitoring and providing feedback to the council on the trial a year from commencing.



The area identified for a trial meadow Restoring Shropshire Verges Project [RSVP] signage

Barbara Cotterell for WACAF wildflower meadows sub group...22:03:22