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Village Centre
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Briefing Note

Wildflower Planting

For Full Council 27 June 2024

Introduction

The Parish Office has received several requests from residents and Hurst Rethink to sow wildflower seeds into the verge by the new cycleway from Manor Road to Western Road. Due to the installation of the cycleway it has left a large area of bare soil. Normally the County Council would sow this area with plain grass seed. The Estates and Facilities Manager has communicated with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) on this matter, and they would be happy to allow this verge to be sown with wildflower and would sow the seed themselves and install a wooden sign stating that it is a wildflower area.

To move forward with this project, the Parish Council would need to complete a planting license application. This would inform the grass cutting teams to leave this site for the bulk of the year and only cut it once in the Autumn. There would be no costs for the Parish Council and all materials (seeds and signage) and maintenance would be provided by WSCC for this site.

Other sites around the villages could also benefit from wildflower areas, including Willow Way (South), Albourne Road and London Road. Please see plans below. It is unclear at this time, if the Parish Council would need to fund or seek funding from local community groups to fund these other areas, due to the ground already being grassed and further investigation would be required.

Proposal

The proposal is for the Estates & Facilities Manager to apply for the planting license on the cycleway between Manor Road and Western Road, Hurstpierpoint and to add this wildflower project to the Estates and Facilities Action Plan, to investigate the other named locations above and verify the cost implications.

Conclusion

The Committee is asked to agree to apply for a planting license from WSCC and ask them to sow wildflower seed into the bare verge from Manor Road to Western Road including the installation of a wooden sign; and for the Estates and Facilities Manager to investigate the possibility of having wildflower areas in other locations around the Village.

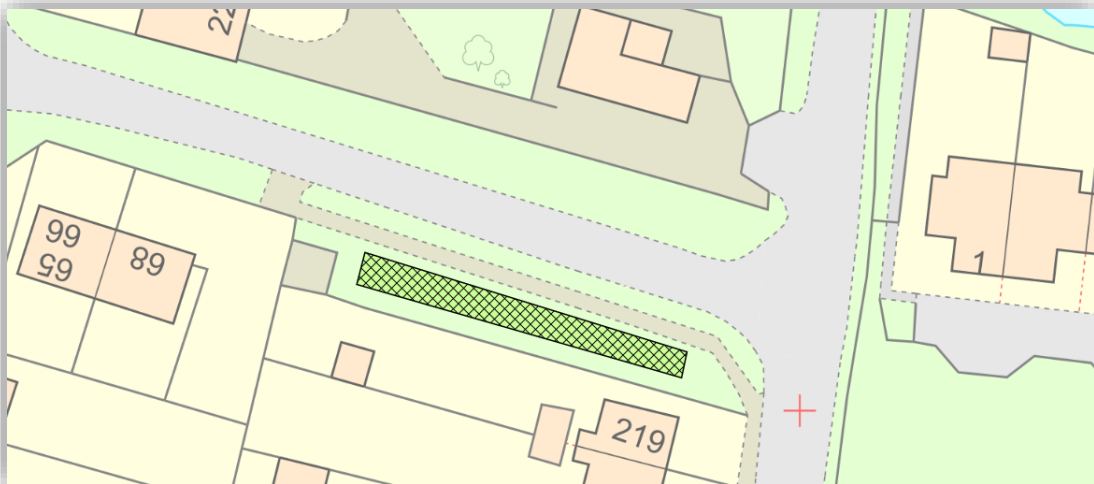
RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is asked to AGREE to:

- i. apply for a planting licence from WSCC and to ask them to sow wildflower seed/install a wooden sign into the bare verge by the new cycleway and;
- ii. for the Estates and Facilities Manager to investigate doing this in other locations around the Villages and add this as a new header on the E&F Action Plan.

Manor Rd/Western Road



Willow Way (South)



Albourne Road

