

Grounds & Environmental Services Committee  
5 September 2022

Pollination Motion

Preamble

At a time of Cost of Living Crisis when many residents will be cutting back on extras, being able to walk in the park in early spring and see a display of flowers from February right up to May can be very cheering. It also encourages more people to walk in the parks and this has both physical and mental health benefits. Furthermore early spring flowers are very important for both Bumble Bee queens when they come out of hibernation over the winter and solitary bees when they emerge from the nest. This really helps restore biodiversity locally and bees are vital for pollinating many food crops.. The context is that UN Biodiversity Conference is taking place this December at a time of global biodiversity decline. This council declared itself a Bee friendly town in 2013, and Leighton Buzzard is a case study for the Governments National Pollinator strategy in 2014. Furthermore The UK Government officially announced in May 2022 that it is aiming to halt the decline in Biodiversity in the UK. IN order to achieve a rich mixture of flowers from February to May and in enough quantities that will support pollinators from February through to May, the planting will need to be done on a large scale.

Motion

In order to support pollinators and to provide an attractive display to those walking in the parks in spring this Council will spend £10,000 from Earmarked Reserves on planting bulbs that will create a swathe of colour across three parks from February to May in this financial year.