



# Botus Fleming Parish Council

Dear Paul

In response to your query as to the Botus Fleming Parish Council's plan for managing Hatt roundabout and its south-eastern and south-western approach verges, we envisage the following:

We are a small parish with, as yet, no publically owned green spaces. Though small, we are ambitious to do what we can to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the parish to improve the quality of life for all residents. We are especially anxious to encourage the recovery of native wild flowers. This derives much of its inspiration from Cornwall Council's Pollinator Action Plan. In lieu of Parish Council green spaces, we do have the large grassed roundabout on the A388 at Hatt and its approach verges in the centre of the community.

At this stage, rather than carry out extensive and costly wholesale reseeding of these areas, we would like to propose a much simpler and cost effective approach. The national charity *Plantlife* has evidence that a management regime of twice yearly "cut and collect" for grassed verges can be very successful. Dorset Council is currently using it on a trial basis. The grass is cut in early spring (no later than mid-March before new growth is actively underway) and again in autumn. The clippings are removed as an essential measure to prevent a build-up of "thatch" and to keep fertility low to encourage wild flower growth and discourage the growth of vigorous grass species.

This low-cost and minimal intervention approach would give long dormant seeds of native flowers the opportunity to germinate and proliferate, and has proved to be remarkably successful in the areas where it has been adopted. We would like to trial this for 3 years. This should allow enough time to evaluate its success.

Therefore the only intervention required would be the twice-yearly "cut and collect". We would hope that this service could be provided by Cormac, given that Action 17, section C of the Appendix to CC's "Pollinator Action Plan" makes specific reference to the "provision of support, sites, equipment, and/or practical assistance" when "working with Town and Parish Councils on managing CC sites for pollinators".

I attach a map of the area with hatching to indicate the proposed wild flower beds.

Malcolm Fletcher

Botus Fleming Parish Council