


The logo for 'apse' is located in the top left corner. It consists of a purple oval shape with the word 'apse' written in white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside it.

apse

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a bumblebee on a pink flower. The flower has a prominent, dense, red, spiky center, likely a species of coneflower. The bee is positioned on the right side of the flower, facing left. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

**Increasing biodiversity whilst reducing green space maintenance costs –possibilities and problems.**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

# Presentation Purpose

- Encourage managers to
  - re-think current management /maintenance practice
  - Focus on the duty to promote biodiversity, safeguard habitats and protect pollinators
  - Put biodiversity and biophilia at the core of management practice
  - Develop a fully integrated approach to grassland management
- Provide basic presentation kit for persuading key stakeholders regarding key messages

# Fitness for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- **The crisis in funding**
  - Forced councils to review costs of managing land.
  - Demanded rethinking the role of green spaces for 21st century.
  - Energised some new/radical approaches
- **Most parks / green spaces designed for a previous century (or two) -role and purpose now not always clear.**
- **The gardenesque paradigm is still imprinted into most people's consciousness when managing green spaces**

*Chapel Field Gardens, Norwich*

























# Changing the Paradigm?

- There must always be a place for good horticulture
- There will always be a need for grass lawns for sports, ball games, picnics, sun bathing and relaxation
- But should we apply horticultural standards to all our green space?
- The majority of SLAs and specifications originate in the 1980s and have not caught up with today's needs

# Changing the Paradigm?

- Is the 'cleansing' and tidiness approach a harmful obsessive compulsive disorder?
- Is it really necessary to cut the whole of a green space in the name of neatness?
- At least a 25% of most green space has no recreational purpose
- There are very good sustainability and biodiversity reasons why we need to re-think
- Is it time now for a paradigm-shift?



A wide-angle photograph of a large, green lawn on a slight slope. The lawn is bordered by a dense line of trees and bushes in the background. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "Should all this grass be cut?" is overlaid in yellow at the bottom of the image.

**Should all this grass be cut?**









Not just cut but margins sprayed!  
Why?



Why?

Because it's based  
on a 1980's contract/  
specification!



Time to re-think?

# The Case for Biodiversity

- Since WW2, the 'Great Extinction' of wildlife and habitats with the expansion of agro-commerce
- Hay meadows, hedgerows, heathland, wetland, orchards wiped out
- Sterile monoculture became the norm.
- Only 3% of traditional lowland meadows remains
- Over 90% of lowland heath and coppiced woodland disappeared, etc. etc.
- 1998 to 2007 alone more than 16,000 miles of hedgerows lost
- Now local green spaces, especially parks and gardens, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, have become refuges for much surviving wildlife.









Little room left for wildlife despite  
needing pollinators!



Trees and hedgerows  
are vital wildlife  
corridors and habitats



A photograph of a paved road lined with trees. The trees on the left are mostly bare, while those on the right have green leaves. The road has white lane markings and a white line on the left side. The text "Trees in open spaces are valuable habitats" is overlaid in yellow on the lower part of the image.

Trees in open spaces are  
valuable habitats

**Many landowners don't care...**



**Even in  
bird-nesting  
season!**









**The immediate aftermath...**



A wide landscape of agricultural fields under a clear blue sky. The foreground is a mix of green grass and brown soil. In the middle ground, there are several distinct, rectangular plots of land, some of which appear to be planted with crops. The background shows a line of trees and a clear horizon. The text "The longer-term decline... islandisation of habitats" is overlaid in yellow at the bottom of the image.

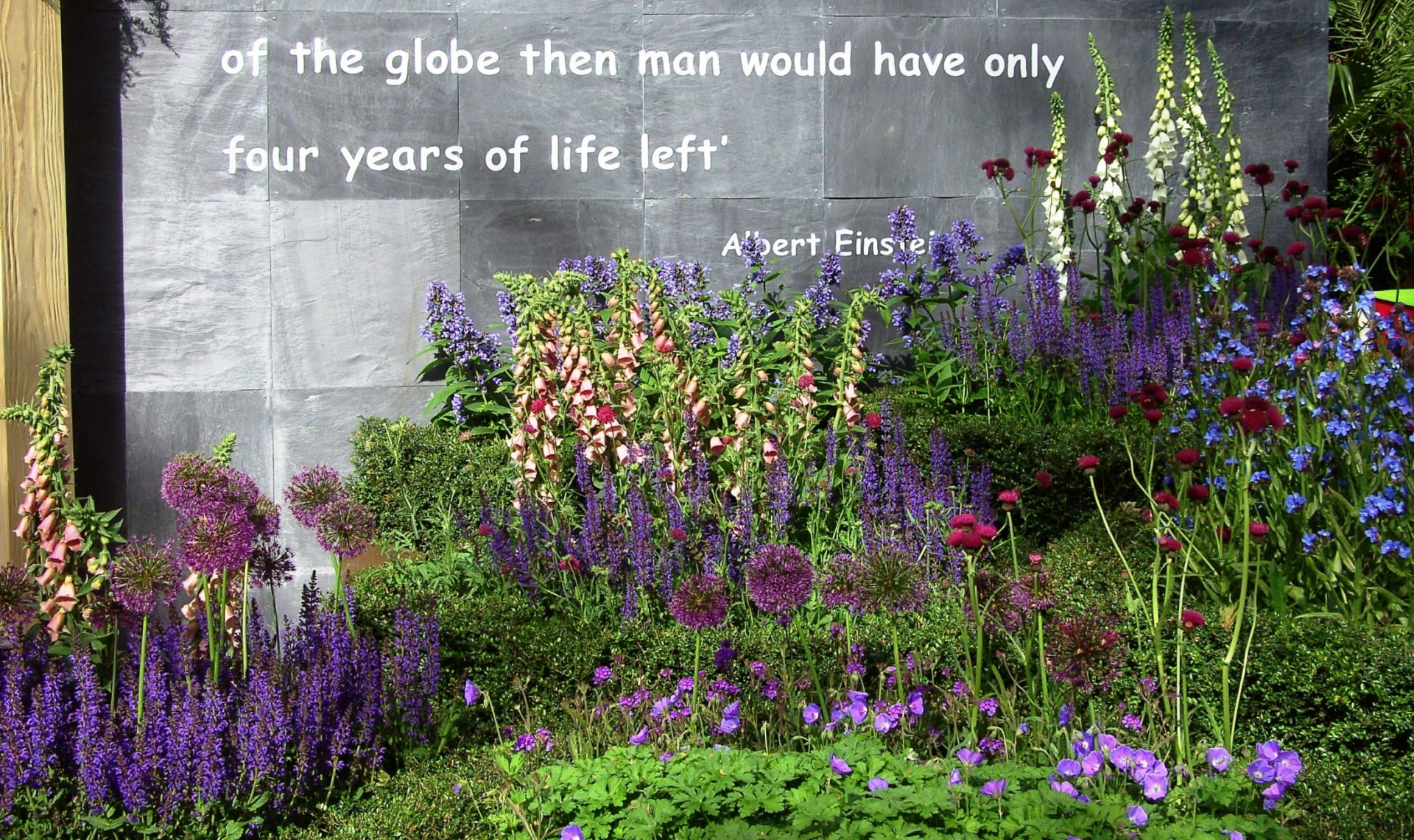
The longer-term decline...  
islandisation of habitats



Even councils get it wrong!

'If the bee disappeared off the surface  
of the globe then man would have only  
four years of life left'

Albert Einstein



# The Importance of Pollinators

- Vital part of our economy -a third of our food crops totally reliant on pollination by bees.
- Oil-seed rape, broad beans, runner beans, top fruit, blueberries and raspberries dependant on bees
- Pollinators contribute around £1 billion a year to the UK's economy.
- They have been in serious decline since the start of the 20th Century
- Pollinators are seriously threatened by the way we manage and maintain land

# National Pollinator Strategy 2014

- The government has invested in a research programme on the causes of pollinator decline.
  - Little previously knowledge of pollination
- This research informed the National Pollinator Strategy and implementation Plan.
- Councils are asked to support a national campaign to halt their serious rapid decline
- This should be a key driver to change people's perceptions and attitudes to managing green spaces

# Research Findings

Interesting and surprising facts.

- **250 species of bee in the UK, representing around 26% of pollinating insects.**
- **24 species of bumblebee, 225 species of solitary bee and just a single honeybee species.**
- **67% of pollinators are flies, including 250+ species of hoverfly.**
- **Butterflies and moths represent 2%, with bugs and beetles the remainder.**



# Research Findings

- Many bee species appear to favour urban sites - allotments, parks, gardens, cemeteries etc.
- Flies prevalent in rural sites (although 85 hoverfly species recorded in one garden alone).
- Bees flourish in less-manicured sites and neighbourhoods
- Rough grassland/ tussocky grass has 3x more pollinator species than standard mown grass
- Less kempt hedges and bases, un-raked borders, weeds and wildflowers are good for pollinators.

# Research Findings

- **Single flowers, especially yellow, most visited by pollinators.**
  - Early flowers such as daisies, dandelions,
  - the mid-season ragwort, clover, thistles and wild carrot,
  - and late ones such as autumn hawkbit and ivy are crucial to their survival.
- **These are currently viewed more as problem weeds, not valuable food sources or nesting/hibernating sites**

# Research Findings

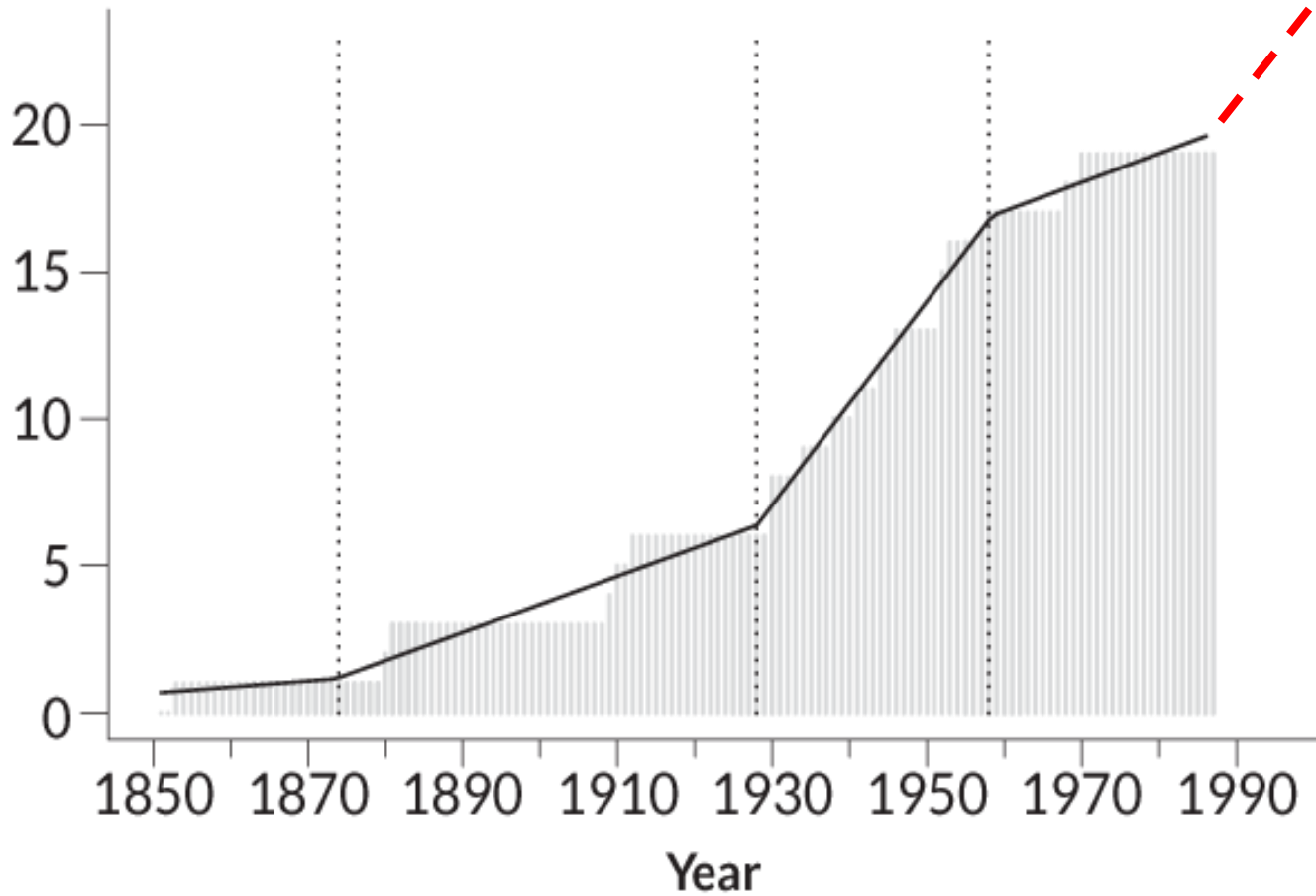
- So, it appears that our fixation on the cleaning and tidying beds and borders and manicuring lawns is contributing to the decline of many of these insects.
- There is a now strong case for amending grounds maintenance regimes to prevent the decline of pollinators and make space for nature
- It's not just pollinators in decline...!

# Making Space for Biodiversity

- **Almost 2/3 of all British species have declined over past 50 years and one in 10 faces the risk of extinction**
- **Many bird species, including some declining and endangered ones rely on long grass and scrub, especially on field and hedge margins.**
- **These include the skylark, meadow pipit, spotted flycatcher, yellow hammer, lapwings, song thrush and even the barn owl.**
- **Many others now depend on park hedges, thickets, borders etc.**

## Cumulative pollinator loss in Britain since 1850

Cumulative extinctions,  
bees and flower-visiting wasps



**A**

1800-1980

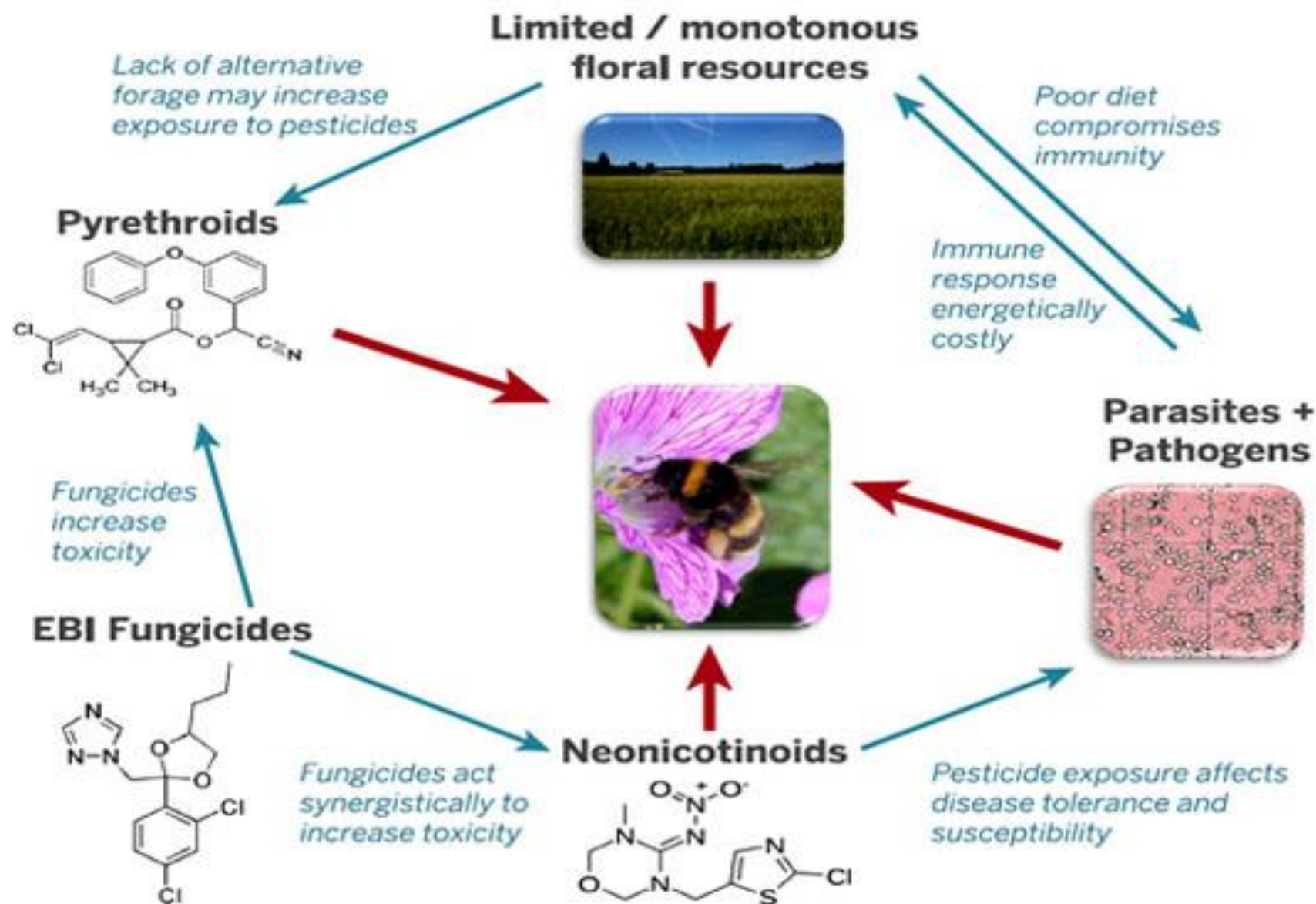


2000-2014

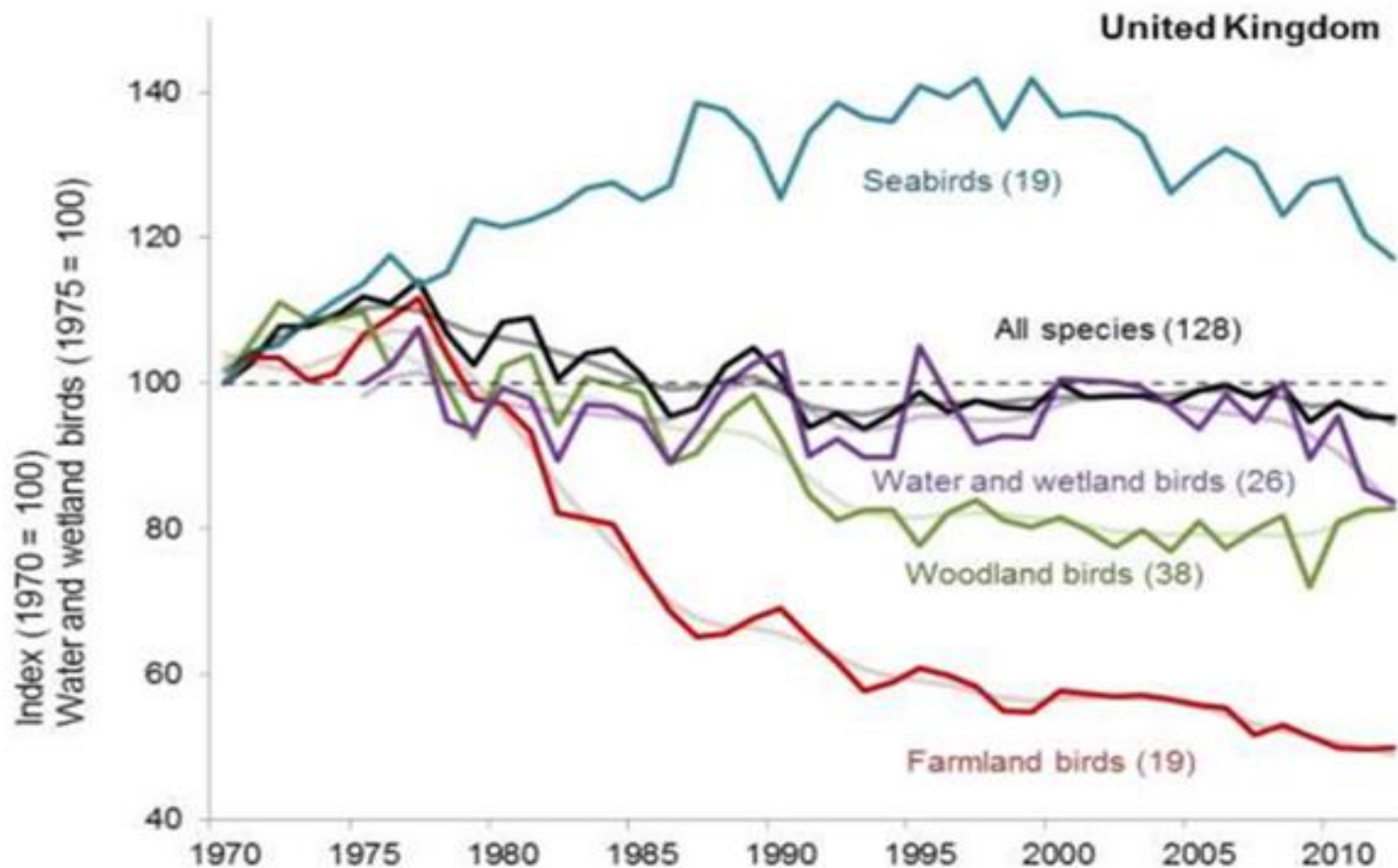


*Bombus distinguendus*

# Interacting stressors on wild and managed bees



**Figure 1: Populations of wild birds, 1970 to 2012**



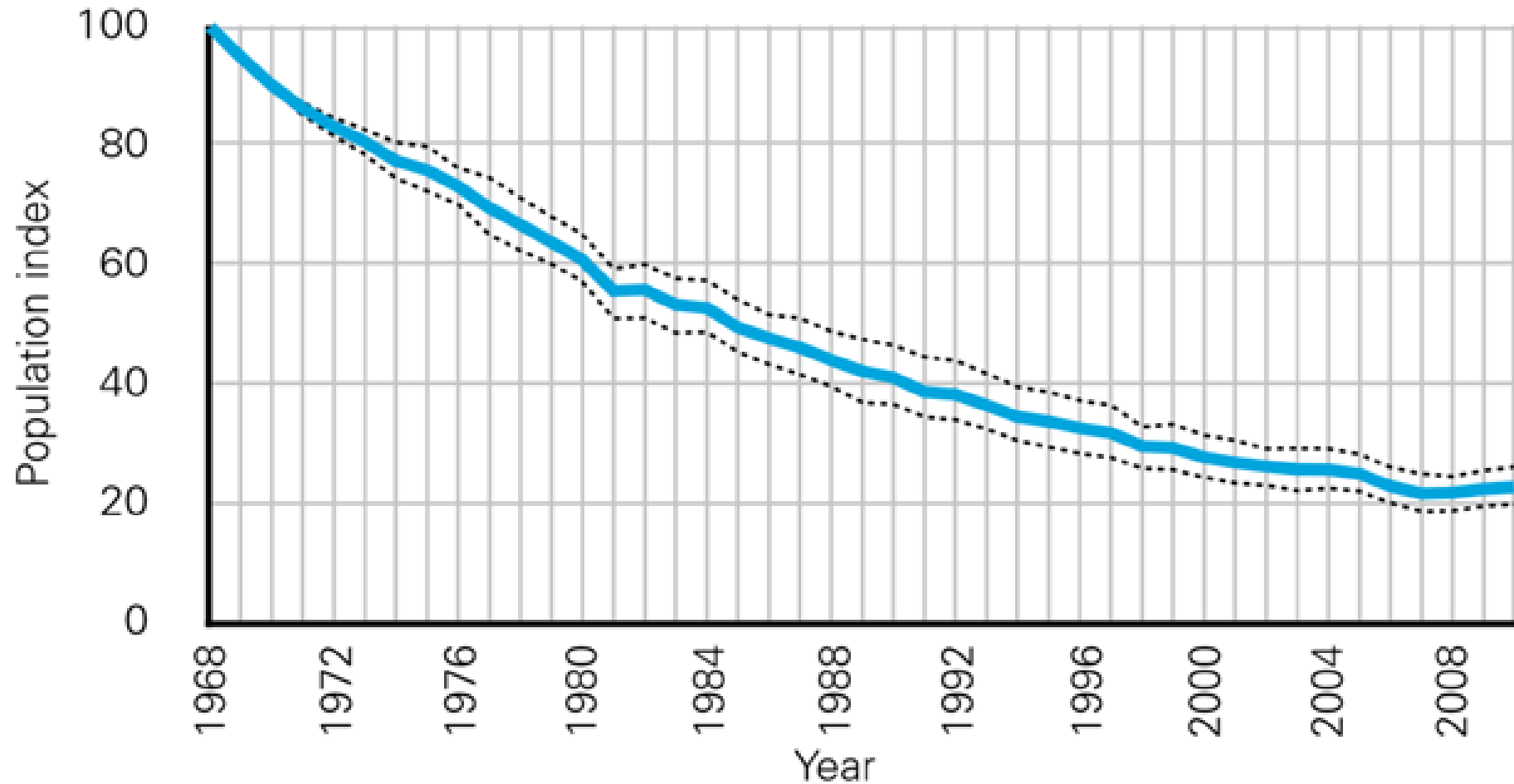
Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of species within each group,
- ii) within each category, darker lines show unsmoothed data and paler lines of the same colour show smoothed trend data.



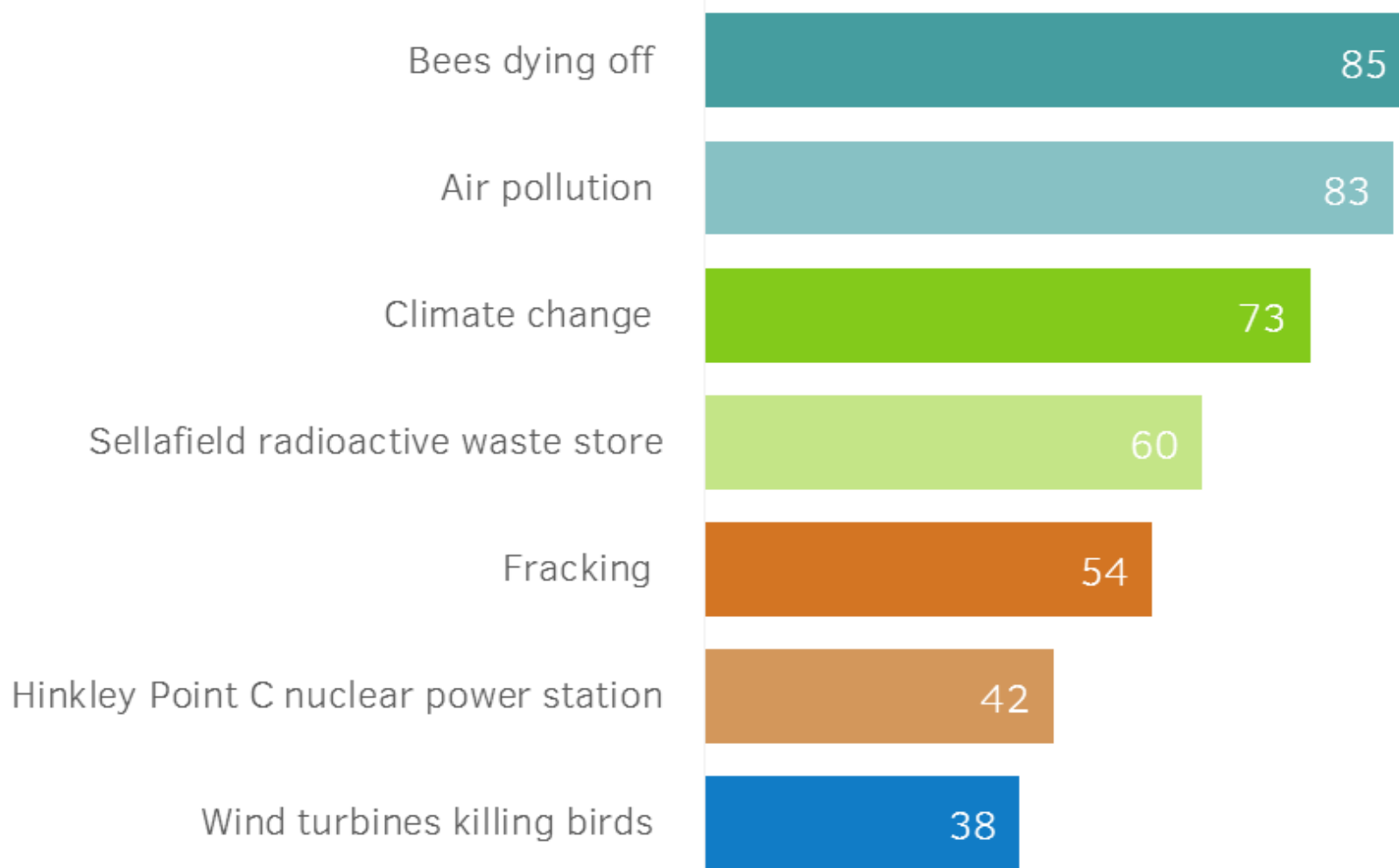
# The Watchlist Indicator



Watchlist Indicator showing the average population trend for 77 moths, 19 butterflies, 8 mammals and 51 birds listed as UK BAP priorities, 1968-2010.

# The most serious environmental issues

How serious, if at all, do you think each of these environmental issues are? % who choose 'very' or 'fairly' serious.



# Making Space for Biodiversity

- Wildlife has been driven to the network of habitats in urban green spaces including hedges, trees, woodlands, ditches, streams etc. as well as grassland
- More thoughtful land management can increase insect and invertebrate population to supports an enriched food chain for amphibians, reptiles, rodents, birds and mammals.
- Many green spaces are SLOAP, used as dog-walking areas but have little other recreational purpose
- Time to re-think their role and how you maintain land?
- Are you overlooking the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach stakeholders of your service?

–Wildlife

# Meet some neglected, hard-to-reach stakeholder groups!







# Changing attitudes to managing grass



There were demands from local residents to spray these 'disgraceful' weeds!







It was alive with insects...  
grace or disgrace?

# Changing perceptions

- Not enough is being done politically to campaign against the decline of pollinators / wildlife
- Need for a national campaign to change perception from 'untidy mess' to 'wonderful habitat'
- Central and local government should strongly champion the urban biodiversity agenda
- The significance of urban green space is often overlooked by biodiversity professionals
- Local green space as habitats and sanctuaries for wildlife are now a major justification for the changing management methods

# Changing methods

- Many councils have experimented, some extensively, with 'differential mowing regimes', wildflower and naturalistic meadow plantings,
- Usually on a small scale as a % of their entire land holdings,
- Often ad hoc, for cost-cutting reasons, not biodiversity
- Frequencies often cut without warning or consultation -generating complaints



# Changing thinking

- **Green space professionals have a duty to protect biodiversity and be proactive to protect wildlife**
- **Now a need to-**
  - **change members' and senior manager's mind-sets**
  - **change workplace culture/ thinking**
  - **review and adjust out-dated policy, strategies, plans, specifications**
  - **reconsider management practices**
  - **develop an integrated, whole service approach, not piecemeal/ad hoc**
  - **be proactive to change perceptions re neat and tidy sterile 'green deserts'.**

# 'Green Deserts'













**Neat and tidy -no complaints....**



**...but where's the home for wildlife?**

# What can we do?

- **Make biodiversity central to new DCLG-recommended Strategic Plans**
- **Re-define the purpose of individual green spaces for managing green infrastructure**
- **Make sure local green space, or sections of it, have a clearly defined purpose for biodiversity promotion**
- **Re-think maintenance specifications, SLAs and contracts focusing on biodiversity not just horticulture or tidiness**
- **Develop new urban-centric designations with formal or informal status such as 'park nature reserves', 'habitat stands', 'nature hotspots', 'sanctuaries', 'refuges' 'nectar niches' etc.**

# What can we do?

- **Carefully record biodiversity levels esp. of key species**
- **Use natural capital value methods to assess green infrastructure / biodiversity**
- **Use these values as tools in PR narratives**
- Courage needed to promote a difficult message**
- This is the great challenge for this generation of green space professionals and wildlife enthusiasts**
- **But are we equipped to cope with new working methods?**



**The brave new world of long grass regimes...**

**...but do we have equipment  
and methods that can cope?**



# A New Equipment Mix?

- Mowing often half of a local authority's grounds maintenance costs,
- Each cut could be worth £20-30k –a soft target for cuts
- Even the wealthiest authorities could find it necessary to reducing mowing costs.
- Is frequent mowing still the cheapest annual cost option for maintaining land?
- Have we really tested other models and geared up for long grass regimes?
- Councils and contractors should invest in the right machinery and even composting facilities to bring 'cut and collect' costs down to those of conventional mowing.

# Standard mowing M.O.











Not just U.K.!!

SE  
025

# Future M.O.s – Cut and collect...





M148 WCW

AMAZONE

FORKSHIRE SALES  
MILLENNIUM TRACTORS



**Harvesting...**



**Baling...**









**Grazing...**



**Mulching-deck mowers**







**Rotary mower clippings**



**Mulching mower clippings**



Gearing up for composting/disposal

# Possibilities and Problems

- **By taking the opportunity created by the current financial circumstances councils can now**
  - unlock the real potential of their land for promoting wildlife, biophilia and sustainability
  - make substantial savings or release resources to improve standards elsewhere.
- **However...**
  - It could be more costly without a fully integrated, thought-through approach
  - long grass regimes do have serious challenges which will be a cause of concern for some of the public.



## **Beware!** -Long Grass Regime Problems

- Long grass can be a fire risk in dry conditions  
-vigilance and timeliness essential;
- In some areas ticks/Lyme disease are a serious consideration
- It can trap litter, encourage dog-fouling
- If areas appear abandoned then fly-tipping can occur,
- Complaints about pollen, allergens and hay fever.
- Long grass cut badly generates complaints

**So how do we sell the message?**

# Selling the message

- Parks professionals must make the case properly, tell the story well and manage the change effectively, if they hope to persuade a sceptical public.
- If a poor PR story is told, and the change process is not well-managed, there will be little public support and a great deal of complaint.
- If you're making changes, local communities must be involved in deciding where they should be made

# Selling the message

- Can the public be persuaded that new maintenance regimes are not merely budget cuts or poor practice in disguise?
- Can we sweeten the pill?
  - Native wildflower planting/sowings
  - Colourful naturalistic plantings -a wow factor to please most of the public.
  - Well-managed sites with long-grass or untidy habitat refuges so they do not appear neglected

# Selling the message

- **Clear and robust communications plan using all available media**
- **Biophilia, wildlife and sustainability benefits made clear**
- **Local communities, residents and volunteer groups to take the lead**
- **Use third sector organisations, such as Wildlife Trusts, specialist societies, local groups**
- **Link to serious recording and research**
- **Link to educational opportunities, schools, colleges**
- **Link to emerging biodiversity initiatives and “re-wilding” practice**

# Selling the message

- Show how you are developing a fully integrated approach
- Demonstrate that whole service is geared to delivering benefits for nature
- Is it now time to seriously consider having 'no-mow' and biodiversity targets similar to recycling targets?
- Should biodiversity in urban green space have a serious suite of KPIs with robust monitoring?
- Councils should be beacons of good practice

# Case 1 The Wokingham Experience

- **Strong communication planning/ community engagement on consequences of reductions/changes**
- **Work with partners -University, Wildlife Forum etc.**
- **Trials with change regimes/ plantings on agreed sites**
- **Grounds maintenance contract/specification rewritten to focus on biodiversity**
  - **Continuous intelligent adjustment of maintenance regimes built into contract**
  - **Creating new habitats contract requirement**
  - **Cut and clear equipment essential requirement of contract**
  - **Robust KPIs to achieve key biodiversity outcomes**
  - **Reward and payback systems linked to KPIs**
  - **Funding for 10,000 square metres wildflower planting available each year of 10-year contract**

# Wildflower and Long Grass

## Introduction to New Grounds Maintenance Service

Our new grounds maintenance contract with ISS Facility Services Landscaping is focussed on clear outcomes, which means an end to the "one-size-fits-all" approach of previous years.

We are setting out clear objectives as to what this partnership will deliver. We have made a significant step forward in creating some challenging (although achievable) KPI's (Key

Performance Indicators) for the partnership to deliver.

We have moved away from frequencies, and dates, for programmed works and shall instead focus our resources to where it is most needed, based on clear outcomes.

Our new approach is in its early days, and we are constantly reviewing and managing how our partnership with ISS is performing.



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The most significant and obvious change relates to grass cutting, as follows;

## Long Grass

Grass cutting will become far more targeted, and leads on something which we started last year;

- Large highway verges in both rural and urban areas will be left to establish into grassland habitats, but with grass cut regularly around the fringes to ensure grass doesn't encroach onto pathways, roads or obstruct sight lines.
- Areas in our large parks will have increased areas of grassland with wide mown footpaths through them, similar to Cantley Park and Ashenbury Park last year.
- In smaller parks where there are woodland areas we will allow margins of grassland to develop instead of cutting right up to the park boundary.
- We will avoid cutting grass right up to the bases of trees and instead allow the grass to grow.
- The time saved will be used to focus on maintaining regular mown areas to a higher standard than the past, mainly sports pitches, play areas, cemeteries and other high use sites.

## Why is this happening?

- The National Pollinator Strategy details the decline of pollinating insects over the past 70 years, and offers some insight in reversing this trend which includes allowing grass and wildflowers to grow and complete lifecycles. This is especially important in more urban areas.
- Biodiversity 2020 also provides information relating to the decline of pollinators
- WBC held a consultation with our residents on the back of a difficult grass cutting season in 2014. This clearly identified that there should be greater attention given to high use sites which includes sports pitches and play areas.
- 2015 proved, through numerous compliments during our limited trial, how well received this change in approach has been and we decided to build on this positivity for the future.

## Wildflowers

In 2015 we experimented with 13 different wildflower seed mixes. This was a proven success introducing a variety of wildlife habits and improving the look of several areas across the borough.

- You will continue to find wildflowers at Ashenbury Park (Woodley), Cantley Parkland (Wokingham), the Woosell Spine Road, Winersh Meadows and some highway verges across the borough.
- From 2017 we will start to increase the presence of wildflowers at selective sites by 10,000sq/m per year for 10 years.

## Ongoing monitoring and review

- We are aligning ourselves with various projects across the country, endorsed by many plant life organisations including; RHS, BBC Countryfile & Gardener's World, CPRE, Kew Gardens, Alan Titchmarsh's Road Verge Campaign etc.
- We will have experts from Reading University assess the sites for biodiversity throughout the year to inform future plans, which we hope to share at various forums.
- We hope to see a marked increase in pollinators together with an increase in flower-rich grasslands.
- Performance Officers will make regular checks across the borough to ensure we are striking the right balance of increased grassland areas and increasing the quality of mown grass sites.
- We will maintain a flexible approach to this, and where there is a genuine example of limited recreational access to green space we will ensure that this is rectified.



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Visit: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside) or contact customer services on (0118) 974 6000 for more information.

## Case 2 The Burnley Experience

- NESTA/HLF-sponsored trial
- Adopted permaculture techniques
  - managing sites as natural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient.
- Meadow management review across all landholdings
- Bee-hives in parks to focus public attention
- Naturalistic perennial planting replacing annual bedding
- Woodland management for woodchip/biofuel
- Encouraging volunteering
  - Volunteer in Parks (VIP) programme





**QUEENS PARK**

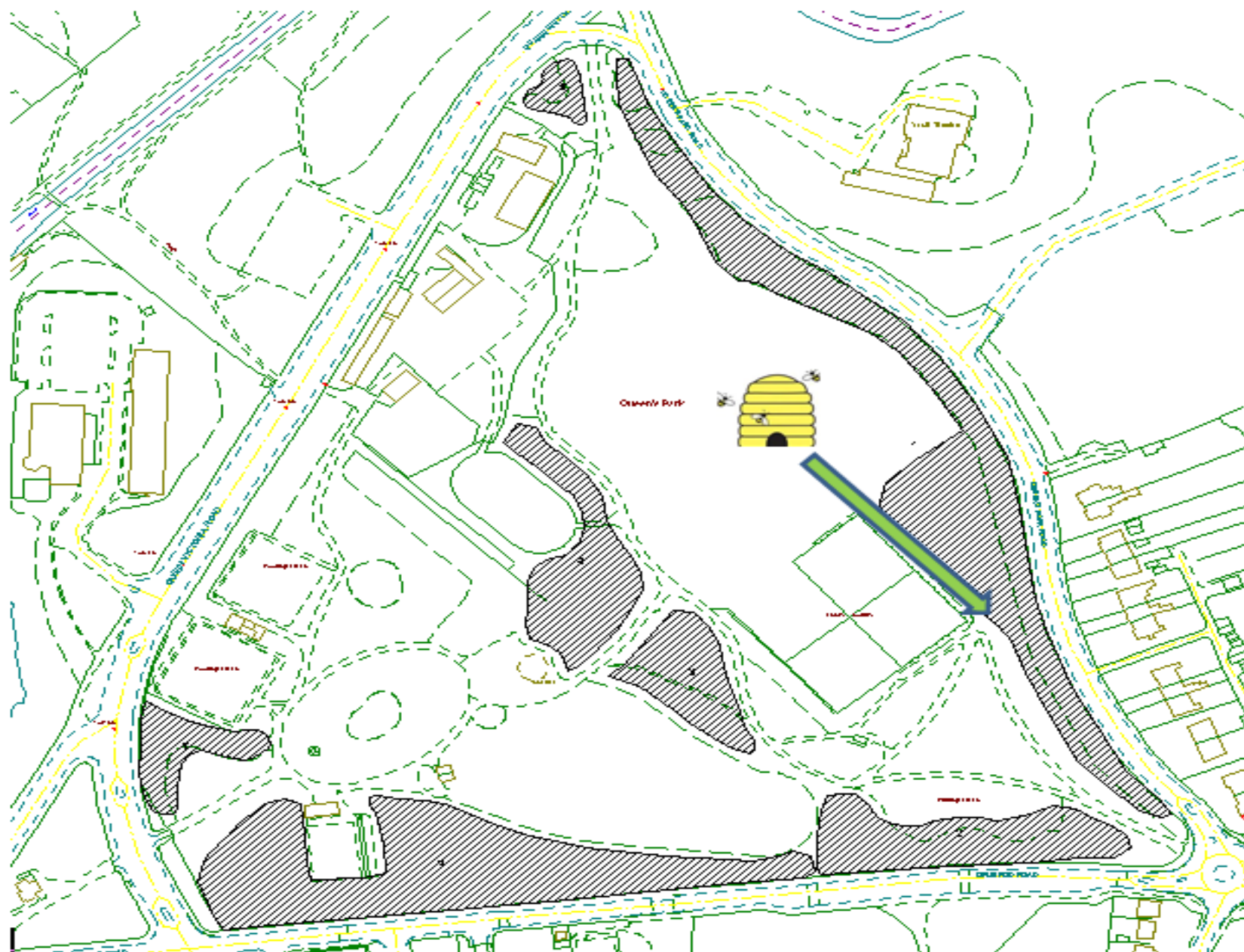
**KEY**

-  Access points - foot
-  Buildings
-  Paths - general
-  Arboretum walk
-  Park boundary
-  Park grounds
-  Water course
-  Woodland

Cartography by Graphis, Graphis and Communications, © Burnley Council 2012. 01282-425011. Job 6812.

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## Plan of meadow areas in Queens Park





# Savings/Income



Activity	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Volunteer In Parks</b>	<b>£7,163</b>	<b>£9,155</b>	<b>£11,306</b>	<b>£13,627</b>	<b>£16,128</b>
<b>Meadow Management</b>	<b>£41,278</b>	<b>£48,600</b>	<b>£55,829</b>	<b>£55,829</b>	<b>£58,127</b>
<b>Perennial Planting</b>	<b>£3,264</b>	<b>£16,520</b>	<b>£28,313</b>	<b>£28,313</b>	<b>£28,313</b>
<b>Woodland Management</b>	<b>£9,885</b>	<b>£9,900</b>	<b>£9,900</b>	<b>£9,900</b>	<b>£9,900</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£61,590</b>	<b>£84,175</b>	<b>£105,348</b>	<b>£107,669</b>	<b>£112,469</b>

# Getting it Wrong



# Pitch or meadow?





**At least make it look natural!**

# Biodiversity? Looks more like neglect...

CAMPAIGNERS say a beauty spot hit by six-foot weeds has been neglected.

Rose beds in Fog Lane Park, Didsbury, have been swamped by dock leaves while previously well-kept areas have been overcome with thickets.

One local resident, Elizabeth Patrick, said she had even had

to fill up black bags of rubbish which had been left to build up.

Manchester council said the park was being left to grow to encourage 'bio-diversity' – including wild flowers, butterflies and birds.

Friends of Fog Lane Park, a group set up by volunteers to help look after the park, folded

in 2009. Residents say the park has been in decline ever since.

Jack McElvey, 87, a retired theology lecturer who lives on Brooklawn Drive, has collected scores of signatures for a petition slamming the council for 'neglect'.

He says the park no longer

has a dedicated park warden – and that park staff have told him that they can no longer maintain the park because of cuts.

Dr McElvey said: "Whole fields have been left to grow over. Youngsters used to play football on a field near my house but that is no longer possible because of the dock leaves and weeds that are as tall as me.

"The state of the park is very saddening."

Manchester council has decided to allow parts of its parks to grow wild to encourage a more diverse range of plants and wildlife.

But critics such as Dr McElvey say it is an excuse for spending less money on maintenance.

Coun Rosa Battle, the council's executive member for culture and leisure, said: "There is a bio-diversity strategy in action across the city, not just at Fog Lane, and park managers have chosen areas that once left fallow will create a more natural environment and attract a greater range of wildlife – benefitting the wider ecosystem of the park and surrounding areas.

"The rest of Fog Lane park remains well tended by park rangers, but the park is under continuous review and we have planned a meeting with local people to hear their thoughts on the park's strategy."

Coun Battle added that members of the public could call the council's environment team on 0161 234 5004 if they had concerns or suggestions about their local green spaces.



**NOT WILD ABOUT THIS** Jack McElvey in an over-grown section of Fog Lane Park in Didsbury



The South Manchester Reporter

CRUISE HOLIDAY

Newmarket Holidays

**Buy-one-get-one-HALF-THIS-PRICE!**

Book by 3 September 2012





# REVERSE DECISION TO REDUCE GRASS CUTTING IN HEREFORDSHIRE



Campaign created by

**Colin James**



## 2,437

of 3,000 signatures

## **TO: HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

*We the undersigned want Herefordshire Council to REVERSE it's decision to reduce grass cutting frequencies from 7 times a year to just 3 times a year in this years budget. This is a massive reduction of almost 60%!! Yet Herefordshire Council has increased the Council Tax by almost 2%.*

*The Old Market shopping centre has recently opened at a cost of over £90 million, which will hopefully attract more people to Hereford and grow our local economy, however, Hereford looks a mess, all the grass and verges are overgrown and this will lead to treble the amount of work required when they eventually get around to it, which is false economy.*

*This online petition has been launched by Hereford Voice in a bid to persuade Herefordshire Council to reverse the decision and restore Hereford back to a more attractive standard.*

*#cutgrassbfd*

### **Why is this important?**

We believe that this is a necessary course of action in order to attract investment and economic benefit back to Hereford.

The state of Herefordshire also discourages potential investors and tourism alike from visiting the County, this is potentially an economic disaster for Hereford.

**Category:** [Cuts](#) [Planning](#) [Public Services](#)

# Wales online

## Anger at overgrown condition of Ebbw Vale Cemetery

17:27, 3 JUN 2014

UPDATED 18:14, 3 JUN 2014

BY JONATHAN EVANS



Ebbw Vale Cemetery has become overgrown with long grass

Council promises action after families left upset at lack of grass-cutting

Blaenau Gwent Council has vowed to review its frontline service priorities after upset families complained about the condition of the borough's cemeteries.

A lack of grass-cutting in recent months has led to some cemeteries becoming severely overgrown.

In December last year, the local authority announced budget cuts of £8.8m in 2014-2015 in an attempt to bring about a balanced budget.

These money-saving plans included more than 160 jobs being axed, with allotment and ground maintenance grants being slashed.

But the council has now acknowledged that cemeteries "do need to be a top priority" despite the cutbacks.

Sally Morgan, from Beaufort, visits Ebbw Vale Cemetery around once a month.

Her father is laid to rest there, along with her grandmother, grandfather and great-aunt and great-uncle.



**Clearly not managed!**



Equipment and methods issues



Equipment and methods issues



A landscape photograph of a golf course. In the foreground, a well-maintained green fairway leads towards a line of trees. To the left and right of the fairway, there are areas of tall, reddish-brown grasses. The background is filled with a dense line of green trees under a clear blue sky.

**Getting it  
right!**

**Wokingham**

**Wokingham**



**Tell visitors  
what's happening!**





**Sites should still look well-managed**

**Wokingham**

**Gently curving paths  
look and feel right!**





**Mown paths invite exploration  
and give closer access**

**Before....  
fortnightly cut...**

**Wokingham**

**...ten weeks later**

**Wokingham**



...late summer

Wokingham





**Grassland has intrinsic beauty**

**Pope's Meadow, Bracknell**



**Burnley**



# Burnley





**Burnley**



**Burnley**



**Burnley**



In case you need to give  
yourself horticultural  
permission!







**Kew Gardens have had severe budget cuts too!**



Untidy hedge bases?  
Previously sprayed with herbicide







**Involving the community!  
—before...**

**...after**





Sweetening the pill/ giving 'Wow factor











Naturalistic planting retains  
plant interest but reduces  
maintenance costs



Annual winter cut, no staking











# Unlikely conversations?

Why have they cut the grass yet?

What a mess!







**Why haven't  
they cut it?**

**That hedge  
is a  
disgrace!**

A group of people, including several elderly women, are gathered in a field filled with a variety of colorful flowers, such as blue cornflowers, red poppies, and white daisies. One person in the foreground is wearing a blue jacket and a backpack, appearing to be working in the field. In the background, there are residential houses and trees under a cloudy sky. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, one on the left and one on the right, both containing text in yellow font on a blue background. The speech bubble on the left says "What a mess!" and the one on the right says "I'm complaining to the council!".


**What a mess!**

**I'm complaining to the council!**

Look at  
Hoped  
bees!

What  
habitat?



A wide-angle photograph of a vast field filled with numerous white daisies. In the middle ground, two people are walking away from the camera towards a line of trees. The scene is bright and sunny, with green leaves visible in the upper corners of the frame.

**How many skylarks can you see?**

**Too many to count!**

A close-up photograph of a bumblebee on a pink flower. The flower has a prominent, spiky red center and several pink petals. The background is a soft-focus green. A blue speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'Thanks for listening!'.

**Thanks for  
listening!**