

To whom it may concern,

I am always happy to see public spaces and roadside verges with tall growth and blooms, partly because I prefer a view of long grasses and wildflowers to that of mown grass, but mostly for nature conservation reasons. Long grasses and flowering plants are essential to wildlife, providing shelter and food. Long vegetation helps reduce heat and absorbs more CO<sub>2</sub> than short grass.

With regards to the mowing of roadsides, I understand that sight lines must obviously remain for safety – however, these areas should be managed without other stretches being cut back unnecessarily. Areas of undisturbed grasses link habitats which is crucial, given current fragmentation issues.

When I see council land indiscriminately mown back during peak growing and flowering times (April-August), I feel saddened and frustrated that despite years of recommendations from experts, and the government's National Pollinator Strategy stating that action *must* be taken to preserve these vital insects, councils appear to be prioritising contracted mowing schedules and short grass aesthetics.

As a resident within your council, I urge you to support the natural world by reducing and amending your mowing schedules in ways which benefit nature, wherever possible, and insisting that your contractors act accordingly.

Yours Sincerely,