

To whom it may concern,

I am always happy to see public spaces and roadside verges with tall growth and blooms. This is because I prefer a view of long grasses and wildflowers to that of mown grass, and for important conservation reasons. Long grasses and flowering plants are of value to wildlife, providing shelter and food. Long vegetation helps reduce heat and absorbs more CO2 than short grass.

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

When I see council land mown during peak growing and flowering times (April-August), I feel saddened and frustrated that despite years of recommendations from experts, and despite the government having created a National Pollinator Strategy stating that action *must* be taken to preserve vital pollinators, 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 to act accordingly.

Yours Sincerely,