



Greater Bristol Pollinating Insect Strategy –

update for parishes, friends groups and South Glos residents

Thank you to all of you who came along to the meeting in Bradley Stoke last month. It was inspiring to meet such a warm and friendly group of people. Notes of the meeting and resources below.

South Gloucestershire Council has now officially signed up to the strategy. If you feel your parish, group, or you as an individual can do the same that would be great. You may have people you can share the allotment leaflet with too (see below).

Minutes: Baileys Court activity centre, Bradley Stoke 7pm 15/06/15

Sally Pattison (South Glos council biodiversity officer) thanked everyone for attending.

i. The plight of our pollinating insects was set using the fun DEFRA animation 'bees need'. (Massive thanks to the man in red from Olveston? who got the video to play).

ii. Sally apologised for Dr Baldock's absence as she was ill with shingles having just returned from invertebrate research in Africa. Some of her UK research was summarised from Sally's memory: (actual details available at www.bristol.ac.uk/biology/research/ecological/community/pollinators)

- **Which is better for pollinating insects the countryside, towns or nature reserves?** Results, after much work across 5 universities, show that although they support different species, they are all equally good.
- **Which urban areas are best for pollinating insects?** Parks and green open space were surprisingly poor unless they had specific long grass areas. The best sites by a long way were allotments.
- **What actions can we do to boost pollinating insect numbers?** Research still ongoing. New meadows have been created, dandelions supported most insects, but no evidence yet as to whether summer food is the limiting resource, and whether flowers boost numbers or just draw insects in.

iii. The new Get Bristol Buzzing initiative was launched and the strategy document circulated.

iv. Clare Dinham (Buglife) explained the importance of pollinating insects. She also introduced the West of England B-lines project which Buglife and Avon Wildlife Trust are delivering. She showed maps of the routes highlighting the best places to target action on wildflower rich grasslands which would boost pollinating insects and wildlife more generally. There is a north/south route along [Doynton, Dyrham, Doddington, Sodbury, Horton and Hawkesbury](#). And there is a route around the ring road and north to the severn taking in [Upton Cheyney, Kingswood, Siston, Emersons, Pucklechurch, Downend, Winterbourne, Frampton, Almondsbury, Alveston, Thornbury, Rockhampton, Shepperton](#). Find details and download the map at www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/habitat-projects/west-england-b-lines

Visit www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/getbristolbuzzing to watch the animation, find links to the national pollinator strategy, Greater Bristol strategy including strategy **sign up details** and an opportunity to join the greater Bristol pollinating insect forum.

www.bristol.ac.uk/biology/research/ecological/community/pollinators/get-bristol-buzzing contains lots of info and a link to resources including a free meadow leaflet and an **allotment** leaflet.

Sally has acquired some **free packs of native wildflower seeds** for people to sow this autumn. Contact Sally to arrange collection/ delivery. Sally.pattison@southglos.gov.uk