



No Mow MAY

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 16/23

13 MARCH 2023

The purpose of this Report is to introduce a motion and supporting information from Councillor Julie Hutchison.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Councillor Julie Hutchison's motion and supporting information is attached to this Report.
 - b) The Grounds Maintenance work to which it refers consists of 18 grassed areas within the town and Ventnor Park carried out by the Town Council's contractor John O'Conner.
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Full Council Motion to support No Mow May for 2023 and beyond.

Motion prepared by Julie Hutchison 1st March 2023 in preparation for March Full Town Council meeting.

Dear Councillors.

As we are all aware, insects are in sharp decline and as a Town Council we should be showing strong leadership in protecting the biodiversity that we have.

No Mow May was founded by the organisation Plantlife. Plantlife also organise 'Every Flower Counts', the details of which are on their website.

No Mow May is a national incentive for people to stop mowing their lawns during the month of May. This pause in mowing greatly increases food for pollinators, and potentially enables us to see what additional wild flowers we have.

Reasoning.

By Ventnor Town Council implementing this initiative, it will allow more food for pollinators. This incentive will allow us to identify plant species in those areas, and will educate more residents of the benefits to nature of No Mow May. Potentially this may inspire them to take part by leaving their own lawns to flower during that month.

Therefore this motion is to support the implementation of No Mow May for this year, and for all subsequent years, in all of the public areas that our contractor currently covers.

Plan.

Towards the end of May, we will try to encourage groups of residents to go out and identify what we have growing. If any declining species are identified, then we can review this for their future care. I have contacted the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust to see where we can get support for this.

I have attached sources which I believe to be pertinent to this motion, giving both the benefits and the potential difficulties faced. In the video, the gentleman left his lawn until August and didn't have the tools to face his enormous lawn. However, a great deal was able to grow.

Source Plantlife

<https://nomowmay.plantlife.org.uk>

Source videos

<https://youtu.be/AVTrqFkgre8>

Source articles

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/how-to/wildlife-gardening/no-mow-may/>

<https://www.countryliving.com/uk/homes-interiors/gardens/a36325312/no-mow-may-plantlife/>