

**Appendix 1 - Area Committee Comments on draft Aberdeenshire Council
Pollinator Action Plan 2022-2027**

Buchan 11/01/22		
Reference	Comment	Response/action
BAC1	Where wild flowers are to be used on road verges, that careful consideration be given to the type so as to ensure they are low growing to allow motorists full view of sightlines at junctions, including junctions into fields.	Noted and agreed. Council verge management contracts will be reviewed in 2025 and safety will take priority when considering management options for pollinators. No change to the Action Plan required.
BAC2	Where we have wide verges that are sub-contracted for cutting, these should be prioritised when considering which road verges should be planted with wild flowers.	As BAC1
BAC3	The planting of wild flowers as opposed to grass cutting is not well understood by all members of the public, and therefore there is an important role for the Greenspace Officers in terms of getting the message across and engaging more with the public to help them understand.	Noted and agreed. Action Plan highlights the importance of the Greenspace Officers as well as the crucial role of education, consultation, and engagement. No change to action plan required.
BAC4	To highlight the importance of consultation with local communities where any of the proposals involves local greenspace, i.e., local Members, Community Councils, local organisations etc.	As BAC3
BAC5	Whilst understanding there may be sensitivities to the planting of wild flowers at greenspaces in cemeteries, to note support for this proposal, in particular at new cemeteries or extensions at cemeteries, and that this should be encouraged albeit slowly and with careful consideration and consultation and only where appropriate to do so.	Noted and agreed. Greenspace Officers and Landscape Services actively consider options for modifying cemetery management to benefit pollinators where possible and appropriate. No change to the Action Plan required.
BAC6	In relation to para 1.4 of the Draft Plan which reads “population impacts linked to climate change are also suggested”, to highlight the importance of choosing plants which will provide bloom throughout the full year and therefore attract insects and pollinators spanning the full year.	Noted and agreed. Choosing plants which cover the full flowering season is crucial for pollinators. The action plan and associated guidance (i.e., 5 steps for pollinator leaflet) promote this. No change to the Action Plan required.

Garioch 11/01/22		
Reference	Comment	Response/action
GAC1	Commend ambition in Action Plan.	Noted. No change to the Action Plan required.
GAC2	Opportunity to create small habitats in the areas where trees were brought down by Storm Arwen.	Noted and agreed. Environment Team and Landscape Services currently considering options for replanting/habitat creation in the Council's storm hit woodlands. No change to the Action Plan required.
GAC3	Welcome change of focus towards River Don.	Noted. No change to action plan required.
GAC4	Welcome positive communication and engagement with communities to ensure projects are appropriate.	Noted and agreed. Action Plan highlights the importance of education, consultation, and engagement. No change to the Action Plan required.

Kincardine and Mearns 18/01/22		
Reference	Comment	Response/action
KMAC1	In order to enhance public open spaces and help maintain public spaces, consideration to be given to planters, raised beds and tubs as options when planting out these open spaces.	Noted. All practical, sustainable options to enhance public greenspace will be considered. Planters and tubs could have a place but would necessarily be a small-scale option and thus are unlikely to achieve the ambitions of the plan alone. No change to the Action Plan required.
KMAC2	Some members opposed the 10% of public greenspaces to be enhanced and managed for pollinators however others were in agreement but suggested the need for close engagement with the community through social media inviting comments and not only with established groups but sharing ideas wider within the community.	Both opposition and support noted. Overall, the feedback from the 6 Area Committees has been overwhelmingly positive for the Action Plan and its targets. The message that education, consultation and engagement are required has been consistently made by Members. The Action Plan recognises and reinforces the crucial importance of this. No change to the Action Plan required.
KMAC3	Members queried the decision-making route and sought further clarification if comments went to Sustainability Committee or indeed whether this should be Infrastructure Services Committee.	Legal & People, in Business Services, have identified that approval should be sought from Sustainability Committee based on S1.1a in the List of Committee Powers. No change to the Action Plan required.

Formartine 18/01/22		
Reference	Comment	Response/action
FAC1	Updates on Gordon Park and Auchterellon wild meadows and proposal to establish a route to new community campus Ellon to be provided via Ward Pages.	Greenspace Officer asked to respond to Member directly on this issue. No change to the Action Plan required.
FAC2	Local initiatives to be reported to Area Committee and incorporated into the Area Plan.	Action Plan amended with the process in italics below. Aim is keep reporting process simple. Combining Action Plan reporting with the existing biodiversity reporting will streamline but also mean all Members will see detail of Council biodiversity action beyond the Pollinator Action Plan alone. <i>Action plan monitoring will be reported yearly to Sustainability Committee via a bulletin. The bulletin will combine action plan reporting and the annual biodiversity reporting. The bulletin will include details of works/projects for each Area Committee area and will be made available to all Members via Ward pages.</i>

Banff and Buchan 25/01/22		
Reference	Comment	Response/action
BBAC1	Full consultation should take place with communities to identify the most suitable areas.	Noted and agreed. Action plan highlights the importance of education, consultation, and engagement. No change to the Action Plan required.
BBAC2	Education is necessary to provide the skills required to manage re-wilding as it takes a degree of expertise, and ongoing maintenance to sustain the projects.	Noted and agreed. Training has been provided by external and internal experts to Council staff and to community groups. Online resources have also been produced and more are planned. No change to the Action Plan required.
BBAC3	There is a need for co-ordination and the work of all groups should be coordinated through the Greenspace Officer.	Noted and agreed. Greenspace Officers are a key point of contact and coordination as the action plan highlights. No change to the Action Plan required.

Marr 25/01/22		
Reference	Comment	Response/action
MAC1	Emphasised the importance of pollinators and would like to see more explanation of their importance included within the Plan.	Agreed. Further detail of the importance of pollinators added to paragraph 1.2 of the Action Plan.
MAC2	Supported the emphasis on planting perennials as opposed to annual bedding plants.	Noted. No change to the Action Plan required.
MAC3	Requested further information in relation to road verge seeding at Tullich Kirkyard.	Noted. Greenspace Officer asked to get back to Member directly. No change to the Action Plan required.
MAC4	Noted that the Greenspace Officers could be contacted with proposals for community planting projects.	No change to the Action Plan required.
MAC5	Highlighted the need for promotion and action to deliver the Plan, which would require comprehensive engagement with communities and schools. Effective communication would be essential when making any changes to explain what was happening and why. Demonstration projects would help to show how initiatives could work.	Noted and agreed. Action Plan highlights the importance of education, consultation, and engagement. Action plan includes collation and promotion of demonstration sites (Key Priority 1.1). No change to the Action Plan required.
MAC6	In relation to Key Priority 1.1, to suggest that the action be 'measures for pollinators introduced in at least 80 school grounds'.	Agreed. Action Plan changed as suggested.
MAC7	Highlighted the need for consultation with residents, and to address concerns about maintenance of town centres and management of public greenspaces which many would prefer to be neatly maintained.	Noted and agreed. Action Plan highlights the importance of education, consultation, and engagement. No change to the Action Plan required.
MAC8	In relation to road verge management, safety and visibility at junctions and drainage/flood risk should also be taken into account.	Noted and agreed. Council verge management contracts will be reviewed in 2025 and safety will take priority when considering management options for pollinators. No change to the Action Plan required.
MAC9	Welcomed the decision to extend the timescale of the Plan.	Noted. No change to the Action Plan required.