

REPORT TO BIODIVERSITY TASK GROUP

Open		Would any recommendations proposed from the Group:			
Any especially affected Wards	Discretionary	Be for cabinet to consider and decide		YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council			NO
		Is it a Key Decision			NO
Lead Member: Cllr Devulapalli/Cllr de Whalley					
Lead Officer: Geoff Hall E-mail: geoff.hall@west-norfolk.gov.uk					
Financial Implications YES	Policy/ Personnel Implications YES	Statutory Implications YES	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre- screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications NO	Environmental Considerations YES

Date of meeting: 15 April 2024

BIODIVERSITY COMPETITION – SUGGESTION FROM CLLR DEVULAPALLI

Introduction

To consider a proposal put forward by Cllr Devulapalli for the Council to support the introduction of an annual biodiversity competition intended to promote and encourage greater awareness of biodiversity across the Borough

Proposal

Cllr Devulapalli intends that this competition will be community led relying on community volunteers. She is asking that the Council support the introduction of an annual biodiversity competition by:

1. Publicly supporting and endorsing the proposal
2. Providing support and guidance to the group on how to run the competition through preparation of a project plan.
3. Provision of Comms support to highlight the importance of biodiversity and the competition.

Options

Officers are currently exploring different options to help support and encourage biodiversity prior to putting forward a recommendation to Cabinet. Options include:

1. The Council hosting and running a competition to promote biodiversity along the same lines as the mayors design or business awards. – This is not likely to be feasible within existing resources without reprioritising. This would also have the appearance of a Council rather than community initiative.

2. The Council providing support to a community initiative along the lines set out above. This is the preferred option.

(RHS) In Bloom Initiative

Anglia in Bloom forms part of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society's) Britain in Bloom competition. This is a campaign set up to help get the best out of the village, town or city in which we live, both environmentally and florally.

The Britain in Bloom campaign is organised by The Royal Horticultural Society, and more information on the RHS can be obtained from their website

One of the criteria under which schemes are assessed under Environmental Sustainability is NI 197 'Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites'

The introduction of a biodiversity competition alongside In Bloom could be complementary and might provide an opportunity where the In Bloom Committees could be involved in supporting this competition.

Next Steps

That a recommendation go to Cabinet from this working group that Officers explore Option 2 as set out above aimed at supporting a community-based biodiversity competition. Links with InBloom can also be considered as part of developing the project plan.