

Grasslands in Braunston

Braunston Parish Council agreed that starting in 2021 most grass areas that the council maintains are in two categories:

Amenity Grassland

This includes The Green and the verges in residential areas.

Mown every three weeks. Under this regime grass reaches around 3 inches between cuts. White clover, creeping buttercup and bird's-foot trefoil can flower between cuts at this interval, attracting pollinating bees and other invertebrates, thereby leading to greater biodiversity and a reduction in carbon emissions and financial costs of around 50% compared with more frequent mowing.

The flowering plants mentioned can spread and flower with the 'cut and fly' method of mowing.

Wildlife-rich Grassland

This includes the inside verge on the section of High Street known as Butlin's Hill, a part of the Churchyard and much of the Main Field at Jetty Field, Braunston's Pocket Park.

These areas are mown twice a year and managed in ways that support greater biodiversity. The 'cut and collect' method of mowing is used. This prevents the cuttings from fertilising the soil. Reduced soil fertility leads to the grass being less vigorous and helps the wildflowers establish and spread.

Over ten years a flowery grassland will establish that supports many more bees and other invertebrates that will in turn support a greater range of wildlife.

Background

When proposing these mowing regimes Braunston Climate Action Network used information from [Plantlife, The Wild Plant Conservation Charity](#) and looked at the wildflower initiatives of [Chesham Town Council](#).

We hope that you can find some of the following in the wildlife-rich grasslands.

Wild carrot



Knapweed



Lady's bedstraw



Field scabious



Red campion



Ox-eye daisies

