**Proposal for the Greens in Risby 2022-2023**

**The Issue:**

At the UK scale, the abundance and distribution of species has, on average, declined over recent decades and many measures suggest this decline continues. There has been no let-up in the net loss of nature in the UK.

Examples include:

* Mammals down by 26% - Up to three quarters of all of Britain's rural hedgehogs have been lost in the past 20 years
* Habitat specialist Butterflies down by 68% since 1976.
* The [UK has lost 97% of its meadows since the 1930s](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/road-verge-marauders).
* The Birds of Conservation Concern Red List increased from 36 to 67 species between 1996 and 2015.

**The Proposal:**

1. Retain the wild areas on the Greens.
2. Border with a margin of a wildflower mix.
3. Mow over the wildflower spiral.
4. Continue to water the trees and bushes when necessary.

People like to see bright coloured flowers. People do not see that less colourful native plants are important for wildlife, however long grasses are necessary for many invertebrates to survive and thrive. We therefore suggest that next year we border a few of the triangular sides of the wild areas with a 20 cm margin to have a balance of both flowers and grasses: this way we will benefit the people and the wildlife. How much of the triangular areas are bordered with this margin will depend on funding. The wildflower mix we had last year price is:

£30.82 for 50m2 = 0.2m x 250m of margin

£46.43 for 125 m2 = 0.2m x 625m of margin

£72.46 for 250 m2 = 0.2m x 1250m of margin

We would like the Parish Council to continue to support the wild areas on the Greens with these wildflower margins as we believe that they benefit both wildlife and the people who will see the flowers.

**References:**

1. <https://nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/reports/>
2. **Helden, A.J.**, Morley, G.J., Davidson, G.L. & Turner, E.C., 2018. What can we do for urban insect biodiversity? Applying lessons from ecological research. Zoosymposia, 12, pp.51–63.
3. Hoyle, H., Norton, B., Dunnett, N., Richards, J.P., Russell, J.M. and Warren, P., 2018. Plant species or flower colour diversity? Identifying the drivers of public and invertebrate response to designed annual meadows. *Landscape and Urban Planning,*[e-journal] 180, pp.103-113. 10.1016/j.landurbplan.2018.08.017.
4. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2022/february/britains-rural-hedgehogs-see-dramatic-population-decline.html>