

Discussion document for meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8 July 2026

1. To recap following May BWG meeting:

BWG Recommendations agreed by Full Council 11 June 2026

The draft minutes of the Biodiversity Group were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to accept the following recommendations:

Recommendation#1: Look into options for a Village 'Wildlife Garden' for visitors to visit

Recommendation#2: Follow up with a local business who are due to be planting a woodland as part of their new planning development

Recommendation#3: Publish a wildlife Column in the Parish Magazine

Recommendation#4: Organise and host a local Community Biodiversity event

Recommendation#5: Community Pollinator Patches: to create and manage for specific species

Cllr Scott proposed, Cllr Hutter Seconded. Unanimously agreed.

2. Progress to date:

a) Group members have been gathering more information and making enquiries for speakers to come to the Community Event.

i) BB and SH attended the NatureFest event which provided a great opportunity for networking and talking to experts.

ii) BB has found a speaker for the Wildlife Gardening topic who will not charge any fees

iii) BB has found a speaker on Bats who would make a small charge to cover travel expenses

iv) BB has found a speaker on Hedgehogs who would charge up to £75, depending on duration of the talk

v) BB is following up for a potential speaker on Birds

b) The first Willand Wildlife article for the next issue of the Willand Magazine has been drafted by BB and has been sent to BWG members for comment and response by end of day Tuesday 7 July, as deadline for submission to the Magazine Editor is Wed 8 July.

c) SH posted a wildlife awareness request on PC's FB page during recent heatwave to ask that people put water out for wildlife; at least 14 people Liked the post.

d) At least 2 members of BWG have noted the increased amounts of litter around the village since the PC's decision to reduce the Litter Picker's hours and residents have also made the same comments. This is of concern for the sake of wildlife, pollution, safety and standards of behaviour; it also puts the PC in a bad light when residents see that verges are cut down to bare soil whereas litter is left uncollected for days! Although an extra 2 hours paid Litter Picking time will be in place over the 6 week Summer Holiday period, this will soon be swallowed up by keeping the Jubilee Field and Orchard Way areas clear of litter especially if there are prolonged periods of fine weather.

QUESTION 1 for the Parish Council: In order to take plans forward, can the Clerk and Parish Council please confirm the funding available for BWG activities in this financial year ending 31 March 2027?

Note: The BWG will also look into outside funding available such as grants, and sponsorship and partnerships with local businesses etc e.g. a business may sponsor planting of an area, or make a donation to buy equipment such as bird/bat/hedgehog boxes.

BB has approached Mid Devon Wildlife who operate a Small Grant Awards Scheme (up to £200), for which the closing date for applications is 14 August 2026; more info to be shared at BWG meeting on 8 July.

QUESTION 2 for the Parish Council: Would the PC give authority for BWG to work with the Clerk to approach businesses/other bodies about establishing pollinator patches?