

Network query responses

Query Title: GM0973 - Results from participation in No Mo May - 040723

Description A member authority is interested to hear the experience of other Councils who took part in No Mow May, particularly with regards to the following questions:

To what extent did you do No Mow May i.e. small trial or large areas, which areas were included (or excluded if easier to list), etc.?

How many times a year do you cut grass verges? Do you cut and drop or cut and collect?

Did you have to purchase/hire any different machinery to cut the grass once mowing resumed in June?

How did you keep residents informed and engaged in No Mow May?

How did you measure the success of No Mow May in terms of biodiversity improvements?

Responses

Date: 18/07/23

Authority: St Helens MBC

Name: Gary Stevens

Telephone **Email:** GaryStevens@sthelens.gov.uk

Response To what extent did you do No Mow May i.e. small trial or large areas, which areas were included (or excluded if easier to list), etc.?

We used two of our main routes A580 and the A570, large areas

How many times a year do you cut grass verges? Do you cut and drop or cut and collect?

Our main A roads national speed limit are cut 3 to 4 times per year depending on growth all other highway verges are cut 7 times per year. All cut and drop

Did you have to purchase/hire any different machinery to cut the grass once mowing resumed in June?

No just used flail mowers

How did you keep residents informed and engaged in No Mow May?

We didn't

How did you measure the success of No Mow May in terms of biodiversity improvements?

We didn't

Date: 18/07/2023

Authority: Derry City and Strabane District Council

Name: John Quinn

Telephone 07739916436 **Email:** john.quinn@derrystrabane.com

Response To what extent did you do No Mow May i.e. small trial or large areas, which areas were included (or excluded if easier to list), etc.?

We're in our third year now, but still learning. We started of with a few small sites and have now increased to over 3 Ha of Don't Mow Let it Grow areas to develop and implement actions on Council owned green spaces for pollinator conservation

How many times a year do you cut grass verges? Do you cut and drop or cut and collect?

We have reduced the number of cuts to grass verges from 14 cuts per season to 8 due to staff cuts. We cut and drop.

Did you have to purchase/hire any different machinery to cut the grass once mowing resumed in June?

The grass is cut and lifted with an Amazone mower (purchased with this in mind) twice a year, to encourage increased species diversity for pollinators. In addition, pollinator 'Don't Mow Let of Grow' signage is installed where the grass-cutting regime is changed, to inform the public of this change in grass management for biodiversity.

How did you keep residents informed and engaged in No Mow May?

Social media and Don't mow let it grow signs at each site

How did you measure the success of No Mow May in terms of biodiversity improvements?

We had an excellent Biodiversity Officer at the start of this process who generated a Pollinator Plan then advised and guided our Grounds Maintenance section on actions. Our Biodiversity Officer at the time carried out onsite audits to monitor pollinator numbers (bees, butterflies etc) wild flower and grass growth.

Date: 18/07/23

Authority: Chesterfield Borough Council

Name: Tom Shaw

Telephone 07870156579 **Email:** Tom.Shaw@Chesterfield.gov.uk

Response To what extent did you do No Mow May i.e. small trial or large areas, which areas were included (or excluded if easier to list), etc.?

Small trial on medium to large amenity grassland areas. Small number of sites identified around the Borough's estate verges.

How many times a year do you cut grass verges? Do you cut and drop or cut and collect?

7/8 times per year. Cut and drop.

Did you have to purchase/hire any different machinery to cut the grass once mowing resumed in June?

Cutting frequency for estates mowing including grass verges is 5-6 weeks using a mixture of 3 gang Flail mowers, Front deck Flail mowers and 5 gang . No additional machinery purchased as a result.

How did you keep residents informed and engaged in No Mow May?

Worked with internal communications department who advertised through social media platforms. Purchased number of small signs with a small brief of information and aims around leaving the grass.

How did you measure the success of No Mow May in terms of biodiversity improvements?

No Data held presently
