

# Waltham Forest Pollinator Action Plan

Consultation 2020

Our native pollinators include **bees, butterflies, hoverflies, beetles and moths** and they play an **essential role in biodiversity and in the pollination of most of our food crops**. One out of every three mouthfuls of food depend on native pollinators and their contribution to healthy ecosystems is vital.

**The decline in pollinator** populations is well documented and they **are under threat from habitat loss, pesticide use and climate emergency**.

There is an ever-increasing awareness that there is a need to **help pollinators now as part of the challenges faced by the Climate Emergency** and **Waltham Forest Council** is ready to play its part in reversing the decline.



By informing our community and making changes to the management of all our green spaces **we can help support our pollinator population** by committing to the following aims:

1

Encouraging new, good quality green spaces as part of new developments, ensuring developers incorporate landscaping to support pollinators and bio diversity

2

Increasing awareness across every part of the Council, through policy and briefings

3

Protecting and enhancing habitats for pollinators. Ensure places that provide habitat are **managed appropriately** or **increasing habitat** with pollinator friendly planting or installing Bee and Bug hotels.

5

Promote organisations and support initiatives for biodiversity and pollinating insects' groups like Friends of the Earth, Bug Life, The Bumblebee Trust.

4

Supporting and informing our communities, volunteer groups and schools to **increase habitat and food sources for pollinators**. For example, guides to planting wildflower areas or listing plants favoured for pollinators like lavender.

7

Identifying areas in the public areas that could be considered for biodiversity projects by greening vacant land and verges. We are evaluating highways verges and corner greens throughout the borough for sites to create more biodiverse pocket parks and parklets.

We are also looking at replanting planters in our streets with pollinator friendly plants and shrubs for example planters in Woodhouse Road, Dyers Hall Road E11, and Station Road Chingford

6

Adapt maintenance of our greenspaces to **increase bio diversity and habitat** in our parks, open spaces and gardens. For example, reducing herbicide and pesticide use and allowing longer grass areas, encouraging native wildflowers like clover. We have developed longer grass and summer meadow regimes in Leyton Jubilee Park, Ridgeway Park, Lloyds Park, St James Park and Mansfield Park.



Waltham Forest