

To: Stokesley Town Council  
From: Climate Action Stokesley and Villages  
Contact: Bridget Holmstrom  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Subject: **No Mow May**



## Request

Climate Action Stokesley and Villages requests that a one metre strip around specific agreed areas are left unmown for the month of May.

## Context

We are currently facing the double crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss. It is estimated that almost one million species is on the brink of extinction. A key group for biodiversity and the well-being of both ourselves and the planet are pollinators, including bees, but there are many other insects and invertebrates that are of fundamental importance.

No Mow May is supported by the National Trust and Plantlife. The links to the organisations are included

## Objective

May is a crucial month for pollinators but also birds, small mammals and plant life. Many plants, including crab apples, apples, blackberry, to name but three, rely on these pollinators to be able to fruit.

Allowing the grass to grow and flowers to blossom increases the amount of nectar available to these pollinators by significant amounts.

In addition to the possible increases to the amount of nectar, not mowing will also give an opportunity for a variety of different plant species to emerge. Those plants that will be much maligned dandelion, daisies, self heal, but we may also see some other plants. It is our intention to survey the areas not mown to see what plants emerge. CASaV would be grateful if they could be informed of the mowing dates in June so that the areas can be surveyed in advance. The information will of course be shared with the Town Council. CASaV would be happy to provide some signage if the Council deems this appropriate.

## Application

We recognise that it is simply not practical to stop mowing vast areas for a month so we expect that the majority of the mowing schedule continues unchanged with small areas at the edges near fences and hedges to be uncut. A map showing the suggested areas is attached.

**It is hoped that the council approve a one metre strip is left unmown for the month of May.**

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/no-mow-may-how-to-get-ten-times-more-bees-on-your-lockdown-lawn>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/take-part-in-the-no-mow-may-challenge>