

Cllr Anna Box statement

I think we can all agree that there are many pressures on us as residents, nah humans, in this modern era.

So the campaign from Plantlife, adopted by Bath and North East Somerset Council, to encourage those of us with the privilege of a lawn, to simply not cut it, is fantastic on many levels.

I discovered the wonders of No Mow May by accident last year. I was mother of a young toddler, pregnant again, with my NHS job and just being elected to this lovely institution after an exhausting campaign - I'll be honest, I hadn't cut the lawn. Ours is tiny, maybe 10 paces long but we had decided to plant it when we bought the house and prevent the labradors from using it as their toilet.

And that's when we discovered the beauty of this campaign. As the grass grew, all these little critters had hiding places and new homes. We had some different and interesting wild flowers to enjoy. Then the memorable evening of the resident frog making his first appearance! That summer, the toddler got obsessed with looking for "snugg". We were graced with newts, bumblebees, even a slow worm. I truly think one of my sons first words was "woodlice."

This year, the toddler and I have planted wildflower seeds, the grass is already to his chest. I'm excited to see what we will find this time around

I absolutely love this campaign and I'm so grateful as a council we have adopted it. The importance of biodiversity in this climate catastrophe has long been understood by scientists but only now possibly coming more into the public eye. The recent state of nature report remains damning for the UK in regard to our biodiversity loss. If we are face the challenges we have ahead of us, we need to consider wildlife as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

Sadly, we as individuals can often feel powerless to the man made change in our environment. But No Mow May has been shown to make a positive impact on our local ecosystem, with even a small section of a lawn. And it's so wonderful to discover nature rapidly reclaiming that lawn. But perhaps the cleverest bit is that you just have to sit back, watch and enjoy. Please try it yourself if you can!

Thank you