

Item 8a - **Wildlife Garden forward plan for monitoring and management**

What next for the wildlife garden? Recent surveys have identified lots of species of plants and the old pond area is showing some signs of regeneration. Bird boxes and bee homes have been added and a silver birch planted.

Next steps:

- Monitoring and recording of the bug hotel
- Monitoring of the bird and bee boxes
- Cutting the meadow and raking off the arisings
- Creating a bee bank
- Encouraging other insects and birds
- Promoting the benefits of visiting the garden
- Feeding this project into the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Others??

Possible Bee Bank project, what is involved and the benefits.

Bees carry out a vital role in pollinating our crops, flowers and trees and it is important to our biodiversity aspirations to create and preserve environments in which they can thrive. While some types of solitary bee will be catered for installing the bee homes most species will only nest in the ground. To attract these “mining” bees we could create a quiet, sunny, well-drained patch of earth, free from vegetation as Miner bees dig down into these bare patches to create miniature burrows. Inside their burrows, they lay eggs and pack with a mixture of nectar and pollen.

We almost have that already in the rough dry bank of the old pond area which with some work could be enhanced by adding bulk and material. The bee bank should offer up to 60cm burrowing and a south-facing bank that catches as much warming sunlight as possible.

There are some interesting case studies around.

[Bee-bank-booklet-4.pdf \(buglife.org.uk\)](#)

A number of logs, canes and rocks can also be placed into the structure to provide additional habitat for other species that favour alternative nesting habitats.



[Get wildlife rich at the Bee Bank - Gardening for wildlife - Nature On Your Doorstep - The RSPB Community](#)



[Rawcliffe Meadows Work Party Report 17th May 2018 at the Bee Bank | The Friends of Rawcliffe Meadows](#)

