



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

David Larkin



















Planting schemes increase biodiversity - and are cheaper



Jason
Kitcat

The recent campaign by Greenpeace and others highlighted the plight of bees, who are struggling to find enough food.

Not only are bees much-loved neighbours in our environment, but we are absolutely reliant upon them to pollinate our crops. As many gardens are paved over, or are turned into relatively-sterile lawn, bees and other insects are losing their food sources.

For the last few years, the council has been introducing more diverse and sustainable planting in areas we maintain. This includes perennial plants that bloom every year and more native flowering plants that do their bit to support our local ecosystem.

For example, wildflowers are now planted on the Lewes Road central reservation and grassed areas on several housing estates. We have also



Working with Kew Gardens on new ways to harvest local seed

replaced a number of more traditional flower beds with perennial schemes.

As well as increasing biodiversity, the schemes are also cheaper to maintain, as they require less-frequent mowing and are cheaper than annual plantings.

We also recently converted two redundant bowling greens in Preston Park to wildflower meadows, which are attracting bees and butterflies to

the park. All the work has been led by gardeners and other Cityparks staff, supported by many volunteers.

Working with the national park and neighbouring authorities, we have been granted funding to create 15 "B Banks". B Banks are artificially-created nature areas to encourage wildflowers, bees and butterflies. So far, B Banks are in place at Dorothy Stringer School and Varndean School -

as well as in Roedean and Greanleas.

Finally, we are working with Kew Gardens on new ways to harvest local seed from the countryside to grow in the city; the first plants to be grown using this method will be coming to a park or garden near you next year.

For more information on the types of plants you can grow to support bees and other insects, visit: www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

**HERE
HERE**

FOR OUR BIOSPHERE'S NATURAL COMMUNITY



Brighton & Hove and Lewes Downs Biosphere Project



THE BIOSPHERE PARTNERSHIP IS A SHARED INITIATIVE OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES:





Why seek Biosphere status?

- Integrated framework for conservation and sustainable development
- Heightened profile of world-class brand, incl. funding
- Generation of new enterprises and jobs
- Driver of best practice in environmental management and development planning
- Stronger sense of community awareness, identity and pride
- Applied research and education enabled
- International networks opened for knowledge transfer



Why the Brighton & Hove and Lewes Downs Biosphere?



- Unique mix of chalk downland, city & marine environments
- Internationally and nationally important habitats, species, landscape, & cultural history
- Strong linkages of environment to people: green corridors, clean drinking water, local food, green lung, sense of place
- Public ownership of downland enables broader agenda of civic benefits and ecosystem services
- Culture of local partnership working, environmental activity, and innovation



OUR HOME
 + OUR DOWNLAND
 + OUR COAST
 = OUR BIOSPHERE

THE NATURAL
 HIGHLIGHTS
 OF OUR
 BIOSPHERE



- CORE AREAS
- COUNTRYSIDE
- URBAN GREENSPACE
- COASTAL & MARINE





Brighton & Hove and Lewes Downs Biosphere Project



- The UNESCO application should now be signed off by the DEFRA Minister and the whole bid package should go off to UNESCO MAB in Paris this week (their annual submission deadline is 30th September) – no final decision is due from them however until summer 2014.

