

Wildflower Areas in Crawley

West Sussex County Council has given us permission to create wildflower areas at locations across Crawley in 2014.

Amenity Services verge cutting and streetscene assistant managers, together with the tractor team assistant manager and the Let's FACE it! coordinator met at the end of 2013 to identify possible locations for wildflowers.

It was decided that the locations should be:

- large, open grassed areas
- areas appropriate for wildflowers
- large areas of grass alongside roads (e.g. the A264 Crawley South West Bypass)
- in areas where the visual impact would be highest.
- large enough that a ride-on mower sized mowing strip (approx 2m) can be left around the edge of the area, therefore precluding the smaller residential streets

Other considerations taken into account were those locations where:

- grass cutting is high maintenance – meaning that perhaps a push-along mower, strimming team, and a ride on mower are all needed when the area is visited.
- The area is difficult to reach – perhaps a steep bank or other obstacle that makes the area fairly inaccessible.

The wildflower areas would only need to be cut once a year in the autumn but the mown edge around the wildflowers would be on the normal verge cutting schedule.

Most of the areas identified as possible locations are on the normal verge cutting regime schedule

The aim is to create highly attractive floral areas with a mown edge. The mown edge will create a very distinct difference between the short grass and the wildflower area, in addition we may also use appropriate signage in some locations.

We have sown wildflowers in the Memorial Gardens in the town centre on a number of previous occasions and on each occasion have received only positive comments.



The Memorial Gardens – June 2012

The photo above gives an example of wildflowers with a mown edge. The grass in the Memorial Gardens is cut on average once every three weeks. We aim to achieve a similar standard with the wildflower areas around the town.

The aim is to have at least one wildflower area in every neighbourhood.

We aim to use volunteers from the various neighbourhood community groups and forums to help sow the seeds. This will help spread the news that we are creating a deliberate wildflower area.

We aim to widely promote the creation of the wildflower areas through Crawley Live, and the local press, together with the Let's FACE it! weekly column in the Crawley Observer. There may also be the opportunity to create additional income through sponsorship



Pictorial Meadows "Annual Cornfield Mix"

For the majority of the areas we would like to use the annual cornfield mix with a large proportion of Flanders poppy seeds added to the mix. The aim of this is to honour the 100th anniversary of WW1. This mix of wildflowers would also be used in high profile areas in the Memorial Gardens and Goffs Park.



Pictorial Meadows "Lest We Forget"

Flanders Poppy Mix

We would also like to use a “golden” mix in some areas as Crawley will be “growing for gold” this year in our bid to win both the South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions. Britain in Bloom is also celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year so a “golden” mix would be appropriate for this reason as well.



Pictorial Meadows “Golden Girl” seed mix used in the Olympic Park, London
Suggested wildflower seed mix for “Growing for Gold” in Crawley

We aim to start sowing seeds in March with all sowing completed by mid April.

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