



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC23/080B

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	28 th February 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Climate Change mitigations
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the committee's views on the proposals for

- Planting starter packs
- Facilities to encourage recycling of blister packs

2. Recommendations

Members' views on the two measures below are invited.

3. Information

- 3.1. The committee has previously considered a proposal to offer a starter pack for residents, which would help encourage people to grow their own food. The Kettering eco Group are running a competition encouraging Kettering people and businesses to sow wildflower seed in order to offer food for butterflies. The Northants and Beds Butterfly Conservation will be supporting this action too. They would like to give away wildflower seed to local people for them to sow in the spring and have asked if the Council would grant aid this by paying for the seed.

See the link here for wildflower seed.

<https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/wildflowers-seed/wildflower-seed-mixtures-100/>. Likely prices are:-

- 1kg of Cornflower Annuals £79
- 1kg of Bees and Butterflies mix £160

1kg of seed might provide 50 – 100 small garden patches. They can make use of any excess . The Ise Valley, for example, will soak up such seed if available.

- 3.2. Medicine blister packs are not currently collected for recycling by NNC, and go into general waste. Blister packs are a composite packaging and not a required material to be collected as part of the recycling system. This is because materials tend to pollute one another and make it impossible to recyclable profitably. NNC's current recycling processor would treat this material as contamination and this would negatively impact on the quality of the recycling stream.
- 3.3. Options exist however to arrange for collection boxes to be placed in defined locations around town. Boxes can be purchased from suppliers and, when filled, sent back post free to the supplier for recycling. A box will cost £96 for a small one, up to £210 for a large one – images below - and, as they would take 1500-7500 blister packs, then would probably need replacing once or twice a year. That would entail an ongoing revenue cost of – say - £400 per location. It would be necessary to agree suitable locations (e.g. Newlands Centre, library) with property owners, and there would be some administrative time in managing the boxes and sending them back to the supplier. Arguable this is something the waste collection authority should undertake, but NNC have confirmed that they wouldn't be providing this service in the near future, and are focused on other aspects of developing their recycling effort.



4. Consultation and Engagement

None to date

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

The Council has up to £500 uncommitted monies for bio-diversity and sustainability measures in its 24/5 budget, assuming a re-run of the Love Wildlife Competition and sponsorship of seed exchanges in 2024.

6. Climate change implications

Improving recycling habits and facilities makes a positive contribution to the environment and reduces landfill.

Background Papers

Correspondence from NNC

21.02.24