

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

“No Mow May” Policy



Adopted: June 2025

Reviewed: February 2026

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to support and promote the national No Mow May initiative within Bredhurst. By pausing routine grass mowing on selected areas for the month of May, the Parish Council aims to enhance local biodiversity, provide vital early-season habitat for pollinators, and raise awareness about environmentally friendly land management practices.

Background

No Mow May is a campaign led by Plantlife and supported by environmental groups across the UK. It encourages landowners, including councils, residents, and businesses, to refrain from mowing their lawns and green spaces during May. This simple act allows flowers to bloom and pollinators like bees and butterflies to thrive, which in turn supports broader ecosystem health.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- Parish Council managed green spaces (e.g., village greens, verges, recreation areas, where appropriate).
- Public awareness campaigns aimed at encouraging residents and businesses to participate.
- Communication and signage to inform the public of the Council’s involvement.

Implementation

The Council will take the following actions:

1. Suspend Routine Mowing

Routine grass cutting on selected areas of parish managed land will be paused from 1st May to 31st May each year, unless required for safety (e.g., road junction visibility) or access purposes.

2. Identify Participating Sites

Sites where mowing will be paused will be agreed upon annually by the Grounds Maintenance contractor, in consultation with councillors and residents where applicable.

3. Public Engagement

- Promote No Mow May through the Parish Council website, noticeboards, and social media.
- Encourage residents to take part on private property.
- Display temporary signage in participating areas explaining the purpose of reduced mowing.

4. Review and Monitoring

After the end of May, the Council will review the impact of the initiative, considering:

- Community feedback.
- Visual and environmental impact.
- Biodiversity observations.

Exceptions

Mowing will continue in:

- Playgrounds and part of community playing field.
- Areas where overgrowth may compromise public safety or access.
- Any areas deemed unsuitable due to environmental or land management needs.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually each February to allow planning ahead of May. Any necessary amendments or improvements will be made based on the previous year's outcomes.