

**COUNTY COUNCIL –13 September 2017**  
**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<b>1. Questioner's name: Diana Ray</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
Will GCC acknowledge that roadside verges can be managed for road safety and also wildflowers; to be excellent reservoirs for biodiversity across the county –in the face of public concern over decline in butterflies and pollinators?	The County Council full recognizes the importance of well managed verges to biodiversity and this is evidenced in our Transport Asset Management Plan and our Biodiversity Action Plan both of which can be found on the Council's website.
<b>2. Questioner's name: Diana Ray</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
The current contract for the highways contractor Amey ends in March 2019. Will the new highway maintenance and cutting contracts from April 2019 – with whoever is appointed to maintain verges - include performance indicators <u>on supporting biodiversity</u> and a requirement to at least adhere to GCC's own management plans for the county's 105 Conservation Road Verges?	The current highways term maintenance contract requires compliance with the County's policies which support biodiversity including the Transport Asset Management Plan and our Biodiversity Action Plan.
<b>3. Questioner's name: Diana Ray</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
Is GCC aware of the research by Plantlife and inspiring stories of best practice examples from other counties such as Dorset, Oxfordshire, and Bedfordshire; for example, Dorset have increased flowering and seeding on verges and saved money (up to £ 100,000) by adopting better management approaches whilst still maintaining road safety?	Thank you for pointing this out to us. I will ask officers to investigate the best practice examples from these authorities.