

Get Calderdale Buzzing! Help for our Bees and their Habitats

It's now better understood that our pollinators – bees, butterflies and other insects – need a little help if they are to continue to do their absolutely essential work for us of pollinating crops and flowers, making honey, and generally buzzing about. Due to large-scale changes in land use since the 1940's, a massive 97% of wildflower-rich meadows have been lost in the UK. Loss of this precious habitat has contributed to a decline in over two thirds of UK pollinators, including many species of bumblebee, butterfly, moth, hoverfly, and also our honeybees. There will soon be a 'National Pollinator Strategy' for Britain¹, and here in Calderdale we're establishing **Get Calderdale Buzzing!** to take some vital actions locally. Would you like to join us?

Formal Purpose: To promote the health of and increase numbers of bees and other pollinators and their habitats for the benefit of Calderdale: its landscape, biodiversity and people. To create and restore bee-friendly habitat within the Calderdale B-Line², linking Calderdale's green spaces to surrounding countryside and wildlife areas.

Who can join? The founding members are: Calderdale Council Countryside Service, Friends of the Earth, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, the Environment Agency, Pennine Prospects, Halifax Scientific Society, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network, Bee Friendly Collective of Todmorden, Bee Wing and Calderdale Sustainability Forum. If you are a local wildlife or conservation group; an organisation or farm business associated with growing food; a body responsible for managing areas of land which could be made more 'bee-friendly'; a local beekeeping society; a school; or any group interested in bees and pollinators ... then we'd love you to join us.

It's free and the more who get involved, the greater success we'll have.

Actions we will take together

There is no lead partner; we'll all support each other and do what we can. Depending on the resources available, members will act to make the habitat where we live or work more bee-friendly by:

- Restoring and creating wildflower-rich habitats, scrub and woodland, in both rural and urban environments, that will contribute to the creation of the Calderdale B-Line.
- Changing maintenance regimes for grassed areas in parks, housing estates and other green spaces to encourage wildflowers to grow and flower. This may also save time and money.

continues

¹ The draft [National Pollinator Strategy March 2014](#) identifies a Key Outcome as: 'diverse and flower-rich habitats to support our pollinators on farmland and public land, in towns, cities and gardens, along transport networks and on land surrounding other infrastructure such as water treatment works and flood defences'

² [B-Lines](#) is a concept established in Buglife's *4th Principle* within their '[Get Britain Buzzing Pollinator Manifesto](#)' March 2014. It calls for 'insect motorways' linking existing wildlife areas together with strips of wildflower habitat so as to create a network of wildflower 'roads' across our countryside and towns and cities. The 3km wide Calderdale B-Line follows the River Calder encompassing much of Calderdale's urban areas, and will contribute to Buglife's national B-Line initiative.

- Making our gardens, allotments, school grounds and other greenspaces more attractive and useful to pollinators; and encouraging bee 'hotels', bee banks and habitat for nesting wild bees in gardens.

- Recording the presence of individual pollinator species.

- Raising awareness of the great job pollinators do for us, and increasing community involvement in the natural world.

- Providing information, activities and events, training and resources, sites for habitat improvement, and opportunities for action and enjoyment.

Launch Date: We are launching our **Get Calderdale Buzzing** partnership on the weekend of 28-29th June as part of National Insect Week 23rd-29th June 2014. Our webpages are at www.greencalderdale.org.uk/bees

What can YOU do to help Get Calderdale Buzzing? If you'd like to join the Partnership, or find out more about it, just contact: countryside@calderdale.gov.uk tell us what you're already doing or planning to do, what actions you'd like to suggest, and what contribution you could make to Get Calderdale Buzzing!

We'd love to hear from you.

Thank You.