

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Biodiversity Funding

14th April 2015

For Information

12.0 Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Sustainable Environment
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Rachel Bain - Biodiversity Officer
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is to provide members with information on the 'Don't Mow Let it Grow' project.

12.1 Background

Funding has been successfully secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), £9k, and NIEA, £1k, to develop the 'Don't Mow let it Grow' project and submit a round two application to HLF for the delivery phase of the project, £140k.

12.2 Project Aims

The project will look at the conservation of semi-natural grassland, focusing on the management of amenity grasslands and roadside verges across Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, working with Transport NI and NIEA. It will look at different ways of managing semi-natural grasslands to promote how small changes in management give large benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The project will identify trial verges and amenity grassland sites in order to:

- Develop and highlight a range of management options.
- Assess biodiversity and ecosystem services benefits.
- Train land managers and volunteers in management options, grassland selection, species identification, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and monitoring.
- Educate and promote benefits to wider public.
- Carry out an economic appraisal to assess cost benefits.

A major outcome will be the production of a practical management toolkit, covering all aspects of the project that any organisation can use to show the benefits and implement similar improved operations in their management.