

## Biodiversity and nature

Ref	Item
1.	<p><b>Hedgehogs</b> - Gardens are vital for giving space to nature. Hedgehogs, an endangered species, need to be able to roam so the possibility of going from garden to garden is crucial. Their numbers have plummeted often as a result of fences and walls totally sealing off individual gardens, making ‘hedgehog highways’ impossible. A hole the size of a CD box (about 13cm by 13cm) in or under a fence is enough. The link below is to a fantastic website full of information on how to attract and care for them.</p> <p><a href="https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/animals/hedgehogs/garden">https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/animals/hedgehogs/garden</a></p>
2.	<p><b>Bee numbers are declining at an alarming rate</b> - due to habitat loss, pollution, pesticides and climate change amongst other factors. Bee-friendly gardens have an important part to play in supporting these crucial pollinators. We can do so much to make a difference even with a window box.</p> <p><a href="https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/what-are-causes-bee-decline">https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/what-are-causes-bee-decline</a> gives a lot of useful information about the problems faced by bees and <a href="https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/how-bee-friendly">https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/how-bee-friendly</a> tells you what you can do to help bees in your garden or any space, no matter how small.</p>
3.	<p><b>Artificial Grass</b></p> <p>The following points should be noted if you are thinking about using artificial grass which of course is plastic.</p> <p>As reported by Which magazine, the majority of worms and soil insects won’t survive under artificial grass, nor does it provide valuable food for birds, bees and other garden wildlife,</p> <p>Such lawns do not convert carbon dioxide into oxygen as grass does. So real grass environmentally speaking, is a much better option.</p>
4.	<p><b>Permeable Paving</b> - for front gardens. Gardens soak up water but paving, tarmac and concrete don’t, so they can increase the amount of rainwater running into street drains by as much as 50%, according to the Royal Horticultural Society. This leads to flooding if drains don’t cope. See <a href="https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-design/permeable-paving">https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-design/permeable-paving</a> Having an absorbent front garden is good for biodiversity and wildlife too.</p> <p>The Royal Horticultural Society says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep paving to a minimum</li> <li>• Non-permeable paving may require planning permission</li> <li>• Leave space for plants, including hedges and climbers</li> <li>• Allow driveways to drain into borders</li> <li>• Let your grass grow long and add some wildflowers. Cut paths and around the edges so it looks cared for. Bees and butterflies will rejoice. Make a wildlife garden pond (no fish but accessible to frogs, toads and newts)</li> </ul>