

## Effingham Blue Hearts - Grass Verges Project

It has been estimated there are nearly half a million kilometres of rural road verge in the UK. With over 97% of ancient wild flower meadows destroyed since the 1930s road verges are a vital refuge for many bees, butterflies, birds, bats and insects. Inspired by the work being carried out in Bookham (and beyond) by Steve and Diane Poole, we approached Guildford Borough Council to ask if some of our verges could be left so we could see what comes into flower.

Steve and Diane had already identified a number of verges along the A246 in Effingham that could benefit from not being mowed and together we were able to identify other verges in Effingham that would be suitable, including some along Effingham Common Road. We are glad to report that we have been given the go ahead to put up our own blue hearts which will alert the mowing contractors that a verge has been designated a no mow area.



Our project in Effingham is just beginning, but we hope that in the future we will see the sort of flowers being identified further along the A246, which include meadow cranesbill, burdock, evening primrose, mallow, knapweed and orchids! If you would like to know more or get involved yourself please email Kay and Jeremy Palmer at [jstjpalmer@hotmail.com](mailto:jstjpalmer@hotmail.com)