

## **Craigendmuir Limited's Blooming Marvellous Pledge for Nature - Home Sweet Home Action Plan**

Date of Plan: 17/8/21

Review Date: August 2022

The "Home Sweet Home" objective under the Blooming Marvellous Pledge for Nature aims to create artificial homes to help the animals on the park survive and thrive.

### ***What we do***

Craigendmuir Limited already aims to provide natural habitat for animals and insects. We carefully select plant stock with pollinating insects in mind and try our utmost to use native species where possible. Areas of our park are left uncut allowing grasses and clover etc to flower and provide nectar sources. Banking is left short for solitary bees and we have planted long flowering shrubs, flowers and native wildflower mix for their benefit.

Beetle banks are in place and beginning to break down nicely. Log piles and organic matter heaps serve as bug hotels. Frogs, toads, tadpoles and newts have been noticed at the ponds over time, with irises, lollies, orchids, primula and gentainia planted around them. Birds also stop to drink from the ponds as they are fresh water. We have planted plenty of hedgerows for the safety and habitat of smaller animals, including Leyland Cypress, Field Maple, Hawthorn and privet hedges. There are also laurel hedges in between some homes on the park. Trees have been planted in the new Cedar Crescent, achieving our goal to introduce woodland. A compost heap has commenced at the back of the park.

### ***Our plans for the future***

This year, we are currently developing new phases of the park and are planning on installing more communal garden areas for residents and visitors to meet and enjoy their surroundings. We are in talks of a new pond and a host of new shrub and flower beds and borders. We are also looking to increase the number of wildflower and large boundary banking and will be adding plants such as gorse, broom and hawthorn.

As part of the “Home Sweet Home” challenge, we have put up bird boxes and feeders in areas of the park where members of the public and residents could see them displayed. This is to benefit birds such as tits, wrens, robins, magpies, dunnocks, goldfinches, woodpeckers and many more - these are just some of the ones we’ve managed to catch on camera! One of our gardeners built an owl box several years ago, and this has stayed in the holiday park.

Some younger members of staff have wanted to get involved in the project, so have used spare old bits of timber to hand craft hedgehog boxes. Our hedgerows are linked so that mammals have safe and undisturbed travel, so the hedgehog boxes will be dotted along these to provide a safe home. We have also ordered hedgehog boxes to arrive in September.

Both bird boxes and feeders and hedgehog homes will be cleaned and maintained regularly.

### ***Getting others involved and spreading the word***

We aim to communicate our initiative and get others involved via our quarterly newsletter (due in September) and Facebook (our first post announcing our commitment to the pledge is already published).

The community of Steps is currently monitoring and tracking some hedgehogs they’ve found to stay updated on their health and learn more about their habits. So far, they’ve reported good news with hedgehogs all in healthy condition, and we’ve let them know that we’re interested in their progress and happy to help however we can!

Our residents do take interest in the providing of habitats and food for animals and insects, with many having their own bird feeders in their gardens. They can attract native animals and some rarer species, with one reporting a visit from a goshawk. They are eager to capture any wildlife moments on camera and send them into the office. We then share these photos on social media, our website and our newsletter. As a way of getting residents involved and interested, we held a photography competition in late 2020, with some fantastic up-close entries of squirrels, bees, foxes and birds being submitted. Our staff members are also always on the lookout for the perfect photo opportunity.

As a summer project last year, our young receptionist created a wildlife report on the species that would be spotted in the area and the months in which you would see them. It is an aim of ours to make her plan public by putting it on our website, or even creating a checklist for residents to see what animals they could spot in the area!

Copies of our environmental policy and statement, disabled access statement and good neighbour policy are viewable on our website and either our indoor or outdoor noticeboards. Our wildlife report is displayed on our outdoor noticeboard.

Signed by

John Hendry, Director

Ivan Hendry, Director