



### Letter from the chairman

**WILD WESTCLIFF  
BEELINE**

**A PROJECT TO CREATE A  
SUPER-HIGHWAY FOR BEES, BUTTERFLIES  
AND OTHER INSECTS WITH NECTAR RICH  
HANGING BASKETS IN HAMLET COURT ROAD**

**Beautiful planted baskets will help support  
our natural eco system and Wild Westcliff**

**But we need YOUR help to win funding**

**PLEASE VOTE  
TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT**

The poster features a bright blue background with a yellow sun-like shape at the top. It is decorated with several illustrations of bees and butterflies. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif fonts with white outlines. A dashed line path winds through the scene, suggesting a flight path for the insects.

As we are finally able to enjoy the first warm sunshine of Spring, we hope you are all well.

This Spring we have two big issues concerning our green environment – one a great news story, the other, sadly, a big disappointment.

Firstly, our award winning Beeline project is getting ready to come to Hamlet Court Road this summer. We were successful with our bid for the Council's 'Big Sparks' funding initiative, with especial thanks to all those members of the public who picked our project from the entry long list. The project involves creating

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a nectar rich super- highway for bees, butterflies and other flying insects by hanging baskets of flowering plant up and down the road, helping the local insect ecology and beautifying the road at the same time.

Walk the road to enjoy the installation and look out for our explanatory leaflets in shops from mid-May!



Secondly but disappointingly, the public petition that we raised to help save the cliff gardens and that had achieved 363 local supporters with 1,597 nationally was presented to the Council but rejected. Even a specific and repeated request to our local councillor Maxine Sadza was met with silence. We had used the online Change.org platform as universally used and accepted by many councils in the UK. Sadly, it turns out, Southend is not one of them which would appear to say something about how our Council handles local public concerns. Unfortunately, the persistent problems are still present with pathways barricaded from use and widespread damage to steps, walls and paths.

However, rest assured that we will continue to lobby hard, represent this level of concern and do all that we can to help to protect these important local gardens.

Elsewhere, we have had important success with inclusion in the emerging Local Plan of draft policies on controlling Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and permitted development commercial to residential changes of use. These have also come after huge volumes of lobbying over time, showing our Council how much better other councils handle these issues. These policies will help to protect both our residential roads and our local high street.

For more information please visit our website at [miltonsociety.com](http://miltonsociety.com) and if you are interested, please consider joining our executive team working on local heritage protection and the regeneration of Hamlet Court Road. We also have a [Facebook](#) page where you can keep up to date with news and we warmly welcome you to share your stories and memories of the Milton area!