Low-Cost Housing is Possible Only if we Prioritise Value for Money

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If you can overcome an ingrained dislike of dandelions, a wildflower meadow is a thing of beauty.

I am getting ahead of myself here and rather spoiling the narrative with an explanation of how we, as a family, came to be making a meadow in our garden. It all began one sunny afternoon in late July when my 9-year-old son, Felix, pointed out a clump of dandelions blooming in a corner of our front lawn. I do not think I will ever forget the look on his face as he gazed up at me, completely transfixed by the sight before him. “Mum,” he said, “I want to make our whole lawn into a wildflower meadow!”

I was caught off guard by his enthusiasm and, for a moment, I was speechless. I knew that dandelions are a common weed in gardens and that they are often considered a pest. However, I also knew that they are an important part of the local ecosystem and that they provide food and shelter for many insects and wildlife. I settled for a compromise: I promised to help Felix create a mini meadow in a small patch of land near the entrance to our garden. He was overjoyed and immediately got to work digging a small circle in the lawn.

Over the next few weeks, we added more soil and plants to the patch, and Felix would often be found watering the new plants with a watering can. He was so excited about his mini meadow that he even invited his friends over to see it. I was thrilled to see how much he had grown as a result of this project. He was learning about nature and the environment, and he was developing a sense of responsibility and stewardship. As the months went by, the patch began to fill with all sorts of wildflowers, and Felix became quite knowledgeable about them. He would point out different species, name them, and even share some interesting facts about them.

But it wasn’t just Felix who was benefiting from this project. Our backyard became a haven for wildlife, and we saw all sorts of creatures visiting the newly blooming flowers. Birds would perch on the branches and sing to each other, insects would buzz around, and butterflies would flit from one flower to the next. It was a beautiful sight, and it brought a smile to our faces every time we saw it.

As the years went by, Felix’s interest in gardening continued to grow, and he became more and more involved in all sorts of gardening activities. He would spend hours in the garden, tending to the plants, and he even started his own little garden in a corner of the yard. His passion for gardening inspired me to learn more about it myself, and we began to grow all sorts of vegetables and herbs. We would use them in our cooking and share them with our neighbors and friends. It was a wonderful experience, and it brought us closer together as a family.

In conclusion, creating a wildflower meadow in our garden was a wonderful experience that brought us so much joy. It taught us about the importance of nature and the environment and helped us to develop a sense of responsibility and stewardship. It was also a source of pride and satisfaction, and it brought us closer together as a family. I would highly recommend creating a wildflower meadow to anyone who is interested in gardening and wants to make a positive impact on the environment.

For more information on creating a wildflower meadow, please visit the website of the British Wildflower Trust (www.wildflowertrust.org.uk) or the Royal Horticultural Society (www.rhs.org.uk).