

## Climate Change Forum Summary: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Tally results for initial ideas:

Proposal	Group rankings	Priority Tally
Butterfly bank	3, 4, NA	14
Green roof bus stops	6, 1, 1	8
Community nature reserve	4, 6, 2	12
More community gardens	2, 5, NA	14
More ponds/wetlands	1, 2, NA	10
Reduce pesticide campaign	5, 3, NA	15

Note: No priority vote (NA) = 7 Top 3 initial projects highlighted in green.

In-person workshop ideas:

- Reduce mowing – parks, verges, cemetery
- More succession planting
- Grants to encourage people to do their own green roofs, showcase sedum tile at events
- Workplace greening – green walls & planters – Join the ‘Kettering Biodiversity Charter’, something to join up to with a badge that they can promote, extra incentive. Free resource packs for employees
- Allotment patches in back garden to help save money
- Fruit and veg exchange & seed exchange
- Community engagement and education
- Kettering Community Orchard
- School competition
- Mass seed collection events
- Bird spotting activities
- Bird and bat boxes installed
- Short videos sharing people’s biodiversity passions & knowledge
- Living wall with low maintenance plants
- Engaging with flats to help them grow balcony plants, vegetables and herbs
- Bee posts
- Wildflower roundabouts
- Train community champions
- Create mini meadows
- Create decomposing area in parks – educational centrepiece
- Offer free “pond pots”
- Raise awareness at supermarkets, schools, Tresham college – go to where people are
- Create badges for each project with scout and guide groups

Online submitted ideas (duplicates removed):

- Community compost area for green waste & food waste
- Improve biodiversity around Slade Brook
- Make narrow streets one way to allow for more trees and planting

- Plant trees in Kettering Town centre & have more flower beds
- Councillors should get the radio and newspaper to cover issue of pesticides
- Encourage communities to adopt local green spaces/grass verges and train them on how areas should be maintained to increase biodiversity
- Municipal planting to focus on sustainability, less water intensive and longer lasting e.g perennials & grasses instead of seasonal bedding.

#### Common themes:

- Reducing mowing/creating biodiverse areas & signposting this well
- Incentivising businesses, scouts, members of the public with something – an award, a badge, a free starter kit
- Communication and engagement – go out to where people are, get the community creating videos and content to share progress
- Educate and empower - Train up community champions to help lead on local biodiversity work, to spread the word and engage other people on the ground
- Leverage what's already out there – don't reinvent the wheel. Link up with other organisations who are already doing a lot of this and utilise their resources

#### Creating a plan from this

There is clearly a priority need for a community engagement and empowerment, and from a lot of the discussions offering free things to get people get started will be a good catalyst for action. Having community champions on the ground will also help us spread the message of these free starter packs, and help us spread education, so below is a proposed three step plan to join all of this thinking together.

1. Create some free starter packs for a number of projects, listed in priority order (utilise existing resources from other organisations as part of this): free pond pots, free balcony planter pots for flats, community nature reserve starter pack with free flowers, free 'Pardon the Weeds, We're Feeding the Bees' signs, home allotment kit with starter seeds (encourage growing food in front garden too), promote free tree packs from Woodland Trust. Create a biodiversity champion sticker for businesses.
2. Identify community champions who can be the local touchpoint for their area (could do this by ward). They are responsible for (a) being educated on all key projects (b) helping educate others, eg. delivering leaflets with information, helping with engagement events, (c) being an 'order point' where members of the public can order a free starter pack, and (d) recruit 3 new champions. (Suggestion that if all attendees would be willing to be a champion and to find 3 other champions, this will get us started quickly.)
3. Get 'Biodiversity Champions' to begin awareness events giving out free starter packs, gathering emails of those who take a pack – this can be at supermarkets, Tresham college, schools, workplaces, scouts/guides. They should also work with other organisations such as hedgehog protection organisations, the Woodland Trust, the Wildlife Trust, etc. Follow up with those that sign up to get them to share videos and

photos of the progress of their project(s) eg. pond pots, community nature reserve, bug hotels, bee posts, green roofs, mini allotments at home.

Other key actions for Kettering Town Council to pursue:

- Campaign NNC and Highways to reduce mowing & add more signage
- Further investigate green roofs and public wetland/pond creation, as two highest rated 'flagship' suggestions

Costs to consider at this point:

- Communication materials – flyers, social media advertising, banners, signage for projects
- Free kits – pond pots, balcony planter pots, etc.
- Flagship project costs