



Community • Environment • Heritage

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 22/063

Committee:-	Council
Date:-	14 th December 2022
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Town clerk
Report Title:-	Recommendations from the Climate Change Working Group
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the proposals set out below, as developed by the Climate Change Working Group

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to consider the recommendations below.

3. Information

3.1. The Climate Change Working Group met on 10th November and agreed to make a number of recommendations to Council.

3.2. These are

1. Fund some free starter packs for schools and other organisations to create a pond, following NNC's recommendation to help support the creation of more ponds and wetlands. Ponds would need to be in reasonably accessible locations where the public could visit. Other low cost starter packs could be delivered alongside this main project,

such as community nature reserve starter pack with free flowers, free ‘Pardon the Weeds, We’re Feeding the Bees’ signs, and promoting free tree packs from the Woodland Trust.

2. Identify ‘Environment Champions’ who can be the local touchpoint for their area. Ideally we would have at least one champion per ward, identified by the local councillor(s). They are to be responsible for
 - a. being educated on all key projects
 - b. helping spread awareness and educating others. This can be by any means chosen but may include putting up posters in key community areas, delivering information leaflets, helping with engagement events, or even recruiting more champions for that area to assist with raising awareness. They could encourage members of the public to share videos and photos of the progress of their biodiversity projects on the Kettering Community Nature Reserve Facebook group.
 3. Begin awareness raising by linking into existing events and markets wherever possible, getting sign ups for the starter packs and promoting the Sustainability Hub. Champions encouraged to help with these wherever possible. The idea of awareness raising events is to go to places that are already high traffic locations or community hubs, for instance this could be (but is not limited to): supermarkets, Tresham college, schools, workplaces, scouts/guides groups, street markets.
 4. KTC should also reach out to other organisations such as hedgehog protection organisations, the Woodland Trust, the Wildlife Trust, etc. to spread existing information.
 5. Assuming KTC ownership of the Kettering Community Nature Reserve Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ketteringcommunitynaturereserve/> which was originally set up by the CCWG Chair
- 3.3. It was also agreed that the sustainability hub on the Town Council website should be updated and that all members should be invited to review it and make proposals for its content, with a view to some publicity for the pages in the new year.
- 3.4. The working group’s work programme for the next few meetings will focus on delivering the projects agreed by Council from the measures above; aiming to access more accessing more secondary and primary schools with sustainability sessions, planning for the Town Meeting

in February, and considering the creation of “bug hotels”, butterfly banks, a seed exchange, or purchasing some trees for a community orchard.

4. Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1. The CCWG convened a workshop in the summer to consult local people on the best climate change interventions locally.
- 4.2. Members of the CCWG have been visiting schools in the area, explaining what is being done locally and seeking the views of young people on possible projects.
- 4.3. The recent budget consultation has also generated some comments on possible climate change interventions, as set out in report no 22/66 on this agenda.
- 4.4. The town meeting on 22nd February is devoted to the topic of sustainability and environment, so the CCWG will need to consider how the meeting shall be organised and informed and who should be invited.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1. There is a sum of £3000 in the budget for tree planting and bio-diversity promotions which remains unspent.
- 5.2. The cost of pond kits is approximately £115 for a medium sized pond.

6. Policy Implications

The Corporate Plan says:-

1. The Council has approved motions declaring a climate emergency. It has established a climate change working group, which is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people. It is currently prioritising widening the scope and opportunities for recycling and supporting more tree planting.
2. The Council will continue to expect high sustainable standards, improved energy and water use and insulation standards when responding to planning application consultations; it will oppose applications which unsustainably reduce or do not replace natural habitat or damage water courses, or which do not seek to optimise the use of public transport, walking and cycling as means of travel.
3. The Council will, within its own remit, strive to protect, restore and enhance our local biodiversity and the natural world that surrounds us and of which we are all a part and will strive to take the most sustainable approach to the design and delivery of its own services

Background Papers

Notes from the last CCWG prepared by chair and clerk.
Costings provided to CCWG on 10/11/22

28.11.22

- The town meeting on 22nd February is on the topic of sustainability and environment, so this group may wish to invite groups to this, or pose some questions for the meeting.