



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/074

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	1 st March 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Climate Change
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on climate change matters and seek instructions where appropriate.

2. Recommendations

That members note the report and consider what priorities they wish to endorse for the coming year.

3. Information – current activity

- 3.1. The Love Wildlife Competition entries are dealt with separately on this agenda.
- 3.2. The next round of Town Lottery funding opened in February, offering £1000 for sustainability and environment projects. The closing date is 1st April. Bids will be considered at the committee's April meeting.
- 3.3. The Town meeting on 22nd February had an environment and sustainability theme. – the outcomes will be shared at this meeting.
- 3.4. Ward Initiative monies in 2022 which went specifically on environmental projects included:-

Hall Meadow School	Community garden	£500
William St Community garden	Materials for a community garden	£515.20

St Andrews Primary school	litter picking and gardening tools for pupils to use	£75
Kettering Civic Society	Planting at Kettering railway station	£200

4. Priorities for the next twelve months

4.1. The consultation and engagement event in August last year provided some ideas about potential priorities. (the proceedings are set out below in Appendix One). The Town Meeting on 22nd February may produce some more ideas. Since the event in August it has been agreed not to pursue the creation of ponds and wetlands and the greening of bus stop roofs for practical reasons.

4.2. Suggested priorities therefore for the coming year, for discussion, include:-

4.2.1. Working with schools to promote environmental work

- identify eco champions in each year/class,
- start a gardening club, either with eco champions or some of these and wider school,
- encourage school council and eco champions to think about what they want to do,
- encourage them to apply for councillor ward funding and NNC/KTC community funding for projects,
- encourage them to apply for Woodland Trust trees, either themselves or through local groups who are ordering (eg. Kettering Eco Group and Natural Ise),
- encourage them to start getting Modeshift STARS Active Travel Awards,
- consider a walking bus as part of their Modeshift STARS work,
- buy their own air quality monitoring devices and/or thermal imaging devices to measure air quality and heat loss respectively around the school,
- purchase their own litter picking gear through community or ward funds (we can loan gear for an initial first litter pick),
- connect them with the Solar for Schools scheme / encourage them to apply for the NNC community funding for solar panels or on-site renewables

4.2.2. Making best use of the budget available.

- Community nature reserve – have some start-up packs for those that sign up; e.g. Seeds/plug plants
- .Butterfly banks – NNC are taking this forward, but we may want to pay for signage, or get NNC to pay and we design the sign.
- Wild Spaces – Butterfly Conservation want to push this concept of local people taking more ownership of local green space and developing them. NNC will be involved in this as it is their land, but we as KTC can push the messaging.
- Air pollution tubes – this is not something we have discussed before but other areas are encouraging community groups/schools to buy their own air pollution measurement equipment. We could look to purchase some of

these or subsidise them for schools as part of an educational piece, and also use it as a competition across Kettering to see which school can get their air the cleanest around pickup times. This would help tackle parking issues around school times, make schools safer and really ramp up the active travel conversation. This could also be potentially rolled out to businesses, but it would have to be in a different way. The subsidised tubes would also be of interest to residents around town, so we could offer a limited number of subsidised tubes to the wider population.

- Fruit and veg exchange & seed exchange – this could be done in conjunction with the Green Patch and the allotment societies. A food share and community fridge offer may be a way of supporting people with cost of living pressures.

4.2.3. Reviewing the common themes from the August bio-diversity workshop and the Town Council's role in each of these:

- Reducing mowing/creating biodiverse areas & signposting this well (we could focus on the signposting, which is visual and supports the work, whilst engaging the community/NNC to do the work)
- Incentivising businesses, scouts, members of the public with something – an award, a badge, a free starter kit/subsidised thing
- 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
- Communication and engagement – go out to where people are, get the community creating videos and content to share progress (this is effort to do, but community champions could help with this)
- 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.

4.2.4. There has been no real consideration to date about how businesses might be engaged. It may be there is potential to engage with the hospital about their energy use. Encouraging organisations to get energy monitoring devices, and then getting them to apply for Low Carbon Workspaces funding (running out in March/April) to install motion sensor lights

5. Consultation and Engagement

Members of the former working group have engaged with schools and the two events to date – the bio-diversity workshop and the Town Meeting in February have informed consideration of priorities.

6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

There is £3000 in the budget for this financial year, and a further £3000 in next year, for bio-diversity interventions. Other budgets – voluntary sector grants, ward initiatives fund, community resilience and community infrastructure budgets can all be used to support sustainability outcomes.

7. Climate change implications

Measures in this report are intended to specifically support positive environmental outcomes.

8. Policy Implications

The sustainability section of the corporate plan says :_

- The Council has approved motions declaring a climate emergency. It is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people.
- 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.
- 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
- The Council will support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure and the growth of public transport.

Background Papers

Attached

APPENDIX ONE BIO-DIVERSITY WORKSHOP AUGUST 2022 SUMMARY

Climate Change Forum Summary: 17th 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