

Winterbourne Parish Nature Action Plan

Background

South Gloucestershire Council has acknowledged a Climate Crisis and recognises the importance of taking steps to address the work that is required to manage the situation the world is facing

Winterbourne Parish Council (WPC) has long been committed to preserving and enhancing the environment of the Parish. At their Council Meeting of 5th October 2020, Winterbourne Parish Council agreed to produce an Environmental Statement to ensure it remains focused and committed to achievable goals.

Winterbourne Parish Council has recognised the importance of taking steps to address the Climate Emergency declared by South Gloucestershire Council and is seeking to integrate this work with other initiatives to improve the local environment for wildlife and for Parishioners. and are therefore committed to implementing a Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP). This Plan has been drawn up to identify the work needed to achieve this.

The LNAP aims to:

- improve how we manage and connect public open spaces and strengthen green corridors
- support and enhance local initiatives for biodiversity in green and urban spaces;
- enhance and maintain vital green space for nature to thrive in our communities;
- create more attractive and healthier environment for residents of the present and future;
- to help to respond to the effects of climate change, taking actions to counter environmental harm on a local, Parish level.

Partnerships

Winterbourne Parish Council, as the Lead organisation is primarily partnered with South Gloucestershire Council.

Organisation	Role	Contact
Winterbourne Parish Council	Lead for decision-making, funding, site management, staffing.	Parish Clerk 01454 776922 winterbournepc@btconnect.com
South Glos. Council	Guidance	nature@southglos.gov.uk
Residents Interest Groups??		

Project Leads

Adrian Collins

Steve Jenkins

Stakeholders

- 1) Statutory Organisations such as SGC, NHS, Neighbouring Parishes, The Environment Agency, NRA.
- 2) National Organisations with assets or responsibilities which affect the environment such as: Wessex Water, National Trust, Highways England, Network Rail, Utility Providers, Churches and Church Community groups, the Ramblers Association.
- 3) Formally constituted Organisations such as Conservation bodies, Trusts and Friends Groups which hold or manage assets with significant natural resources.
- 4) Local Schools, Colleges and Universities.
- 5) Land Owners and Farmers; to incorporate their activities related to the Environmental Land Management Scheme and Local Nature Recovery Programmes. Holders of power generation licences such as Solar and Wind farms.
- 6) Allotment holders and organisations involved in growing flowers and garden produce.
- 7) Sports Clubs and Associations and Uniformed groups, such the Scouts Association which make use of the local environmental assets.
- 8) Organisations which support Heritage Asset holders.

Power	High	Keep Satisfied Site users Residents – via social media and/or website	Manage Closely Parish Councillors
	Low	Monitor Stakeholders 2 – 8 above	Keep Informed Ward Councillors SGC Biodiverssity Officer, Footpath Officer et al
		Low	High
	Interest		

Communication Strategy				
Stakeholder	Aims & Objectives	Message content	Delivery type/method	By/when/frequency
Parish Councillors	Support action for nature on all Parish assets. Assist to engage with residents, local organisations and businesses	To explain the objectives of the Plan and its importance	Information to be kept up-to-date on the Parish website Progress reports	Year 1 by end of March
Ward Councillors	To gain Members advocacy when seeking further funding and general support as above	To support the objectives of the Plan and promote its importance	Presentation at PC meeting Progress reports	Year 1 by end of March
SGC Biodiversity Officer	To gain general support and advice Have access to information resources	Completed LNAP	Draft LNAP Signed off LNAP Progress reports	Year 1 by end of March Year 2 by end of July 6 monthly
Statutory bodies, National organisations and formally constituted bodies	Liaison and learning from their best practices and objectives regarding Parish assets	Supporting the Parish in delivering LNAP	Sharing LNAP and liaison meetings	Year 1 by end of March
Residents and Community engagement	General support for the Plan Gain access to volunteer labour	To explain the objectives of the Plan and its importance	Social media, Newsletters, Press	Year 1 by end of March

				Progress updates
Land-owners and Farmers	<p>General support for the Plan</p> <p>Co-operation with access to sites</p> <p>Integration of farming methods with the objectives of increasing biodiversity</p>	To explain the objectives of the Plan and its importance	Presentations, mail shot, social media, personal approaches by Parish Councillors	Year 1 by end of March
Community groups including Allotment Holders, Sports Association,	<p>General support for the Plan</p> <p>Co-operation with access to sites</p> <p>Integration of use of the site with the objectives of increasing biodiversity</p> <p>Gain access to volunteer labour</p>	To explain the objectives of the Plan and its importance	Presentations, mail shot, social media, personal approaches by Parish Councillors	Year 1 by end of March

Land Ownership/Assets

Site	Owned by	Map of site
The play area at the rear of the Greenfield Centre - Winterbourne	Winterbourne Parish Council	
Winterbourne Recreation Ground	Ditto	
The Duck Pond – Hicks Common Road/ Flaxpits Lane, Winterbourne	Ditto	
Jubilee Allotments Winterbourne Down	Ditto	
The Dingle Winterbourne Down	Ditto	
Newleaze Nature reserve Winterbourne	Ditto	
Monks Pool Winterbourne	Ditto	
The Recreation Ground Winterbourne	Ditto	
Bradley Brook Winterbourne	Ditto	
Frenchay Commons and Parklands	Ditto	
Whiteshill Commons Hambrook	Ditto	
Tuckett Field & Tuckett Pond - Frenchay	Ditto	
Quarry Barton - Hambrook	Ditto	
Willow Rank – opposite the White Horse Hambrook	Ditto	

Human Resources

Implementation of this plan requires the support and input of individuals and officers from Winterbourne Parish Council including the Parish Clerk and its Members; and officers from South Gloucestershire Council including Biodiversity Officer, Footpaths Officer et al.

Documentary Assets

These include tree surveys carried out in the past by Developers such as Redrow, the booklet "Preserving the Natural and Built environment around Winterbourne", "A Grand Tour of Frenchay", old Parish maps and plans, Google Maps, on-line resources including Bristol Environmental Records Centre

Funding

Source	Amount	Frequency	Allocated to
Winterbourne Parish Budget	To be determined as a contribution to individual projects	For consideration Annually for the first 5 years of the Plan	1) General maintenance of land assets 2) Funding of priority tasks from the Action Plan 3) Establishing Partnerships 4) Community engagement
Grant Funding	£	Year 1	Task to be confirmed

Proposed 5 year Programme

This plan seeks to:

- Protect and enhance existing wildlife sites. This means that we have got to protect and improve the quality of sites by better habitat management.
- Enhance connectivity by identifying and considering the establishment of new wildlife corridors or stepping stones.
- Seek to identify new sites to expand the number of wildlife sites.
- Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment including through buffering wildlife sites.

In its Environmental Statement Winterbourne Parish Council states that it will:

- Continue to manage its Green Spaces with 'ecology and lowering its carbon footprint' being taken into consideration.
- Identify areas and land assets that are suitable for wildlife habitat enhancement and assist the implementation of wildlife corridors.
- Consider areas and land assets suitable for tree and habitat planting and advise on these.
- Periodically review the environmental management procedures and practices in respect of our assets.
- Consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications, and advise organisations and individual developers of the importance of designing sustainable buildings.

The Parish Council has been active in creating its Winterbourne Parish Biodiversity Action Plan. This Local Nature Action Plan will build on the existing plan and its aspirations and will supersede it.

WPC has considerable assets which it owns and maintains. During the first five years of the LNAP it will, realistically, only be able to prioritise work on its own land and assets. However during this period work can be done to identify other key sites for further development and work with the relevant stakeholders, for the furtherance of the Plan and the improvement in biodiversity.

It should be noted that to increase bird and mammal numbers we need to not only provide them with homes, but we must ensure that they have access to suitable food sources. Projects involving increasing insect numbers through reducing the use of pesticides, providing nectar-rich food sources and reducing light pollution should run alongside other key projects such as installing nest sites. It is important, therefore to plan work which integrates closely with related projects.

Establish sound working relationships with key Partners

In order so as not to lose the momentum of the Plan, building solid support for its objectives is crucial to its long-term success. Links with the Biodiversity Officer, Footpaths Officer et al are important to maintain.

Biodiversity Audit

South Gloucestershire Council's (SGC) key objectives for enhancing biodiversity are to:

- Share biological data to inform decision-making.
- Ensure that SGC considers biodiversity in exercising all of its statutory regulatory functions.
- Improve the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by SGC.
- Raise awareness of biodiversity.

In following these key objectives WPC will need to undertake a comprehensive audit of the natural resources and wildlife within the Parish. This should be done in the initial stages of the Plan in order to help to ensure that work which is undertaken subsequently, to improve the environment, will be properly targeted and integrate with the work of other bodies to achieve a sustainable increase in biodiversity.

Tree Cover

An important element in reducing the impact of climate change is tree planting. The identification of suitable sites for further tree planting should be undertaken and consideration given to suggesting where trees might be usefully planted on public streets and open spaces. This work should be done in collaboration with relevant Officers in South Glos. Council.

Ponds

Ponds and water courses within the Parish include the Tuckett Pond, Winterbourne Duck Pond, the Monks Pools; and the River Frome and Bradley Brook. A comprehensive audit of the wildlife inhabiting or using these water bodies should be undertaken to ensure their sustainability in the face of climate change and the possible challenge of new species taking up residence. Over the course of the last two years Red-eared terrapin have been spotted in Bradley Brook and Little Egrets have visited the River Frome and neighbouring fields.

Wildflower meadows

With the loss of such a large proportion of our wildflower meadows over the years, much interest has been shown in seeking to ensure that this type of habitat is protected and extended. WPC has been keen to support residents who are looking to improve existing grass-land in this way.

Hedgerows and verges

WPC should collect data and manage the trimming and mowing of Hedges and verges where these could constitute wildlife corridors or “bug-banks”.

Community Engagement

The Parish Council are keen to involve Parishioners to help with implementation of the WPC LNAP. Public support is helpful, not only to spread the word, but can be a source of voluntary help at a practical level. We should have a dedicated page/section on WPC web site to provide the facility for information/updates and public feedback

Monitoring and Reporting

The Parish Council should contribute to establishing and maintaining an internal reporting mechanism to inform and report on how South Gloucestershire Council is seeking to halt biodiversity loss, and to provide a platform for Parishioners to report observations and information which will help to monitor the progress of the Plan. We should have a dedicated page/section on WPC web site to provide the facility for public feedback for the Parish to monitor.

WPC Five-year Plan

Task	Target date for completion	To be completed by
Conduct a Wildlife audit of WPC assets including ponds and watercourses	By end of Year 2	
Identify key sites for future development, recovery and/or enhancement including the Tuckett Field Frenchay, where the agricultural lease is ending on 30/10/2022.	Year 1	LNAP Lead Councillors
Establish and develop relationships with key Partners	Year 1	
Identify sites for future tree-planting projects and replacing tree losses with suitable replacement species.		
Support residents in establishing wildflower meadows	By end of Year 1	
Work with other Partners to develop a Hedge and Verge management strategy to create suitable wildlife corridors	By end of Year 2	
Prepare publicity and manage the participation of Parishioners and Community groups.	By end of Year 1	
Establish a reporting system for Partners and Parishioners on our website	By end of Year 1	