

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NATURE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Report Reference EN-20-12
Meeting Date 22nd March 2021
Agenda Item 11
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 UPDATE

The Nature Action Plan was adopted by the committee in March 2020 and the committee receives a standing update on progress against the plan.

No further actions have been completed since the previous committee meeting. The focus has been on finalising the planting plan and securing the permissions for the spring 2021 planting. The Planning and Facilities Officer has been working with Cheshire Wildlife Trust who will be undertaking two areas of whip planting under the planting plan. Arrangements are being made for around 60 trees to be planted in the coming weeks.

To date 19 of the 29 actions on the action plan have been completed (including ongoing actions).

The nine overdue outstanding actions are:

- Launch of the Tree Planting Mission (6)
- Annual bulb planting event (14)
- Information to be published on website promoting hedges and hedgehog holes (15)
- Engagement with landowners to connect green corridors (19)
- Creation of wildlife corridor between Bluebell Wood and Knutsford Heath (20)
- Extension of St John's Wood wildlife corridor (21)
- Engagement with landowners to develop Booths Mere to St John's Wood wildlife corridor (22)
- Identification of suitable ponds for planting schemes (23)
- Installation of Bug Hotel at Higher Town Green (28)

An update on each is provided in the table overleaf.

2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

None, information only report.

Ref	Action	Task	Responsible	Target	Status	Notes	
1	One	Potential tree planting locations identified tree planting proposal prepared for committee.	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete		
2	One	Committee to agree tree planting plan	Committee	Sep-20	Complete		
3	Two	Town Clerk to write Cheshire East Council urging permission be given for tree planting on suitable highway verges	TC	Mar-20	Complete	CEC has stated it is undertaking a review which will be concluded towards the end of 2020. The Town Clerk received an update from the Portfolio Holder in February 2021 that the policy is still in development and that they hope to share it in the coming months. Verges included, pending permission.	
4	Two	Subject to agreement from Cheshire East Council, verges to be included in the tree planting plan	PFO/ Committee	Sep-20	Complete		
5	Three	Tree Mission page set up on Town Council website	PFO	May-20	Complete		
6	Three	Launch of the tree mission	PFO	May-20	Outstanding		Tree Mission will be launched with the publicity from the upcoming planting.
7	Three	Planning logs to be monitored and letters sent to applicants regarding replanting of trees	PFO/ASO	Ongoing	Complete		
8	Four	Tree tracker to be included on mission page	PFO	May-20	Complete		
9	Five	Review of planting areas to be undertaken and planting schemes to be prepared to comply with the policy	PFO	Apr-20	Complete		
10	Six	Cheshire Wildlife Trust to be commissioned to create meadow annually from 2021	PFO	2021	Complete		
11	Seven	Potential verges for planting schemes identified and proposals prepared for committee	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete		
12	Seven	Committee to agree verges improvement plan	Committee	Sep-20	Complete		

13	Eight	Bulb planting areas to be identified	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	
14	Eight	Annual bulb planting events to be organised	PFO	Oct-20	Outstanding	Bulb planting was not organised for 2020 due to COVID restrictions. A number of bulb planting events and initiatives will be planned for Autumn 2021.
15	Nine	Information to be published on council website promoting hedges and hedgehog holes	PFO	May-20	Outstanding	This section of the website will be added with a number of updates during April.
16	Nine	Hedgehog highway campaign to encourage creation of hedgehog holes	PFO	Nov-21	Outstanding	Preliminary work completed for a launch in the autumn.
17	Ten	Open spaces where hedges could replace or complement fences identified and planting plan prepared	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	
18	Ten	Committee to agree hedge planting plan	Committee	Sep-20	Complete	
19	Eleven	Target landowners identified to encourage planting of trees and hedges to connect green corridors	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Outstanding	Nature Action Plan working group has identified the areas; engagement will take place later this year.
20	Twelve	Project established with landowners to create wildlife corridor from Bluebell Wood to the Heath	WG/PFO	Jun-20	Outstanding	Engagement will take place later this year.
21	Twelve	Planting undertaken on open space on Longridge to extend wildlife corridor from St Johns Wood	PFO	Mar-20	Outstanding	This will be undertaken as part of the Spring planting programme.
22	Twelve	Engagement with Cheshire East Council and Developer to link Booths Mere to wildlife corridor from St Johns Wood	WG/PFO	Jun-20	Outstanding	Awaiting the submission of the planning application to enable a suitable route to be identified.
23	Thirteen	Identification of suitable ponds for planting schemes	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Outstanding	Preliminary work commenced by working group. Planting plan has been prioritised.
24	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed in Wallwood	Committee	Mar-20	Complete	Boxes will be installed shortly.
25	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed on Higher Town Green	Committee	Mar-20	Complete	Boxes will be installed shortly.
26	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed near Obelisk	Committee	Mar-20	Complete	Boxes will be installed shortly.

27	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed in Cemetery	Committee	Mar-20	Complete	Boxes will be installed shortly.
28	Fourteen	Bug hotels to be installed in Wallwood and Higher Town Green	Committee	Aug-20	Outstanding	First hotel installed in Wallwood. Materials being gathered for the Higher Town Green hotel to be created shortly.
29	Fifteen	Project established to undertake tree mapping across Knutsford	WG/PFO	Aug-20	Ongoing	