

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
**NATURE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

**Report Reference** EN-22-13  
**Meeting Date** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
**Agenda Item** 6  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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## 1.0 OVERVIEW 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. To date 24 of the 29 actions on the action plan have been completed (including ongoing actions).

The five outstanding actions are:

- Launch of the Tree Planting Mission (6)
- 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)
- Engagement with landowners to develop Booths Mere to St John's Wood wildlife corridor (22)

An update on each is provided in the table overleaf.

## 2.0 NATURE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The Big Bulb Plant was held in October with 16 bulb planting events taking place across the town. The remaining bulbs will be used by the Town Ranger and Cemetery Groundskeeper.

The Planning and Facilities Officer developed the planting plan for the winter season. Subject to funding, trees will be planted during National Tree Week at the start of December. A decision from the Tree Council on funding for one batch of trees is expected imminently and ANSA will be putting forward a second batch for funding too.

The motion submitted by the Knutsford Ward Cheshire East Councillors calling on the council to amend its policy to enable tree planting to take place on highway land has been referred to the Highways and Transport Committee. In tandem, the Interim Head of Highways has contacted the Town Clerk requesting details of where the town council would like to plant trees.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust are providing/running a community wildflower planting day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November to plug-plant the Steeple Field wildflower meadow. This will enhance the meadow sown last year.

## 3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

None, information only report.

## ANNEXES

Ref	Action	Task	Responsible	Target	Status	Notes
6	Three	Launch of the tree mission	PFO	May-20	Outstanding	It is suggested that this is promoted in 2023 as “plant a tree in ‘23”
15	Nine	Information to be published on council website promoting hedges and hedgehog holes	PFO	May-20	In Progress	This section of the website in due course.
16	Nine	Hedgehog highway campaign to encourage creation of hedgehog holes	PFO	Nov-21	In Progress	Preliminary work completed for a launch in the autumn.
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 has begun and the working group are devising a proposed route for a wildlife corridor.
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	The determination of the outline planning application will assist in identifying a suitable route.
23	Thirteen	Identification of suitable ponds for planting schemes	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	Pond information to encourage pond creation to be added to website.