

# REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

## NATURE ACTION PLAN BEE TRAIL

**Report Reference** ET-24-18  
**Meeting Date** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
**Agenda Item** 6  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

The Nature Action Plan for 2024-2027 was agreed in November 2023. A central focus of the plan is an annual awareness campaign and specific work to reverse the decline in four subject areas: bees/pollinators, frogs and pondlife, birds, and hedgehogs. Due to conflicting priorities the plan years have shifted and as such 2025 will be the year of bees and pollinators. The Nature Action Plan working group has been developing its proposal for this activity, which is set out in section two.

Due to the early closing of Tree Council grants, the town council was unable to secure funding for tree planting for this growing season. The budget does allow for some minor replanting of trees which have previously failed.

### 2.0 KNUTSFORD BEE TRAIL

#### 2.1 OVERVIEW

The focus for 2025 is the launch of the Knutsford Bee Trail which will be a six mile circular route around Knutsford. The walk has been designed to cross the Moor twice, enabling it to be undertaken as two shorter walks. The route is shown in the appendix and visits a number of ecological sites across the town and areas where there is activity which supports pollinators, such as the wildflower meadows. The route will be waymarked and feature signs across the trail with key messages which engage people in pollinator conservation by highlighting their ecological importance and measures families can do at home to support them. It is intended to establish the route this year, with the potential of enhancing it in future years with additional interest/signage.

It is planned that the trail will be launched with a special event on the Moor on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, which is close to World Bee Day (20<sup>th</sup> May). This will feature a small range of activity which engages people further in the importance of pollinators. It will include the launch of a “pollinators in action” photography competition, provide residents with small seed sachets to create their own pollinator patches and have a small number of stalls and talks engaging people in pollinators (e.g. flower sales, visiting experts etc).

#### 2.2 BUDGET

There is a total budget of £3,750 available within the Nature Action Plan budgets across the current and next financial years. This comprises £1,500 in the current year budget and £1,750 in the 2025/26 budget.

The current estimated costs for the activity are as follows:

- Barncroft Interpretation Board - £1,400
- Bee Trail (signage, waymarking and features) - £1,500
- Bee Day Event (publicity, seed packets and other costs) - £1,250

The total cost is £4,150 which slightly exceeds the budget available. It is suggested that the committee approves the outline budget and looks to cover the £400 additional costs within the 2025/26 budget.

### **3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The committee should consider approval of the Bee Trail activity plan as outlined.

# APPENDIX: BEE TRAIL ROUTE

