

## **NDP2: Natural Environment Theme Group – Meeting 2**

Wednesday 23 October, 18.00

Attendees: Wendy Andrews (Chair, JPC), Josh Niderost (Natural Environment lead), Roger Cooper, John Latham, Carol Spires

### **1. Apologies**

- None

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

- None

### **3. Previous Actions**

- All: Further thinking about the Natural Environment theme, particularly the specific topics that we didn't get to discussing (DONE)
- JN: Contact Warwickshire Wildlife Trust re Wildlife Corridors (DONE)
- JN: Contact Henley High School re Wildlife Corridors (DONE)
- JN: Contact Clerk re latest flooding docs (DONE)

### **4. Discussion of Covered Theme Areas**

- Discussion of importance of policies in previously covered areas.
- JL updated about previous work on the Mount Trust. It may be necessary to develop a separate policy on the Mount.
- Discussion about the crossover between different theme groups. For example, the Built Environment group will also look at the Flooding issue. However, the full advisory group will benefit from multiple work on key areas.

### **5. Discussion of Remaining Theme Areas**

- **Trees and hedges:** We will continue to have a policy on trees and hedges. There should be a one-for-one replacement policy.
- JPC has done mapping of key trees in public spaces, so we have this evidence. This does not refer to trees in private areas. It would be useful to contact SDC to understand if they have any mapping of key trees and hedgerows particularly in the local green belt.
- The importance of Tree Protection Orders was discussed.
- Policy references on this issue will need to be updated. Gary Kirk will be able to advise on this.
- **Conservation area / Heritage assets:** The current Conservation Area policy should be incorporated into the new Plan.
- The existing Designated Heritage Assets in the current Plan are: Heritage Centre, Henley War Memorial Trust, Guildhall and Court Leet, Local Churches and Henley Railway Station.
- The heritage assets listed [online](#) could also be added to the above list in the new plan if not already listed.

- There is a need to make more of these heritage assets, including celebrating and promoting them and ensuring Henley is an attractive tourist destination.
- **Safeguarding of important buildings and structures:** This policy area may be merged with the above area which includes heritage assets.
- **Protection of cycle ways/paths:** OS maps will outline current pathways and bridleways which should be protected. Pathways around the Mount are particularly important.
- It would be useful if these could be included in a map in the new Plan.
- There wasn't a desire to develop a policy on new cycleways specifically at present. Discussion about a cycleway around the base of the Mount.
- **Flooding:** Discussion of the flooding risk to Henley. We are still awaiting Environment Agency modelling. The flood risk discounts some green spaces which are flood plains.
- RC is on the flood group and has shared a note on the flooding situation.
- The benefits of a siren alert from the flood measurement station at Millfield Court were discussed. Current Environment Agency alerts are linked to the Little Alne measuring station.
- **Energy Efficiency/renewable energy:** We will continue to have a policy on energy efficiency and renewable energy. It was noted that there is a crossover here with the Built Environment theme.
- The group were interested in exploring options for a community solar panel company, such as in [Claverdon](#).

## 6. Evidence Collection

- There are areas in the current Plan which will need updated references. YourLocale should be able to support with this.
- We will need to engage with the Environment Agency on this Plan.

## 7. Defining the Community Objective for Natural Environment

- This item was deferred until a future meeting.

## 8. Vision Statement

- Attendees were encouraged to review the vision statement documents shared after the last All Advisory Group meeting and to pass any comments on to Richard Clark. This is an area we could discuss at a future meeting.

## 9. AOB

- Discussion of meeting with Gary Kirk at YourLocale on Natural Environment.
- JN has contacted Henley High School re a date to meet with their Eco Group.
- CS updated about the AECOM walk around the town.

## 10. Next Steps

**All:** Further thinking about the future Vision Statement and the theme areas.

## 11. Date of next meeting

- TBC – to be decided via email.