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| Subject: | Land & Nature Group – Nature Day and NRF Consultation |
| From: | Peter Kenrick |
| Date: | 19/06/24 |
| For information/discussion/decision/action [please delete as appropriate] | |
| Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note report from Nature Day event • Confirm timetable for NRF Consultation • Approve planned Follow-up Event on 5th October 2024 in principle | |
| Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for] | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Day - expenditure already approved • Consultation – None • Follow-on Workshop – details to be confirmed and brought to a future meeting for approval | |

Nature Day - Launch Event for Nature Recovery Framework (NRF) – Saturday 15th June

The Nature Day event was held at Wigwell and in the Scout Hut on Saturday 15th June 2024, in conjunction with the Wychwood Forest Trust. A varied and interesting programme was offered and was enjoyed by all present although the inclement weather did restrict attendance and some outdoor activities had to be curtailed or modified.

The programme of excellent talks around the theme of Nature Recovery was well received and our thanks go to all of the speakers who generously gave their time and efforts to attend. The programme of talks included:

- The Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire – Chloe Edwards (OCC)
- A Nature Recovery Framework for Charlbury, Fawler & Finstock – Geoff Griffiths (LNG) & Peter Kenrick (CTC)
- Local Projects – Practical things we can all do and are doing! – Flora Gregory (LNG & CWS) & Frances Mortimer (CTC)
- Local Nature Recovery Planning – Rachel Crookes (Wild Oxfordshire)
- Wychwood Forest Trust – Nature recovery initiatives – Neil Clennell (WFT)
- Wildlife-friendly Farming at Ditchley – Robert Hobill (Ditchley)

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership film “Beneath the Surface” was also shown highlighting problems with the River Evenlode as well as ways forward.

Charlbury Primary School Choir and Evenlode Voices entertained us all to a very high standard in the marquee.

Craft activities were offered by Toby Swift of the WFT and by LNG members in the marquee and gazebos. Opportunities for bug hunting and dam building in the stream were provided and supervised for those with wellies! Three separate nature walks were planned to feature

reptiles, butterflies and meadow flora but this programme was modified due to the conditions and numbers attending.

Display items in the marquee included an easily understood overview of the NRF with prompts for public thought and input. As well as new maps and posters we used materials produced for earlier events such as the APM. LNG members were available to talk to the public and copies of the questionnaire were available, either to complete there and then, or to take away and return. These materials will be used at other events through the summer during the consultation period.

Inside the marquee we were also pleased to welcome the ECP, promoting citizen science and explaining home measures to help protect water quality. The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens were also there to promote their work and their programme of guided walks.

Excellent cakes and refreshments were also on offer and special thanks are due to Joana from "Finstock for Nature" for her efforts with this.

Our thanks also go to the Charlbury Scouts for use of the Scout Hut and to Andy Pickard and the Riverside crew for provision of the marquee.

NRF Public Consultation – Summer 2024

The NRF consultation launched at Nature Day will be continued through the summer of 2024 with a closing date for responses of Friday 27th September 2024. The LNG will attend events throughout the summer period to promote the NRF, engage the public with the consultation, answer questions and collect suggestions. These sessions will make use of the excellent display materials already produced for Nature Day with a table under a gazebo. Subject to LNG member availability we aim to hold these pop-up events at some Charlbury Market days as well as at the Charlbury Beer Festival, Riverside Festival and Street Fair. We will also include events in Fawler and Finstock if possible.

The consultation closing date has been chosen to be shortly after Street Fair.

NRF Follow-up Workshop Event – Saturday 5th October 2024

The LNG proposes to hold a facilitated workshop event open to residents of the three parishes to consider responses to the NRF consultation and to plan practical actions to deliver for nature locally. Proposals arising from this workshop will be submitted for consideration by Charlbury Town Council and by the parishes of Fawler and Finstock. We currently propose to hold this workshop in the Charlbury Memorial Hall on Saturday 5th October 2024 and full details and costings for the event will be submitted to the town council when available.