

Meeting: Environment Sub-committee

Date: 3 July 2018

Title: Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2017/18

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Service: Environment, Housing & Leisure

Wards affected: All

1.0 Purpose of briefing

The purpose of this briefing is to inform Committee on the progress of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Joint Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

2.0 Background

The joint BAP was approved by North Tyneside Council Cabinet in February 2012 and Newcastle City Council in June 2012. Progress reports on target delivery are completed annually and this is the Annual Report for 2017/18.

3.0 Delivery of the Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP

There are a number of Habitat and Species Action Plans in the BAP as shown below:-

Habitat	Species
Buildings & Structures	Farmland Birds
Estuary & Coastal	Bats
Brownfield Land	Amphibians
Transport Corridors	Dingy Skipper
Open Water & Wetland	Otter
Rivers & Watercourses	Urban Birds
Managed Urban Greenspace	Water Vole
Native Woodland	Red Squirrel
Lowland Grassland	Hedgehog
Scrub, Shrub & Hedgerow	Slow Worm
	Bumblebees
	Brown Hare

The progress report attached in Appendix 1 outlines the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan, which have been delivered in 2017/18.

3.1 Examples of BAP Projects Delivered in 2017/18

Lowland Grassland & Bumblebees

- 13,820sqm (1.4ha) of wildflower grassland restored and created on amenity, green space and roadside verge sites in North Tyneside
- 2ha of wildflower meadow managed in Brierdene and wildflower plugs planted
- 0.2ha of yellow rattle sown and 0.6ha of wildflower planting in Brierdene
- Bee and butterfly surveys undertaken in Brierdene
- 1000 wildflower plugs planted by Friends of Red House Ramble
- Grazing project at St Mary's Wetlands continues to restore and enhance the meadow areas
- Funding secured through Buglife for bee/grassland project
- Cattle grazing at Silverlink Biodiversity Park to manage wildflower areas
- Scrub management undertaken in Rising Sun Country Park and Brierdene to maintain the value of wildflower meadows
- Species rich grassland secured through the following planning schemes: Station Road West, Killingworth Drive, Backworth Housing sites, East Farm Wideopen
- A number of parks have created wildflower meadow areas, including:-
 - Killingworth Lake Park
 - Benton Quarry Park
 - Springfield Park
 - Rising Sun Country Park

Native Woodland

- Woodland planting secured as part of following planning schemes:- Station Road West and Killingworth Drive, Backworth Housing sites
- Tree management undertaken over winter period as part of Fish Quay Management Plan
- Tree management works (thinning and pruning of woodland areas) undertaken in Silverlink Biodiversity Park and Rising Sun Country Park through S106 funding
- Native bluebell planting scheme undertaken in RSCP nature reserve
- Works undertaken in Holywell Dene woodland to improve access (path works, bridge repairs, fencing works)
- 1000+ native bulbs planted along wagonway in Wideopen
- Over 500 native trees, fruit trees and hedge plants planted by Friends of Red House Ramble
- Over 3000 bulbs planted by Friends of Red House Ramble

Open Water & Wetlands

- New wetlands secured through the following planning schemes: Station Road West, Killingworth Drive, Backworth Housing sites, Wellfield & Briarvale
- Wetland improvements proposed as part of Killingworth Park flood alleviation scheme
- Pond improvements works undertaken on great crested newt (GCN) pond in the Rising Sun Country Park (de-silting)
- Pond improvements undertaken on GCN pond at Silverlink Biodiversity Park as part of a planning obligation.
- 6 GCN hibernacula provided through planning obligations for Killingworth Drive housing and Algernon Cable schemes

Urban Birds

- 135+ bird box/bird features secured through a number of planning schemes including:- Station Road West, Killingworth Drive, Lidl site Killingworth, Formica, Wallsend Road
- 10 tree sparrow boxes secured as part of the Station Road West scheme
- 12 bird boxes erected at Killingworth Lake, Benton and Springfield Parks
- Bird boxes erected on site by Friends of Benton Village Green
- Bird surveys undertaken at Brierdene
- 2 dawn chorus events and a bird watching course carried out at Rising Sun Country Park
- RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' event in Northumberland Park
- 4 week bird identification course undertaken at Northumberland Park and bird feeders erected around the site

Bats

- 60+ bat boxes/features secured through a number of planning schemes including:- Station Road West, Wallington court, Killingworth Drive, Wallsend Road.
- Native woodland and hedgerows secured through Planning on a number of schemes to benefit bats e.g. Station Road West, Killingworth Drive
- Bat boxes erected on site by Friends of Benton Village Green
- 2 bat events/walks undertaken at Rising Sun Country Park
- 1 bat event/walk undertaken at Killingworth Lake Park

Managed Urban Greenspace

A number of projects have been undertaken in various parks and as part of community projects. These include the following:-

1) Friends of Brierdene

- Management of 2ha of wildflower meadow
- 0.8ha of wildflower seed sown
- 3 x hedgehog refuges built
- Annual 'Bioblitz' event

- Bird, bumblebee and butterfly surveys undertaken (April-September)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award with schools
- Spring and autumn bulbs planted
- Moth night event
- School visits (planting wildflower plugs & water cycle walks)
- Scrub management of meadows
- Watercourse improvements and footpath works
- Conservation work undertaken with BT Communications

2) *Friends of Red House Ramble*

- Over 500 native trees, fruit trees and hedge plants planted (e.g. hawthorn, guelder rose, field maple, hazel, apple, pear and damson)
- Over 3000 bulbs planted (e.g. wood anemone, daffodils, snowdrops, bluebells)
- 1000 wildflower plugs planted
- Wildflower seeds sown and planted by Southridge School and Ivy Road primary
- Removal of non-native species and diseased trees/hedging
- Re-using natural materials (e.g. logs and chippings, brash etc) to create paths, compost heaps and wildlife habitat
- Repairing paths
- Creating a leaf mould composter

3) *Killingworth Lake Park/Marden Quarry/Springfield Park*

- 4 small meadows created in all three parks
- 12 bird boxes installed
- Bat event/walk at Killingworth Lake
- Poppy seed donated to Springfield Park for WW1 commemorations
- Gorse shrubs planted in Benton Quarry Park

4) *Northumberland Park*

- RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' event January 2018
- 4 week bird identification course
- Bee walk
- Wildlife walks
- Wildlife sighting board
- Bird feeders installed in park

5) *Friends of Holywell Dene*

- Tree planting
- Path improvements
- Installation of new fencing
- Bridge repairs

6) *Rising Sun Country Park*

- 400sqm wildflower meadow created
- Bird watching course
- 2x dawn chorus events
- Bird box making and installation in quarry by schools
- 2x bat walks
- Pond improvement works
- Removal of scrub encroachment in meadow areas
- Native bluebell planting in nature reserve
- Watercourse improvements to alleviate flooding
- Woodland thinning works