

Notes for SW Chilterns Community Board proposal October 2021

Ask Parishes and Wards:

Do you know your biodiversity and ecological footprint?

Do you know the habitat and species on your patch?

Do you know the designations in your region?

What was the state of nature on your patch 25yrs ago, 5 years ago, this year?

What questions will people ask in 5 yrs and 25yrs time?

How will anyone know what has improved or got worse?

Most critically what are the habitats and species most in danger right now?

What are the habitats and species that will be destroyed by the next big development?

Who is going to make the decision to improve things?

How will those decisions be made?

How will impact and change be truly identified and measured?

For each Parish and Ward four steps can help:

1. Commission as desk top study to enlighten yourself of what is known already via the Environmental Record Centre? (*Budget £1-2k*)
2. Ask the question of this – did we know that about designations, species and habitat and armed with this information what can we do to improve the Data, Knowledge and Activity in support of wildlife, habitat, biodiversity, ecology, the natural environment, human and wildlife welfare?
3. Develop a local strategy and plan they highlight key steps that can be taken short and longer term to improve the understanding and actions ahead.
4. Identify and work with those people already active and expert in the field on your patch. Involve them in your planning and thinking and look to support and engage them to then engage the people in your community, building on citizen science and easy to do monitoring programs while the good work continues.

GMPC took these steps:

1. December 2020 commission an ecologist to produce a report from BNERC data.
2. March 2021 analysed and discussed the finding within the parish and with active third parties.
3. July 2021 summaries a plan and strategy for the next year next 5 years and set aside funding for that. (*budget £2k Pa, £10k for 5yrs and to support funding from elsewhere*)
4. Sept 2021 started to implement that plan and continued to work through the details, building relationships and influencing other related projects and plans.