

Internal officers and Cllrs

General

- Fantastic work on this and I am really supportive, so any help our team can give, please ask. Of course I am most interested in the plan for the Council owned land. If there was any time to use information gathered from improving the habitat enhancement at the Council offices to somehow roll this out to the commercially let sites, such as Des Roches this would be another win. Also how will the community orchards work? Is this something that the Council would provide and maintain?
- It's really good to get all of these things into one document – well done! My main concern would be about raising expectations. How feasible is the BAP within existing resources? Or are you planning to use this document to increase resources and funding?!
- I note the intention to look into the riparian use of the council owned watercourses. I do not have any comments on the document at this time.
- From our perspective we are very happy to work with you as described in the document – look forward to those conversations.
 - I wonder if this document is the right place to have ambitions about food and growing spaces more broadly with reference to the food strategy (Oxfordshire recently won Sustainable Places Silver award <https://gfo.org.uk/blog/oxfordshire-wins-sustainable-food-places-silver-aw/>) – not knowing about biodiversity I'm not sure if it would be appropriate.
 - The UKSPF Carterton Town Strategy work might be an interesting connection as I note your proposed area for non-statutory conservation target areas includes Carterton – be good to ensure that this is live in the thinking of the folks working on that.
 - I think if you're mentioning health I think it might be of value to reference the BOB ICB Strategy in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire – also perhaps weaving in mention of Healthy Place Shaping and using phrases like the Building Blocks to Health which is from the H&WB strategy which also acts as the action plan for the ICB strategy. ICB strategy is in place and H&WB strategy has just completed consultation and will be adopted in December. Hope that makes sense. <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing>
- Look forward to discussing in more detail. It is a really good report, here are some initial thoughts:
 - Report structure: Would some of the sections in the first part of the report, e.g., information on local organisations and policies, be better as appendices or later sections in the report? It takes a while to get to the core issues and recommendations.
 - Will be good to understand as a next step what TVERC and other national/international organisations are using in terms of existing KPIs, and look at using those. There may also be other broader KPIs that we could consider using going forward, e.g. estimating Glyphosate use across the wider community, vegetation cover (and insect preponderance) across the District, which may need more development and thinking about.
 - Resourcing - could we give some figures/indications of grant money already obtained and won/applied for (e.g. Orchards), Also need to mention Westhive/involvement of communities teams/youth needs/link with leisure, as potential sources of funding to help deliver strategy.
 - Could there be some more context in terms of need to increase vegetation/habitat, but acknowledging that there is also a desire for tidiness and maintenance of vegetation for cycle paths and road visibility in some areas? Ideas on how that should be addressed going forward.
 - Tree management on council-owned and managed land, regular pollarding, wood for beetles, etc.
 - Peat on Council land - can we ban earlier if practical? What are the alternatives?
 - Verges: need to mention link up action with highways management, parishes and land owners across the District even if involvement is limited going forward.
 - Work with developers, e.g. Solar and housing, and other land owners. What role could/should WODC play in enhancing biodiversity beyond the BNG mechanism?
 - BAP 6: mention tool kit/case studies from Wild Oxfordshire contracted project
 - BAP 7: mention how initiatives such as Hedgehog highways and Swift/bird conservation groups, can be really effective in terms of engagement with residents (and link to supporting insect diversity and preponderance)
- One issue is around planning, where you are mainly talking about BNG but there is more to it than that – there is protecting designated and non-designated sites, species protection, ensuring on site landscape or GI provision is good for wildlife etc etc. I would not want Members to think that BNG

was the be all and end all and that we didn't have to worry about anything else, this is far from the truth! It is a really good piece of work and is certainly ambitious – the costs to deliver could be quite high, but we should be aiming high, so well done.

- Understandably, since Rachel wrote the plan, this very much comes across as a BAP focused on her main areas of work but if it is a plan for the whole Council I think we should add in more on the planning side - the work that Janice does + the Biodiversity Officers in Planning + some of the work that Nick does in terms of community etc. Would give a more complete picture.
- We should probably add some wording in the introduction to the consultation to the effect that we intend to review and update the strategy based on feedback from the consultation, our Council priorities, and what is deliverable in terms of Council and partner resources.

Introduction

- Perhaps give Eynsham as an example or another lowland settlement
- Is the above vision that of the OLN and this one is WODC's vision? Perhaps make a little clearer.

Biodiversity across West Oxfordshire

- The term nature recovery is often used - is it worth explaining the relationship with biodiversity here?
- The impact of disease is also significant e.g. Dutch Elm Disease in the past and Ash Dieback now
- Include the National Landscape and its size
- + Nature Improvement Areas
- What about the Windrush in Witney Project Area? Worth mentioning?

Local groups and partnerships

- There are scores of other local groups too. Such as, Long Mead, Eynsham, Nature Recovery Groups (e.g. at Charlbury and Eynsham), Old Woodstock Line Nature Reserve and Woodstock Community Woodland.
- This may be covered later but does this document need to signpost towards the work on nature recovery (mapping etc.) that has been done in support of the now defunct Oxfordshire Plan 2050?
- LWVP was set up with WODC, OCC and possibly Smiths

Document Context

- Perhaps retitle this to 'Key Influences' or something similar?
- Add Natural England GI Framework
- Not essential but you could perhaps cite paragraph 174 (d) of the NPPF here?
- Series of made Neighbourhood Plans (many of which identify areas of Local Green Space and local policies for biodiversity), West Oxfordshire Design Guide, Conservation Area Appraisals.
- Something about the Oxon nature recovery mapping work here perhaps? And also perhaps Salt Cross AAP with the 25% BNG policy having been accepted by the Planning Inspector.
- Does the plan saying anything more specifically about biodiversity or nature recovery that could be quoted here?
- Add CNL Position Statements
- Worth also citing the Cotswolds National Landscape Climate Change Strategy 2022 here. Also the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and Natural Capital Atlas.
- You have mentioned the Environment Act but there are a huge range of legislation and policies such as the Habitats Regs, WCA, NPPF etc - all of which are key

Our work to date and role as a council

- Should we add something here about developing the Salt Cross AAP with our 25% BNG policy having been accepted by the Planning Inspector?
- Should we also mention that the Council has employed a p/t Biodiversity Officer (within the Planning Service) for some years and recently appointed a f/t Assistant Biodiversity Officer (within the planning service). + also the work that people like Nick and Janice do around biodiversity.

- Where do we flag the everyday planning work - run of the mill biodiversity input into planning apps etc?

Aims and objectives

- Is this just about safeguarding? Is it not about positive gains/enhancement?
- The detail of this is included later on (page 14). I would suggest either cross-referring to that detail here or re-ordering the document so that everything on each of the 3 key areas appears in the same place in order.
- Design Guide and Design Code(s) could also be used to provide guidance
- Small Sites and other BNG schemes from April
- The text below could usefully explain what is meant by landscape-scale recovery.

Biodiversity Action plan

- As the whole document is the BAP - should this section be retitled to something like 'Identified or Key Actions'?
- Link to the road map below? Otherwise it has no context.
- Any scope for agri-environment monies?
- I'm not sure that should be limited to the climate change team, everyone involved in biodiversity within the Council should be doing that.

Biodiversity Road Map

- This is good - nice and visual but if it links to actions in the tables below, you need to make it clearer.
- Could add in the April BNG date for all apps other than householders (roughly)

Protect and enhance biodiversity on council owned and managed land

- Would suggest that the list of key delivery partners appears after the key indicators - perhaps with a brief bullet point on their expected role?
- Perhaps give greater emphasis to Ubico's role as this is the one partner that we do have control over!
- Proactively manage woodland areas within WODC's public estates - Good to see this in here
- Number of Proactively manage woodland areas within WODC's public estates - Not sure how easy that would be to measure - might need to be a bit more specific

Safeguard biodiversity through policies and development

- It may well be that not all the policies are relevant to us e.g. for high density development in the city
- Should we be saying something here about looking at taking a holistic landscape-scale approach here? Rather than pockets of improvements here and there.
- As the Government are proposing to do away with SPDs, to future proof this document it might be worth just referring to guidance.
- Are there any other forms of accreditation available? Should we be referencing just one? The AAP Inspector felt we shouldn't back one particular horse and made any references much more general.
- Is another possible indicator the amount (£) of financial contributions received towards offsetting?
- The Local Plan will allocate strategic sites for development. How about the Council committing to adopt the ecological areas to ensure long term management?
- NB The role of Neighbourhood Plans and Local Green Spaces.
- Gi Strategy Good - but who is doing this?
- We have just done a call for sites including nature recovery/biodiversity.
- Define what is meant by a Green Site. This is very general and could include any number of things.
- Is offsetting site acquisition something that is planned?
- I think we are probably focusing too much on BNG, as I said before there is much more to biodiversity and planning. How about -
- "Driving nature recovery through the planning and development process."

- Then in the next paragraph talk more generally about biodiversity, GI and planning before you use the para that you have written here.
- % planning applications with BNG - That is a measure of the development industry and not of our performance.
- % of suggested policies in Local Plan - Not that meaningful as a stat as biodiversity could be covered in lots of short policies or one long policy!
- Financial contributions towards offsetting through developments - What do you mean by that? And how is it different to BNG?
- Do you mean offsetting or do you mean off-site BNG delivery?

Facilitate communities and partnerships in the district for landscape-scale recovery

- KPI What about all the m of hedgerow lost? A net gain figure?)
- KPI Number of LWS surveyed
- Metres of WODC owned riverside in active management - Active management for nature (not active management as a drainage channel)
- Add KPI Neighbourhood Plans containing nature recovery policies and/or Local Green Space
- Number of Local Wildlife Sites surveyed - Who by?
- Box 6 - No mention of planning

eNGOs

General comments

- This is a very good document and we greatly welcome the ambition of what the District is doing.
- More 'Opportunity mapping' to be included in the plan (by overlaying conservation target areas with priority habitats and land use maps). This can direct conservation efforts, to be followed up by rigorous monitoring and evaluation to determine which conservation efforts work, and which do not. This will work well into your adaptive, strategic approach to nature recovery.
- Be ambitious. Set tough (but realistic) targets for the action plan that you can work towards. More definition for your Key Performance Indicators, adding figures to your targets (e.g., instead of % of planning applications with BNG: rather 'we aim to have 95% of planning applications with BNG'? or stating how many planning ecologists do you expect to need?), and how often you plan to report on these Key Performance Indicators. It can be good to have a goal to work towards.
- Perhaps some more on WODC's plans to involve the landowner community, and fast-track the development of the Windrush Farmer Cluster, perhaps through the Rural Enterprise Grant. If 79% of West Oxfordshire is under agricultural management, this is where most land is available for nature recovery—achieved through the promotion of government schemes, events, etc.
- Room for greater focus on WODC's rivers and waterbodies (their current condition, the reasons for this, and steps to address the problem) – backed up by data. E.g., from the river Windrush [cda311_c6239944bde4dfc86348d7a0b72f044.pdf](https://www.windrushwasp.org/cda311_c6239944bde4dfc86348d7a0b72f044.pdf) (windrushwasp.org)
- Data-based evidence of the current habitat conditions. By stating the data as it stands now (e.g., phosphate levels in a river or hectares of woodland management for biodiversity) it will give a baseline which can be used for reference in the future.
- The need to work closely with neighbouring LPAs to ensure a consistent approach, shared learnings, and streamline common responsibilities (especially when it comes to BNG).
- Increase resource allocation where possible for the ecology team to ensure that WODC gets the most out of BNG.
- A name and number for the Biodiversity and Countryside Officer would be useful.
- For BNG monitoring- need to state this as monitoring on ONSITE and separate mention of provision to manage monitoring reports submitted by offset providers- again work across LPA to design a consistent recording, reporting, and management process.
- This document along with the commitment and proactive approach it represents is very welcome and great to see. The comments below should be taken within this overall positive context.
- I am not so sure about the name. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are widely seen as dating from the 1990's. The UK Bap is dated 1994 & the Gloucestershire BAP 2000. They represented a great deal of excellent and valuable work though their impact is widely perceived as having been disappointing. Calling this document, a BAP runs the risk of making it appear dated and associated with a process that was to a certain extent not as successful as we hoped it would be.
- I wonder if calling it a Nature Recovery Plan would be more positive and forward looking. It would also further signal the alignment with the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy which the document recognises. Calling it a Nature Recovery Plan distinguishes it from the strategy but signals that it is very much part of a wider reinvigorated conservation effort. All very exciting.
- I support the adoption of the LNP ambition on page 2 and I am pleased to see the name Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) used throughout. The integration with the LNP, LNRS, CNL & the CNL Management Plan and Nature Recovery Plan is welcome and supported.
- Well done, this is a great piece of work!
- What's in a name? Well, I think calling it the Nature Recovery Plan for West Oxfordshire is a better framing than the BAP, which feels out of date and out of sync with new policy. But it probably doesn't really matter.
- This is a very good document and we greatly welcome the ambition of what the District is doing. It has also been a very interesting document to review
- I'd like to applaud such a helpful document, well organised and written in such clear, accessible style. I feel sure this will be really valuable for local councils and community groups to frequently refer to and use.

Introduction

- Need to reference the LNRS here.

- Worth referencing climate adaptation? Worth mentioning carbon sequestration?
- Apologies if the following is covered in the document, and we have missed it. We do not know if this is already happening as a result of the climate and ecological emergency commitments, but we think it really important that both matters are considered in all council decisions and policies. So with respect to biodiversity, can the document acknowledge that biodiversity should not be considered only in biodiversity or planning policies, but that instead all decisions and policies of the council on all topics should consider impacts on biodiversity and how those areas can contribute to achieving the 30x30 (see comment box on that below) and 2050 targets.

Biodiversity across West Oxfordshire

- A map of the broad habitat types and a table of their coverage (%/hectare) would be useful
- Photos of these habitats in WODC? Some in good condition (maybe some in bad condition?) to show comparison and what can be achieved with good conservation work.
- A map visualising priority habitats/high-quality habitats would focus conservation efforts
- A map of the rivers and water body catchments for the district to encourage river/riparian restoration works. And a map of which water bodies are in what condition
- An opportunity map for ecosystem services and habitats to identify where best to locate different habitat types for different biodiversity services would help concentrate conservation efforts.
- Grayling, probably the best indicator of water quality, have almost completely disappeared from the River Windrush and populations of coarse fish species (Roach, Barbel) have notably declined.
- Unimproved species rich grasslands feature strongly in the description and there are good actions to deliver these on council owned land. It would be good if the Council could be more proactive in helping promote wildflower grasslands more widely. A wildflower grasslands hearts, minds and action campaign taking the grasslands created in public open space as a starting point. In general terms there is a gap between the public sectors promotion of grasslands and woodlands and Plantlife have highlighted this. <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/our-work/the-grassland-gap/>. Including a grasslands campaign based on much of what you plan to do anyway offers the opportunity to put the Council ahead of much of the rest of the sector in this respect.
- This whole section Biodiversity in West Oxfordshire is excellent – a really good Introduction.

Key policy influences (Document Context)

- Urban environments have a disproportionately important role in providing benefits for physical health and mental well-being arising from an improved and biodiverse environment. What are the challenges of working within built environments? What are the District's ambitions for the existing green spaces in urban areas, new green areas being developed, and getting people outside and into these green areas
- Room for expansion in terms of the state of water bodies in WODC E.g. adhering to the EU Water Framework Directive (although UK is no longer an EU member state) to have all water bodies in 'good ecological condition' by 2027
- Can you mention the Oxfordshire Nature Finance Strategy here? <https://www.olnp.org.uk/financing-nature-based-solutions-in-oxfordshire>
- Whilst OCC are key to this as responsible authority, we consider the LNRS is being produced by a partnership of organisations, co-ordinated by OCC as responsible authority. Hence the suggested wording change.
- Document mentions CTA but not NRN. It would be good to explain how this BAP does/doesn't recognise/use Oxfordshire's NRN.
- CAG Oxfordshire is partnering with Natural England on a project researching how best to understand and use NRNs in parish-level planning and action, across Oxon/Bucks. Some resources on this are listed below. Engaging with this could significantly help with local engagement with the BAP. So is there a good way to jointly promote the two in combination? I'd be very happy to include appropriate promotion of the BAP CAG's NRN-related activities between now-March.
- Many parishes now designate blue-green corridors. It would be good to describe (here, or elsewhere in the document) how these can be valuable for planning and strategy (forming a more local complement to CTAs and the County's NRN).
- Parishes (and similar) have a key role to play in planning and action for nature's recovery in their areas. This role will be far more effective if they are properly equipped (with mapping and decision-support tools) and also personal support. It will be important to clearly mention and describe this,

and the help that's available. Clearly this is what CAG's Oxfordshire Nature service provides – but this is not about 'blowing our own trumpet'! Organisations like Wychwood Forest Trust, Wild Oxfordshire and BBOWT and OALC have much to contribute in this.

- It's probably also worth mentioning Charlbury Land and Nature Group, and mid Windrush Valley Land and Nature group alongside the others listed at the end of the page. They will be valuable exemplars whose approach and work can be replicated by other groups.
- Sophus zu Ermgassen and colleagues at Oxford University have been extensively researching BNG, and published an easy-to-use checklist to help Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and developers ensure that Biodiversity Net Gain plans are correctly completed, feasible and fit the local ecological and local context of the development. Since it would be valuable for parish councillors and others to know about (and use) this, it would be helpful for this document to appropriately reference this; perhaps even summarise key 'check list' questions (perhaps later on document p17)

Our work to date and role as a council

- This is not a comment on the document as such, but just to say that we greatly welcome all this work that is happening that is described in the above section.

Aims and objectives

- Clearly this will come out through the Local Plan process, but as we know 10% won't lead to net gain (DEFRA themselves said that's the lowest level they believe might reasonably be considered to result in no net loss), and as we have an aim to enhance rather than just safeguard, surely, surely, we can go for 20% as a minimum? Possibly the single biggest (and cheapest/easiest) action WODC can take to enhance biodiversity across the district.
- This is not a comment on the document as such, but just to say we greatly welcome the work that is taking place and future work to improve the Council's land for wildlife, and people's enjoyment of wildlife.
- This is not a comment on the document as such, but just to say we greatly welcome the work that is taking place, as described in sections 2 and 3.
- The Lawton principles actually include *four* elements: more, bigger, better, joined up. It would be better to express in this way (rather than just 'bigger, better, more joined up') so that everyone recognises that *more* nature areas is itself also an important element. It would also be very helpful to include the illustrative diagram at this point – a picture is worth a thousand words here!

Biodiversity Action Plan

- Work with businesses to address material risks and dependencies on the landscape. This is best articulated in the Oxfordshire Nature Finance Strategy.
- Can we make this less generic and vague, instead incorporating some SMART goals here?
- I'd recommend setting up some kind of small working group (involving wodc and key external people) to come up with a strategy and specific action points on how best to leverage funding for wodc, by combining wodc financial+in-kind support with other support to multiply/leverage funding in West Oxon particularly.
- Also the big 'elephant in the room' here is that adequately delivering nature's recovery for West Oxfordshire will cost hundreds of £millions (cf OLN's recent assessment of £800million, which itself is far from exhaustive) – whereas the sources of funding listed in this BAP only total a small fraction of this. And of course if we don't adequately resource nature's recovery, we will be paying a much higher price in terms of absent ecosystem services in a degraded future West Oxon. Can we include some words to at least recognise this important resourcing deficit – and hopefully include some pointers to steps that might be taken to address this?

Biodiversity Roadmap

- It is good to see the Local Wildlife site (LWS) audit in the road map and the corresponding action & KPI. I think it would be better if the plan reflected encouraging conservation activity on LWS beyond understanding their condition. The Local Wildlife Sites Partnership both surveys sites and provides conservation advice and support. This could be recognised along with the Council's support of the

Partnership by including it under the local groups and partnerships section. Your support for the Partnership could also be mentioned in the “our work” to date section.

- Suggest your carbon offset fund timeline could be more ambitious. Cherwell are looking to require developers to pay into this for operation carbon of new developers through their local plan. You can probably just nick the ABI approach from OxCity.
- Suggest you aim to stop use of peat sooner - 2025 is the point at which it become illegal - surely the council aims to beat that!
- Very interested in your farmland nbs assessment.
- Lower Windrush Farmer Cluster - clusters need to be led by farmers. If you already know about interested farmers, I suggest you start trying to get them together, perhaps working with a partner org for facilitation? Cotswold Rivers Trust have a new farmer CEO...
- This is very helpful!
- Can we incorporate more on using WODC’s authority and [limited] resources to *catalyse and leverage* greater impact by others?
- Perhaps convening a few key people to brainstorm strategy and produce some achievable actions here would help.
- Could you include a date in the diagram (even if tentative) on BNG for small developments?

Protect and enhance biodiversity on council owned and managed land

- Could also mention looking at private finance - i.e., BNG
- Invasive species - work with owners of adjacent sites, or they will just come back!
- This is not the only place this is relevant to but we would greatly welcome mention of the 30 by 30 target and what the District could do towards that, whether on council owned land (hence us writing it in this section 1.) but also elsewhere, which is more relevant to most of the below sections. These links are just for background info – we are not asking for them to be included:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-commits-to-protect-30-of-uk-land-in-boost-for-biodiversity>
 - <https://www.bbwt.org.uk/news/wildlife-trusts-reveal-new-strategy>
 - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/TheWildlifeTrustsStrategy2030.pdf>
- In this context, perhaps it would be worth considering assessing how land management techniques on council-owned land can deliver nature-based solutions to tackling climate change, or alternatively to consider it as part of 4. which refers to nature-based solutions.
- this and all the following ‘panels’ are very informative, but can we clarify how they relate to the previous body of text?

Safeguard and enhance biodiversity through policies and development

- Scope for coordination between LPAs? Sometimes there will be a need to place units generated by developments in neighbouring LPAs because the required habitats might not be available in the LPA where there development is being built. Could WODC be front-runners pushing for a standardised s106 agreement that covers Oxfordshire (and beyond!)?
- BNG will be most effective where there is communication and coordination between the planning, legal, and environment departments. Is there scope for regular BNG-related meetings?
- Need to work closely with other LPA's within Oxfordshire to ensure consistent approach, shared learnings and streamline common responsibilities
- Increasing capacity needs to be prioritised/emphasised. Evaluating metrics and habitat management/monitoring plans is extremely time-consuming. The lack of ecological staff and expertise within LPAs will become the bottleneck in WODC's BNG aspirations.
- In the event of habitats not reaching their promised condition/state after the 30-year agreement, will WODC have the legal provision to enforce the necessary remedial action? If not, scope for training/expansion?
- Should say monitor on-site BNG. Separate item for managing and acting on monitoring reports provided by offset providers
- % BNG in the Local Plan Needs to specify how a performance indicator- onsite? Offsite? Area? Habitat type?
- Throughout the document the rate for Biodiversity Net Gain is quoted as the legal minimum of 10%. The Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan includes an aspiration that within the protected

landscape the rate should be 20%. This is stated within policy CE7.4 - Development proposals should provide a net gain in biodiversity of at least 20% particularly with regard to the species and habitats listed in Appendix 7. Appendix 8 further outlines why biodiversity is an important consideration within the Cotswolds National Landscape.

- Increased ecologist capacity really important
- Monitor BNG sites to ensure the targeted habitats and conditions are being achieved - This is particularly important for onsite.
- Take a strategic approach to development-funded nature recovery - I'm not clear what this means? Funded by new housing/infrastructure development? In which case, can we include 'explore production of a policy requiring developers to offset the first 30 years' operational carbon of their developments via contribution to WODC's carbon offset fund'?
- supporting famers/landowners to create BNG units eg via soft loans – much cheaper than purchase!
- We welcome this proposal. We consider it important to seek a minimum of a 20% net gain.
- Is this still part of 'safeguard and enhance biodiversity through policies and development'? If not, should this 'panel' be a different colour from the previous one, to make this clear?
- Under risks and dependencies, it would again be good to deal with the discrepancy between currently available and needed funding

Facilitate communities and partnerships in the district for landscape-scale recovery

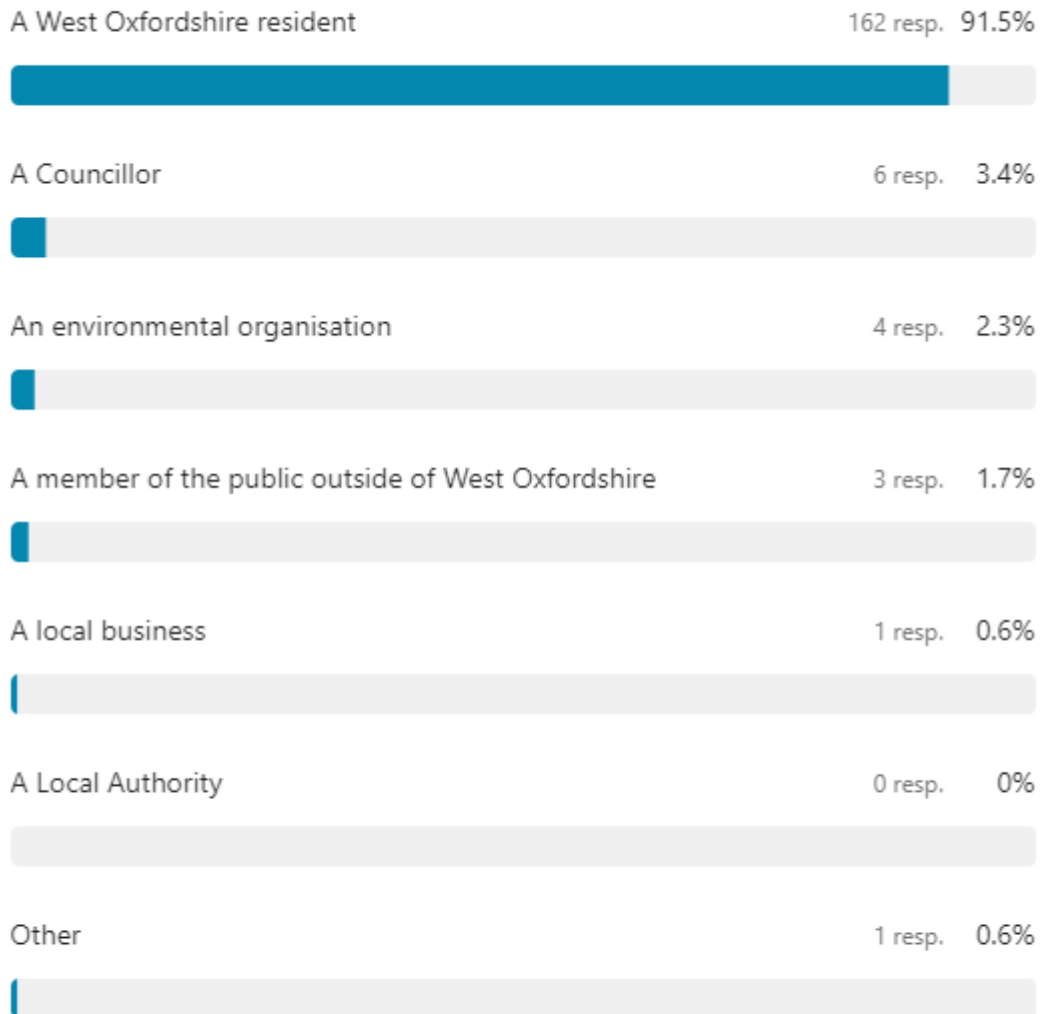
- Continue working with Thames Water to ensure that Thames Water waste water treatment works have the capacity and technology to cope with current and anticipated sewage and thus end the very damaging discharges to West Oxfordshire water courses.
- Good to see an aspiration for more Parish Council biodiversity projects. TOE could be on this list should you wish to utilise the Local Environment Fund.
- Funding Wild Oxfordshire a great idea!
- Windrsh FC - Needs to be sooner than planned- would suggest fund through Rural Enterprise Grant?
- Although bringing all LWS into a favourable condition is completely necessary, I think it would be a missed opportunity if they put all their BNG funds into existing sites rather than creating new sites. Where would the NET GAIN be?
- Supporting the monitoring and conservation of LWSs is one of the key things a local authority can do to support biodiversity & nature recovery. Indeed, only the local authority can emphasise their importance and give them protection through the local plan. You have mapped them and included policies to protect them within the Local Plan. It would be good to refer to and reaffirm this within this plan too. This is a significant element in ensuring compliance with the strengthened biodiversity duty. A clear statement of support for the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership would further strengthen this plan.
- Might this be the right section in which to express LPA support for ensuring availability of sufficient offsite BNG units?
- Oxfordshire LNRS - I suggest this whole point needs to be guided by the LNRS. Its right you need to identify local priorities, but these should be led and informed by LNRS. Many of the groups you want to work with work at a supra-district scale so tying in with county-wide strategy will be vital
- OLNPs has a policy group meeting on this on Weds 22nd, come along if you can/want
- Potentially fund Wild Oxfordshire [...] - Most other points say 'work with...'. This one says 'fund...'. Seems strange to me - I suggest keeping it consistent, and not 'potentially' committing to funding in a doc like this.
- If you include supporting availability of offsite BNG units in this section, then co-benefits include ensuring private funding for nature recovery can remain in the county, as well as helping to ensure there are no delays to the planning system
- Note there is already an Oxfordshire Nature Finance Strategy - <https://www.olnp.org.uk/financing-nature-based-solutions-in-oxfordshire>
- Work with Alison Smith's ecosystem service mapping to assess opportunities for enhancing ecosystem service provision and distribution
- Act on some of the next steps in the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery's 'equitable distribution of accessible green space' report.
- Work with climate change team - , and consider how to link this to planning (note that CDC's local plan included a policy of requiring developers to offset the operational carbon of their development for the first 30 years of its operation)
- Cobenefits - enhanced health and wellbeing of local communities

- We welcome this proposal
- We welcome this proposal. In particular we welcome the ambition in terms of restoring natural ecosystems and improving habitat connectivity. One of our biggest asks of this work is to ask could West Oxfordshire DC consider how, working with partners and neighbouring authorities, it could encourage the creation of a landscape-scale nature reserve or reserves in the District. Both West Oxfordshire and its neighbouring areas could benefit so much from the creation of large nature reserves, potentially with, when appropriate in terms of location and wildlife, well managed visitor access and visitor facilities. This could even lead over time potentially to a project on the scale approaching those found in many other counties in England, like the Great Fen Project <https://www.greatfen.org.uk/> , Wicken Fen Vision <https://www.wicken.org.uk/> or Avalon Marshes <https://avalonmarshes.org/> . An ambitious Vision in the District for this could lead to a landscape-scale nature reserve or reserves that could:
 - Help to provide a home for the many species of wildlife that are not compatible with urban development, as a result of which on-site biodiversity net gain will not help them, because of their incompatibility with urban areas, like curlews and other waders, and many other types of wildlife.
 - Be of great value for helping people experience wildlife. In a county where there is so much development then it is especially important for people to experience wilder places and the wonder of nature at scale. There is currently a deficit locally of nature reserves with visitor centres and other such facilities.
 - Could be of great benefit to the rural economy and the tourism economy.
- We welcome seeing something here on road verges. One of the best ways of maximising the contribution that road verges can make for wildlife, would be to look into schemes that allowed the collection and removal of arisings from verge mowings. This is happening in some parts of the UK and there may already be work on this happening locally so apologies if this is underway in the District and we were unaware. Collection and removal of arisings can greatly increase plant diversity in verges by reducing nutrient build-up. There are proposals we understand in some cases for arisings then being taken to a biodigester to create biogas. We are not fully aware of who is responsible for which verges in the District so whether this is something the District could do directly, or indirectly through influencing others, we would greatly welcome it being considered either way.
- West Oxon now has two parish-cluster 'Land and Nature' groups – one well-established one around Charlbury and one newly forming around Burford. It would be helpful all round to recognise these in the BAP, and devise some strategic actions for leveraging coordination/collaboration between WODC and these groups (alongside all the other great groups in West Oxon). In particular it would help to reference the draft NR plan which Charlbury LNG are in the process of issuing, since it could help inspire similar ones by others.

Public consultation

1) **Please select who you are responding to the survey as:**

177 out of 177 people answered this question



Volunteer at a local charity

15 days ago

2) The overall vision for the Biodiversity Action Plan is the following:

“Radically enhance nature, its positive impact on our climate and the priority it’s given, helping to make the district a place where people and nature thrive”.

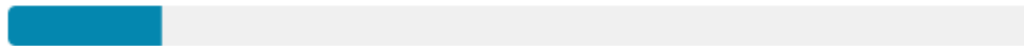
Do you agree with our vision?

173 out of 177 people answered this question

Yes 147 resp. 85%



No 26 resp. 15%

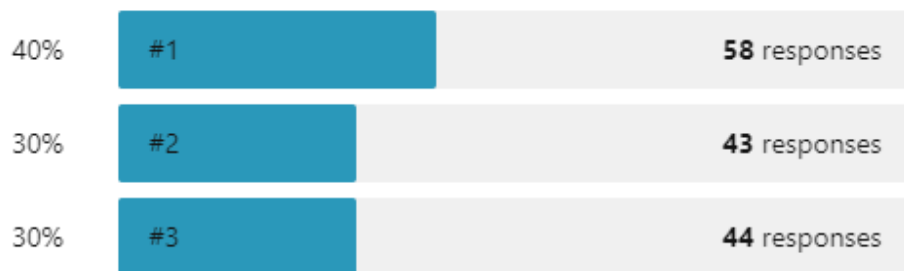


3) Which of these three key actions do you think that Council should prioritise for delivery?

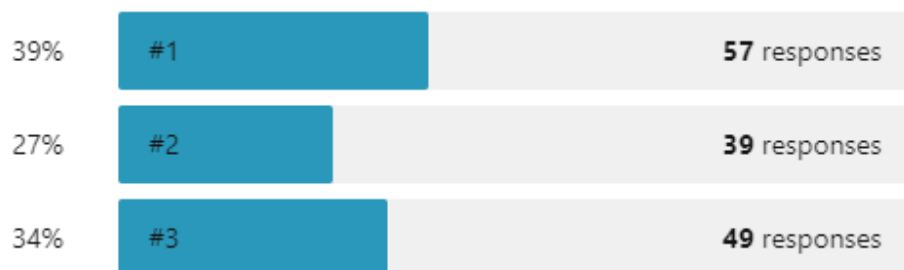
Please rank from most important (1) to least important (3).

145 out of 177 people answered this question

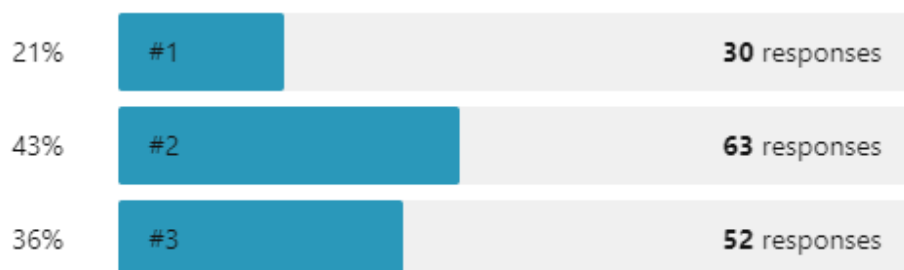
#1 Facilitate communities and partnerships for landscape-scale recovery. #1.9 average



#2 Safeguard and enhance biodiversity through policies and development. #1.94 average



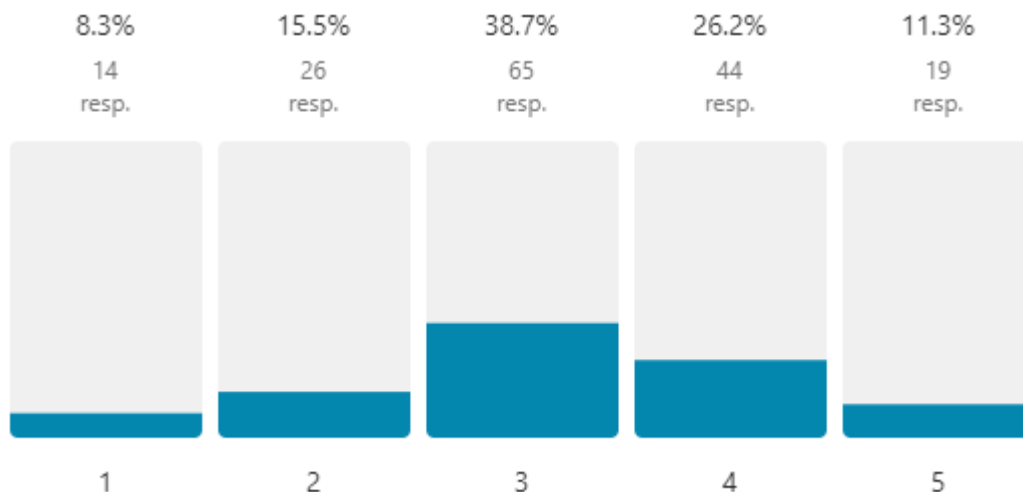
#3 Protect and enhance biodiversity on sites owned and managed by the Council. #2.15 average



4) How ambitious are our proposed priorities?

1 is not ambitious at all, 5 is unachievably ambitious.

168 out of 177 people answered this question



5) Are there any areas of action that we can deliver that are not included within the plan?

Offensive language has been removed from the results

- A longer time-frame. Six years is impossibly short and policies need to be in place for much longer
- Actively promote biodiversity through education in schools.
- All new housing should be covered by the plan.
- Assist decarbonising transport by off street parking charges at all WODC car parks
- be extremely sensitive about granting planning permission for building on agricultural land, land within conservation areas and encourage building on brown field sites.
- be more critical of planning proposals that have a negative effect on the landscape and its biodiversity. e.g. solar panels belong on buildings not in fields
- Better footpaths on country walk. If people are out in nature and able to appreciate it then people might care more
- Bring protection of biodiversity to the forefront when making planning decisions, especially in rural areas
- Can't think of any!
- Communication with communities
- Consider more advice & cooperation with local farmers on hedgerow management to reduce flailing off all the flowering shoots of the hedgerows that they are obliged to maintain along highways and byways.
- cut back the verges and grass in housing areas. It looks a * mess!
- Declare 30%+ BNG on all housing developments
- Deliver what your residents need. Cut back hedges, get rid of LTN areas making life difficult for residents and visitors. You are supposed to supply services. Waste, roads, etc.
- District Heating System
- Do not develop housing beyond kingschool to Hailey road
- Do your actual job. Not this green *
- Don't dare not mow around Witney again
- education on biodiversity, specifically working landowners to manage land to the benefit of nature, vehicles for mainstreaming biodiversity protection - BNG, Carbon Credits etc
- Encourage and support parish level nature recovery plans working with town & parish councils and associated groups (e.g. Charlbury TC Land & Nature Group) and also through Neighbourhood Plans
- Encourage Cottsway to join these actions
- Encourage local communities eg litter collection

- Encourage residents to record wildlife and plants seen in their neighbourhood
- Enhance Witney green spaces to facilitate greater use
- Ensure all developments include robust biodiversity targets that are enforceable
- Ensure native species of trees and shrubs planted at all sites and new developments
- Ensure that companies such as Thames Water are stopped from polluting areas from sewage outlet. eg in Clanfield
- Ensure that you work WITH business and the community to achieve your aims.
- Ensuring new developments are environmentally friendly and landscaped to benefit wildlife and their population
- Ensuring the development of brown field sites is promoted rather than greenfield sites that are rich in biodiversity.
- Firstly, the ranking of your priorities is a bit odd. ALL 3 of them need equal focus as the appalling state of the natural world requires a joined up approach across all areas. Developers need to do far more with habitat protection and creation on developments. We need far more swift bricks, House Martin nesting cups, hedgehog highways, fruiting trees, hedgerows, wildflower areas and also areas that are just 'scruffy' and let go a bit. The over eagerness to tidy and cut and strim is highly detrimental.
- Fix the potholes. More important than the nonsense of net zero, bio diversity and all the other waste of money that you come up with.
- Get solar panels on as many buildings as possible. Stop the use of weed killers and pesticides.
- Getting people to connect with nature
- Given we live in a rural area of England, more support should be given to landowners to help/assist in the protection and promotion of habitat and wildlife
- hedgerow tree planting with parishes and farmers
- Housing plan
- I don't see much in it for young people who are the inheritors of the poor state of nature we have created
- I hope it gets decent funding. So much depends on the on-the-ground implementation. Not sure always about BNG - some losses cannot be compensated for. Would be nice for schools and churches to be explicitly involved. Could be opportunities for creation of employment through apprenticeships in e.g. hedgelaying. Nice to see a KPI for metres of hedgerow planted, but regeneration and sympathetic management of existing hedgerows would have more immediate payoff. Need to prioritise cleanup of rivers, fundamentally reduce pollution by sewage first.
- I think you have too many focus areas to realistically deliver significant change in the period. You should max out on amplifying the impact on non-WODC land with the influence you have. Focusing on the 20% job with you own land is just a PR tool.
- I'm not sure if it's included but clearing out existing ditches and watercourses would be a good place to start to
- Improve traffic flow to improve air quality and actually implement the Shaws Green A40 Junction to take pressure off the town centre and surrounding area.
- Improved education and local information about biodiversity
- In matters of planning wodc is completely lacking
- include the health benefits to individuals of greater access to natural habitats (and don't exclude their pets)
- Investing in renewable, green energy eg solar panels on all new homes, solar arrays on council owned land
- It is necessary to have specific outcomes against which the Indicators of success can be evaluated (e.g. the increase in woodland cover) ; as it stands the strategy / action plan represents a series of worthwhile projects but there is no sense as to whether they are adequate in scale and content to address the issues faced by the WO District. There are also areas of the district that lie outside the project areas for which there is no action proposed. Even though these areas may be of lesser biodiversity they need action (indeed they may be a greater priority than the established project areas because they are of lesser biodiversity value in their existing condition. I was also looking for more understanding of what are the specific actions required to adapt or mitigate the effects of climate change in WO district. May be there are none but given that this strategy is a response to the climate

emergency I wondered whether there were specific actions required and not merely good practice which most of the proposals are.

- It's all very well having solid words that make you sound like you are taking biodiversity and the environment seriously but those are totally worthless if you don't also have practical tangible targets that are measurable. If you did nothing else in the next two years other than clean up the river Windrush and restore the river and its surrounding environment to 'full health' you would have achieved more than any other administration in the last 20 years. Instead you focus too much on trying to sound good and patting each other on the back for saying the right things when only practical ACTION will ever make any real difference.
- Keeping trees from being dangerous, some look like branches are ready to fall
- landscape enhancement around the west side of Clanfield
- legislate to have all new build to have solar panels, to stop solar farms on green field sites
- Management of excessive night-time street lighting that has a negative effect on wildlife.
- Managing footpaths / Rights of Way , maintenance of hedgerows balancing road safety . vision for traffic and pedestrians as well as the health of the hedges (many are dying and DEad Mans Beard and Ivy are smothering the hedges, removal of dead wood to encourage growth, cutting back of road verges ; dominant species such as brambles, nettles and cow parsley are taking over preventing other species from growing and in the countryside making some rural roads narrow and visibility dangerous. In the town the lack of verge cutting is leading to lots of sharp grass seed which has caused problems for dogs. I Witney the verges were not cut between March / April and November!a
- Mandatory natural areas in 33% of new developments.
- More direct action with landowners including farming. We need clean water if we are to protect biodiversity and no bee killing pesticides
- More local involvement
- More maintained paths that allow access during wet flooded areas
- More partnerships with local people .
- No
- No it is too ambitious and will be hard to fund
- No real reference to the significant development of housing and need to ensure infrastructure , eg Thames water can meet need. We must stop polluting the rivers. How can we allow development on Ducklington Moors for example see: <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23304421.oxfordshire-villagers-devastated-120-new-homes-built/>
- NOT allow building on green belt
- Not really
- Oppose Botley West Solar Farm otherwise your other plans will be ineffective
- Pest control
- Plan to have large connected areas of green to allow increased animal movement. Improve the health of rivers and legislate such that water use and sewage become high priority
- Plant hedgerow trees and restore ponds
- Please ensure new developments really do have large green spaces and not token tiny areas
- Prevent further development of land within West Oxfordshire by preemptively creating the government required 5 year plan.
- Protect communities from industries
- Protect urban hedges
- Really good, accessible, mapping. It would be so encouraging to see little pockets of green expand and connect.
- Reduce cars and population growth to safeguard nature
- Reduce the amount of housing being built on green field sites
- Reforest, protect against flooding, increase areas of nature reserves etc
- regeneration of the town centre as a shared space
- Reopening the High Street to cars.
- River & riverside maintenance
- River Evenlode needs protection ie solar panel farm

- River health. Links to public health policy. Protection of species such as swifts in danger as old houses reroofed. Hedgerows and verge. Plan to replace trees following ash die back. More prominent mention of working with farmers .
- School involvement
- Sharper focus on catastrophic damage caused by Thames Water, irresponsible housing projects etc.
- Some of this is what you and all of us should be doing as a matter of course. The rest is a pipe dream ... you are not going to (forgive the fatuous phrase) 'save the planet'
- Specific links to planning processes such as implementation of Grampian conditions
- Stick to the stuff we pay you for !
- Stop Botley West Solar Farm
- Stop building houses and park & rides when so much has now been built & destroyed the area for wildlife
- Stop building houses then paying to help nature recover
- Stop building on every available scrap of village land.
- Stop destroying the country side with more houses and instead of paying land owners for solar give home owners free solar
- Stop rogue developers building without infrastructure being in place and ensure they act according to net zero regulations
- STOP Thameswater sewage discharges
- stop using glyphosate; stricter enforcement of lighting rules
- stopping pollution of the rivers and streams
- Take more action to reduce sewage in the rivers
- The plans needs to include town/parish councils, OCC, local nature groups and NGOs such as Wildlife Trust and Wychwood Project, land owners such as Cornbury and Bleheim estates and ALL developers from day one, to ensure that the nature crisis is being addressed with the urgency required.
- The state of the areas rivers are acknowledged, if the CSO's are controlled then an action plan to restore the rivers needs to be in place and actioned (in cooperation with the listed authorities).
- The state of the river windrush
- The state of the water - making Thames Water clear up their mess.
- There doesn't seem to be any overarching method of communicating with the wide range of groups involved, but especially enthusiastic non-specialist volunteers on Parish Councils, about specific actions which have been completed or specific actions which affect their 'patch'
- To restrict human impact on the environment by taking less land to build on to protect habitats and open space
- Use the land that runs alongside the roads and tidy them up to allow biodiversity to organically develop. You don't need to reinvent the wheel just make the best of what already exists.
- We need a plan similar to the very successful plan in the Second World War, that is to grow food on every acre of ground we have, forget hedges and wild flowers we need food so we do not have to import it this is what we should be concentrating on not dreams of long lost past!!
- Yes - the opportunities for action within residential gardens
- Yes, and a good starting point is to remove all the nonsense about West Oxfordshire having any part to play in changing the global climate and instead focus on cleaning our waterways.
- Yes, forget all this nonsense and focus on what Witney really needs, eg economic growth
- yes, please see document which I'll upload or email
- You could start by listening to local residents and not design local plans by submitting to government pressure to build more & more housing thus increasing the already unsolved sewage problems and need for more roads carrying bigger cars adding to air pollution. Think smaller is better for everyone and build for local needs which means social housing not executive housing.
- You mean like the hedgerows along Buckland Road? Full of lovely big red berries that have now been cut down. Fieldfares in particular love these as do a lot of other wildlife.

6) Is there anything else you'd like to add to your response to the Biodiversity Action Plan?

Offensive language has been removed from the results

- I am very pleased to see the ambition in this plan and I am very keen to see Charlbury TC Land and Nature Group included in the list of partnerships at the bottom of page 8. Our nature recovery work in Charlbury, with neighbouring parishes and with other partners is closely aligned to your plan and we would be keen to work with you.
- A lack of public knowledge about who owns what land hinders progress in this area. For example, the dyke that runs around the Henry Box playing field had water voles and kingfishers in it 10 years ago. Yet WODC & the Environment Agency have quibbles throughout that time over who's actually responsible for it, not to mention the County Council (?) owned field. The aforementioned wildlife has now disappeared and I imagine neither you, the Environment Agency nor OCC will take any responsibility for decisions (or lack thereof) that have been taken to lead to that.
- Actually do something to help nature rather than just talk about it and stop allowing vast areas of housing developments that has already ruined this area forever. Too over populated now, it's tragic how this area has changed in such a short time.
- All hugely important and much needed. We are in a real emergency. How can the public monitor the progress? A facebook group or newsletter perhaps?
- Also remove invasive plant species
- Although we can help the environment thrive is a good thing, climate emergency is a fraud, take a look at west Antarctica the temperature has dropped by 2c over the last 20 years no sign of global warming there and the Sahara is shrinking all recorded facts that MSM don't report
- Another plan but resources and action required
- Be careful with the word salad and buzz words - climate, resilience - and make clear, actionable plans for what people can actually see.
- Be more thoughtful about the location of verges left unmown. Away from junctions and approaches to roundabouts for example. Speak with people who know about the countryside. Steer clear of green zelots
- BWSF developers have no evidence that covering 3400 acres of west OXFORDshire countryside will improve biodiversity. Their "mitigation" plans are laughable.
- Comeate waste of time and money. You appear to be owned by the goals set by the World Economic Forum in their document for global goals 2030. For WODC simply maintain what we have better. Plant more trees in the town centres and do not inconvenience those who pay their council tax.
- Communities should be encouraged to keep families small so that human population does not continue to overwhelm the lives of other living things. This is the crux of our all our problems on planet Earth.
- Controlling Residential Development better
- Council, residents and businesses to stop using non-natural pesticides and fertilisers eg ladybirds not glyphosate !!
- Create a database for citizen recordings
- Creation of farmland ponds
- Cut the * grass
- Development of a realistic transition towards more efficient public transport
- Don't forget business and community!
- Don't let everywhere get overgrown in the name of biodiversity, there needs to be a balance.
- Encourage local community to record species and plants seen in their area on a local database
- Encouragement for local people to be active
- Ensure biodiversity and conservation is taught in schools from preschool to college
- Ensure some areas are left untouched so wildlife can thrive
- Establish a "day of action " for community evolvment to promote local actions in relation to biodiversity management.
- Forget it !
- Full awareness for the public - only how? Get out there and talk clearly...
- Get Thames water to stop feeding sewerage into the rivers

- Get the river pollution sorted - it is dreadful & you are not stopping it
- Give support, advice & rats for villages keen to create NRNs
- Greater influence of the council on planning proposals to enhance the environment which I appreciate comes at a cost to the developer but to the benefit of the community
- Green party nonsense.
- Have joined up green areas to allow animals to migrate. Improve river cleanliness, stop sewage being dumped in rivers
- Heat to see the plan but it can be expanded to accommodate land across the county and not just council owned land.
- hedgerow tree planting and pond restoration
- Help local groups to purchase corridors to link up woodland and wildlife areas such as St.Johns Wood with Hailey Community Woodland and Foxborough Wood. However generous, farmers do not have the needs of the community as a priority and expecting them, without remuneration, to leave strips of land for the the benefit of locals is disingenuous.
- Higher focus on river water quality
- How measure change and how create meaningful joined up action. Accountability and levers to move behaviour e.g rivers, farming. Clearer definition of biodiversity and what this means and how impacted. Making clearer roadmaps for change e.g. how can hedgerows be replaced and what are the levers for this for communities - clarifying responsibilities across OCC (highways etc) local parish and WODC. Lots of communities want to do things but it's really hard working out how and who can open up opportunities. Swifts are in danger of being eradicated in this whole area as older rooves are removed and replaced with no nesting space. Can a solution be found that roof holes are retained (as swifts don't adapt to nest boxes easily)
- I don't think the plan is viable.
- I hope it can be achieved and not just talked about and nothing happens
- "I WILL BE TOTALLY REFUSING TO COMPLY. UNTIL YOU SCRAP THIS 20MPH * I WILL NEVER COMPLY WITH ANY COUNCIL INITITIVE EVER AGAIN.
-
- I REFUSE TO RECYCLE, CHUCKING EVERYTHING INTO MY GREY LANDFILL BIN. I ONLY USE FIRST GEAR IN ALL 20MPH * AREAS REVING THE HELL OUT OF IT INCREASING NOISE AND AIR POLLUTUON IF HELD UP AT LESS THAN 30. (I OVERTAKE DAILY ANYONE HOLDING ME UP)"
- If you don't control planning making plans is a waste of time
- In addition to the answers to previous question it would be good to have some measure of the scale of resources required and an evaluation of the adequacy of institutional arrangements (including how it is all going to be coordinated (elsewhere this has required special units to be set up).
- Increase litter picking and grow more trees
- It isn't a plan, just a list of possible activities. A plan requires actions to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound. There are no dates or deadlines for each action, many of them are completely unspecific and none of them have any measures to use to verify that the action has achieved what was intended.
- It needs to be clearly stated that any sites with a biodiversity designation should not be considered for or impacted by development
- It should have been protected before planning was approved for 100's new homes in the area. It's tragic.
- Let's hope something can be done. Unfortunately people see green fields and trees and think we have good biodiversity in West Oxfordshire
- Link to Neighbourhood Plans supporting protection of Green spaces and a large protective zone around blue green corridors
- listen to local residents of many years about how an area "behaves" - don't just rely on high level maps (for example flooding)
- Make explicit actions with surrounding district councils to improve biodiversity in areas such as rivers
- Make more funds available for BAP by reducing wasted monies on unnecessary projects. E.g 20 mph signage, High Street pavement reworking.

- Money invested is essential. Great to see dedicated members of staff but action having to rely on grant applications is not good enough.
- monitoring and only adopt funded or voluntary actions.
- More bins around. The amount of rubbish in fields, bushes, flower beds is horrible to see. In residential areas but also out on footpaths
- More detail around the proposed Riparian Owners management plan
- More ponds
- More urgency
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No solar panels in Botley West. Let Clarkson plant trees.
- No thank you!
- On a very local issue, on Shilton Park we still have hundreds of plastic tree guards, some which must be 20 years old on the estate. Surely, these need to come off ? Also during spring and summer some areas of grass could easily be left 4 weeks + between cuts, IE, one cut each month between May-Sept.
- Pest control
- Plant more trees and wildflowers wherever possible
- Please be practical and action orientated and set measurable goals and if you don't achieve them, all promptly resign
- Prevent Further Building in Green Fields
- Put pressure on Thames water to desist form pollution
- Really great to see you are doing this Needs to be much more protection for privately owned land. Landowners can do just about anything they want in terms of land management without any consequences in my experience
- Really like the aspect of including natural flood management
- Reopen Witney High Street to normal traffic to lessen the traffic congestion elsewhere and return speed limits from 20 to 30 to allow freer movement and less pollution.
- Residents are cutting down hedges for car parking which is a loss to habitat and biodiversity
- Scrap it and spend the money on something useful.
- Seek to do no harm before seeking to mitigate harm
- Seems comprehensive and achievable, look forward to milestone updates.
- Set stiff but achievable goals and you will receive cooperation. Set unachievable goals and you will get resistance.
- Should a BAP be a priority at a time when funds are low and many people are struggling to make ends meet?
- Stop approving every planning application in rural areas.
- Stop building houses instead. WO is full.
- Stop chopping trees down needlessly, too many disappearing lately
- Stop wasting money on green issues at the expense of providing the basic services that residents require.
- support and promote use of allotments (and increase the supply of land for allotments)
- The Council controls little land and has little money to achieve anything on the land of others. Need to be more realistic
- The council need to start listening to residents comments when it comes to housing development applications. Local people know the local wildlife under threat in their area, so it's vital BNG doesn't just become a tick box exercise between the WODC ecologist and developers ecologists.
- The KPIs seem to me to be too focused on activities rather than the outcomes we care about. I would suggest putting more emphasis on tracking the status of species. I care about the status of swifts, swallows, hedgehogs, amphibians, native woodland cover etc, not how many ecology training courses are delivered.
- The river Windrush should be a top priority

- The state of the rivers are key and need more attention. The Botley West Solar Farm will also have a significant environmental impact and is not a "green" solution to energy production, it needs to be stopped.
- The use of BNG as the measure of improvement is too narrow. BNG a poor measure of biodiversity even on a good day, it applies to a limited number of cases, and in practice is not doing the job it was intended for - see e.g. Rampling et al 2023. To ask for BNG of 10% is wholly inadequate given the seriousness of the biodiversity crisis. And while having flow charts and good intentions is useful, in the end the only question is how one achieves a joined-up approach to nature conservation and restoration. Some issues are mundane but critical for success - e.g. cutting verges - if the arisings are not removed this one has no hope of getting more biodiverse plant communities in the verges. This is a matter of machinery and timing and clearly Ubico is not up to it. It is also not effective to have NGOs or 'experts' parachuted in to advise councils or volunteer groups - they have neither the expertise nor the vision, nor the local knowledge, nor any relation to the enthusiasts in the community who want to make a difference. Similarly it is futile to have parish councils lead on nature recovery - they simply don't have the in-house expertise. It seems that NGOs and e.g. Parish Councils want to 'own' a protect rather than be partners with other organisations or landowners and farmers, all of whom are essential partners for any landscape-scale project. Maybe this reflect both economics and vanity. Often these players - farmers, landowners, etc. are either not at the table or at the bottom of the food chain. One might also note that in the present rush to build solar power stations, the economic gradient is in the wrong direction for nature recovery - one can make far more money renting a field to a solar developer than one can get from DEFRA. BNG is no help here either.
- This along with Climate Change needs to be factored in right across the council's actions . We also need far more collaboration with other local councils at all levels.
- This work needs real commitment by key stakeholders to deliver it - I'm concerned that finances and politics will stop it from being fully delivered or supported
- To preserve biodiversity in West Oxfordshire, you have to resist any more new housing. The so-called safeguards around new housing and biodiversity are having no effect at all, as anyone can see from looking at the new housing estates. All concrete and suburbia, and cars. More carbon, more untreated sewage. Less space for wild creatures and plants. If biodiversity means anything in a National Landscape it means preserving that landscape without more built intrusion.
- We are disappointed that the Action Plan only goes as far as saying "Implement Oxfordshire's BNG Guiding principles into the Local Plan, and explore the potential implementation of a higher BNG requirement than the mandatory 10% national benchmark". We call for a stated a action and commitment to Support the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnerships call for a clear requirement on all forms of development to deliver a 20% net gain in biodiversity.
- Woodlands should be managed properly, and possibly dew ponds should be constructed
- yes, please see document which I'll upload or email
- You have to stop development of the flood plain and in particular water meadows such as the Moors in Ducklington which have an enormous impact on biodiversity