

Public Document Pack

When telephoning, please ask for:
Direct dial
Email

Laura Webb
0115 914 8481
democraticservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk



Our reference:
Your reference:

Date: Tuesday, 29 September 2020

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group will be held on Wednesday, 7 October 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom consider the following items of business.

The meeting will be live streamed via YouTube for the public to listen and view via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC> Note: Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanjit Sull'.

Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting 27 August 2020 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Flooding and Drainage (Pages 5 - 12)

The report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods is attached.

5. Rushcliffe Nature Strategy (Pages 13 - 26)

The report of the Executive Manager – Communities is attached.

6. Work Programme (Pages 27 - 28)

The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

Rushcliffe Borough
Council Customer
Service Centre

Fountain Court
Gordon Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 5LN

Email:
customerservices
@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Telephone:
0115 981 9911

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8.30am - 5pm
Wednesday
9.30am - 5pm
Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

Postal address
Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG



Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Wheeler

Vice-Chairman: Councillor B Bansal

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: in the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

Toilets: are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

Microphones: When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

Recording at Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt.



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY GROUP
THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 2020**

Held virtually at 7.00 pm and live streamed on the
Rushcliffe Borough Council YouTube channel

PRESENT:

Councillors J Wheeler (Chairman), B Bansal (Vice-Chairman), G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D Burch	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
D Hayden	Community Development Manager
S Maher	Strategic Human Resources Manager
L Webb	Democratic Services Officer

16 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18 Minutes of the meeting 23 July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

19 Rushcliffe Equality Scheme

The Strategic Human Resources Manager presented the report of the Executive Manager – Transformation and explained that the existing Equality Scheme expired this year and that Cabinet had resolved to support a comprehensive review of the scheme and recommended the Communities Scrutiny Group to contribute to this review.

It was noted that many of the services the Council provided were there to support residents in their time of need for example, housing support and that it is extremely important that residents can access services in an equal manner. Additionally, it was explained that the non-statutory services, such as leisure provision, and parks and open spaces, should be delivered in such a way to welcome all residents.

The Human Resources Manager delivered a presentation to the Group, which covered:

- Rushcliffe Equality Scheme 2016 – 2020;
- New Context for a New Scheme;
- New Context – a Shift in Focus;
- Internal Focus;
- Workforce Demographics;
- Borough Demographics - Health/Disability;
- Ethnic Origin – profile of Rushcliffe;
- Age Profile of Rushcliffe;
- External Focus; and
- Next Steps.

Following the presentation the Group made suggestions about what could be reviewed in the updated Rushcliffe Equality Scheme. These included:

- Stopping the use of Chairman/Madam Chairman;
- Assumptions of gender preference; and
- Input from Black and Ethnic Minority and LGBT groups.

It was noted that contact centres had been closed during the initial Covid-19 pandemic in order to protect the health and safety of residents (Fountains Court re-opened on 1 June via appointment only) and that the majority of enquiries could be resolved either through the Council's website or over the phone.

It was also suggested that a review should be undertaken of the performance of the current equality scheme. It was noted that data about the meeting of targets, the use of equality impact assessments and diverse interview panels had to be taken into account before the production of a new scheme. The Strategic Human Resources Manager said that the Council was currently reviewing their recruitment policy so that application forms did not reveal a person's identity.

The Group agreed that the revised equality scheme should be a 'living' document and should reflect current social change such as the black lives matter movement, health inequalities with the impact of Covid 19 on black and ethnic minority groups and a greater awareness of gender identity. However, it was also noted that the equality scheme should also reflect the population of Rushcliffe who were mainly elderly.

The Group requested that an updated version of the Rushcliffe Equality Scheme be brought back to the Communities Scrutiny Group before being recommended for approval by Cabinet.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the report of the Executive Manager – Transformation be noted;
- b) the suggestions of the Communities Scrutiny Group help shape the revised Rushcliffe Equality Scheme; and

- c) a draft of the Rushcliffe Equality Scheme be scrutinised by the Communities Scrutiny Group before being recommended for approval by Cabinet.

20 Fireworks

The Community Development Manager presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities that provided the Group with information to consider the future use of fireworks at Council events. It was noted that a motion was carried by Council in March 2020, which resolved to launch a public campaign to raise awareness of these impacts in the Borough, encourage advance advertising of planned firework events and promote alternative forms of activity such as quiet fireworks or other light displays. It also agreed to look at how fireworks are used at Council events with a view to move away from loud fireworks.

The Group were asked to consider three possible options:

- a) discontinue the use of loud fireworks at Council events (partial ban);
- b) discontinue the use of all fireworks at Council events (full ban); or
- c) no change to current events arrangements (no change).

The Community Development Manager delivered a presentation to the Group to help them inform their discussion. The presentation covered:

- Purpose of Review;
- Supporting Information;
- Considerations; and
- Recommendations.

Following the presentation there was a discussion about the impact of fireworks on wildlife, pets, the elderly and those with disabilities. It was noted that Rushcliffe Borough Council only used fireworks at the Christmas lights switch on in West Bridgford, the display lasted four minutes and that no residents had made formal complaints about the display. Some members of the Group therefore believed that no change was required to the use of fireworks at Council events. However, other members of the Group stated that if the Council stopped using loud fireworks it would set an example for residential displays. It was noted that a ban of loud fireworks would reduce noise from 120 decibels to 90 decibels and that other alternatives could be used such as light and drone displays and silent fireworks.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the report of the Executive Manager – Communities be noted;
- b) it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council stops the use of loud fireworks; and
- c) a public communications campaign be launched to encourage external event operators to adopt the Council's approach to the use of fireworks.

21 **Work Programme**

It was RESOLVED that the work programme below be noted.

7 October 2020

- Rushcliffe Nature Strategy
- Flooding and Drainage

28 January 2021

- Future of Edwalton Golf Course
- Rushcliffe Equality Scheme

29 April 2021

- Carbon Management Plan Update
- Dog Fouling, littering and fly tipping – part two

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm.

CHAIRMAN



Community Scrutiny Group

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

Flooding and Drainage

Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. In recent years flooding has had a significant impact on a number of Rushcliffe communities most notably from the recent storms of November 2019 and February 2020. This report seeks to provide an update on the current picture of flooding events in the borough. It will also outline the organisations involved in flood assessment and drainage work, their roles and responsibilities and how they respond to flooding incidents and work with communities. A presentation will also be given by three of the key organisations involved: Nottinghamshire County Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group notes the contents of the report, the responsibilities of those organisations involved in flood assessment and drainage work, and their roles in preparing and recovering from flood incidents.

3. Supporting Information

Flood risk within Rushcliffe

- 3.1. The Borough is at risk from both fluvial river flooding and pluvial surface water flooding. The rivers, classed as 'main' rivers, that run through the Borough are the Trent, Soar, Smite and Devon. All of these rivers have Environment Agency flood alerts and warnings available on them. The flood warning service was created for the public to sign up to it and have alerts and warnings directly text or phoned through to them 24/7. These rivers also have river gauge level readings available online via gov.uk. These give accurate daily readings and in the case of the river Trent and Soar also give a 24hr prediction of expected river levels.
- 3.2. The predominant source of flooding in the most recent flood events has been pluvial flooding. Surface water flooding is less easy to predict due to the nature of the weather systems that generally cause these events creating the heavy sudden down pours that can see a months' worth of rain fall in one day. Combined with often saturated catchments, this leaves the water with nowhere to go and excessive run off can occur in both urban and rural areas.

Although predicting where the rain will fall can't be accurate there are communities in Rushcliffe that we know from experience are prone to surface water flooding issues such as Gotham. This can be due to a number of reasons including topography and geology. Surface water maps are available at gov.uk which show the areas that are naturally susceptible to water collecting. The water often follows the natural flow path or low points in these areas.

Significant recent flood incidents

3.3. Over the last four years, there have been a number of flood events which have had a significant impact on local communities and they include the following;

a) June 2016 - After a period of wet weather, an extreme rainfall event occurred with 30.6mm of rain falling on saturated ground over Gotham in a very short period of time. 36 houses were affected by surface water flooding with a number internally flooded.

b) November 2019 - Storm conditions meant 40 houses were internally flooded during an event deemed a national emergency due to the scale of flooding across the country. The flooding was predominately by surface water. The main communities affected were:

- Tollerton (Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane)
- Gotham
- Bingham
- West Bridgford
- Ruddington
- Sutton Bonington
- Radcliffe on Trent.

c) February 2020 Storm Dennis - over 100 houses internally flooded during an event again deemed a national emergency. The flooding was again predominantly by surface water. The main communities affected were:

- Tollerton (Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane)
- Gotham
- Bingham
- Sutton Bonington
- Radcliffe on Trent
- Cropwell Butler
- East Leake
- Ruddington
- Rempstone
- Colston Bassett
- Cotgrave

Sadly, a number of houses that flooded in November also flooded for a second time during this flood incident.

Key stakeholders

- 3.4. The main risk management authorities involved in flood assessment and drainage work are as follows:
- Nottinghamshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority)
 - Rushcliffe Borough Council
 - Environment Agency
 - Internal drainage board(s)
 - Severn Trent Water.
- 3.5. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires these Risk Management Authorities to:
- Co-operate with each other
 - Act in a manner that is consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England and the local flood risk management strategies developed by Lead Local Flood Authorities
 - Exchange information.
- 3.6. During the meeting, presentations will be delivered by a number of the key agencies involved particularly with regard to surface water flooding; however, the following provides a brief summary of their roles and responsibilities.
- 3.7. **Nottinghamshire County Council** are the Lead Local Flood Authority. They have permissive powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities in Nottinghamshire. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water, groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses).
- 3.8. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, they are required to publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy including an action plan and to report on flooding incidents under Section 19.
- 3.9. A Section 19 Report outlines what happened during a flooding incident and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised or will exercise their responsibilities, but it does not identify specific measures to prevent future flooding. A Section 19 report is initiated when there have been five or more properties internally flooded in any one area
- 3.10. As the Highways Authority Nottinghamshire County Council also have responsibility for the public highways including highway drainage assets.
- 3.11. Nottinghamshire County Council are also a category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond

to emergencies, and control or reduce the impact of an emergency. They deliver this responsibility through their emergency planning team.

- 3.12. **Rushcliffe Borough Council** carry out flood risk management works on minor watercourses in their ownership (outside of Internal Drainage Board areas). They work in partnership with Lead Local Flood Authorities and other Risk Management Authorities to ensure risks are managed effectively. This also includes taking decisions on development in their area. Rushcliffe, as with the County Council, has an emergency planning responsibility under the Civil Contingencies Act. This is delivered under a service level agreement with the County Council. The most obvious example of this activity is the targeted delivery of sandbags to home owners at risk of flooding and the provision of temporary accommodation for those made homeless.
- 3.13. The **Environment Agency** are responsible for flood and coastal erosion risk management activities on main rivers and the coast, regulating reservoir safety, and working in partnership with the Meteorological Office to provide flood forecasts and warnings.
- 3.14. The **Internal Drainage Board** operate within a defined area, which is known as a drainage district. They are responsible for managing water levels in low-lying areas. They are the land drainage authority within their districts and their functions include supervising land drainage and flood defense works on ordinary watercourses.
- 3.15. **Seven Trent Water** manage the risk of flooding to water supply and sewerage facilities and flood risks from the failure of their infrastructure.

Partnership working

- 3.16. All these organisations work together through the Local Resilience Forum and, during the planning phase of flooding, they sit on a formal Flood Group which is chaired by the Environment Agency. Specific flood plans are in place, including for high risk locations such as reservoirs. There is a Rushcliffe Local Flood response plan which is an operational document that focuses on the details of flood risk communities.
- 3.17. In the stage before flooding occurs, all partner agencies receive Meteorological Office weather updates, flood guidance statements and flood alerts and warnings as well as having access to the river gauge level readings. This data allows all agencies to have accurate information and be in a position to effectively plan and prime resources to be ready to tackle any flooding. If an alert is issued at amber level, then the Environment Agency hold a flood advisory service teleconference to update partner agencies on the situation and to facilitate the exchange of information. The Borough Council is represented on this through the Nottinghamshire County Council emergency planning team.
- 3.18. It may become necessary, due to the scale or impact of the flooding, for the police to chair a multi-agency Tactical Coordinating Group. This facilitates

information exchange and provides access to multi agency support and resources.

- 3.19. Unfortunately, in the case of surface water flooding, it is often the problem that heavy rain is predicted for the region but the certainty of where it will occur is low. As a result the flooding event can happen rapidly in a very isolated and concentrated manner with little time for communities to prepare as they would for fluvial events.

Working with Communities

- 3.20. For those communities at risk of flooding there are several engagement projects undertaken by partner agencies to help communities prepare and be resilient.
- 3.21. Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency run a Flood Warden Scheme for communities in both main river and surface water communities at risk of flooding. This scheme also links into a community road closure initiative that allows communities under permission to close designated roads in times of flood to help protect properties from further damage from bow waves from passing traffic.
- 3.22. Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council emergency planning staff work with communities to encourage them to have community emergency plans in place for their highest risks. This allows for key community representatives to be identified, along with resources and those who are vulnerable and more likely to require support.
- 3.23. Rushcliffe Borough Council administer a grant scheme, created in 2015, to assist communities to have flood resources directly in their communities. The flood resilience store grant allows for up to £1050 to pay for a suitable store and flood protection equipment. Allowing the community to self-help and deploy flood equipment quickly when needed.

Recovery

- 3.24. After a flooding event has occurred and subsided there is often a significant clean-up operation of public infrastructure which the Borough Council leads on. In more severe cases, the agencies will work together in the recovery phase with Nottinghamshire County Council leading on the Section 19 flood investigations where internal flooding of five or more properties has occurred.
- 3.25. Practically, on the ground, Rushcliffe Borough Council have also created a team of staff who are able to go door to door to speak to affected residents and offer further help, guidance and support.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

4.1.1. The Council has a Service Level Agreement with Nottinghamshire County Council for a shared Emergency Planning Officer (27k per annum) who deals with and coordinates the council's response to such events.

4.1.2. Due to the unknown nature of flood events, the Council does not provide specific budgets for flood recovery activity. Staffing, temporary accommodation and equipment costs incurred during flood recovery are generally contained within existing budgets. In some circumstances if the Government activates the Bellwin Scheme, the Council could recover 100% of eligible costs above a set threshold. The scheme was activated in November 2019 however, the costs incurred did not meet the threshold and were therefore not recoverable in this case.

4.2. Legal Implications

4.2.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.3. Equalities Implications

4.3.1. There are no specific implications arising from this report.

4.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

4.4.1. The Council will work closely with the Police through the Local Resilience Forum to ensure any community safety issues are addressed before, during and after a flooding event.

5. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The creation of flood resilient communities is an important factor which underpins the maintenance of a high quality of life within the Borough
Efficient Services	A number of services contribute to the delivery of flood prevention and response services and it is important that each are delivered in an efficient and effective manner
Sustainable Growth	Provision of effective drainage is an important requirement through the planning and building control regulatory frameworks
The Environment	It is widely acknowledged that climate change is having an impact on the frequency and nature of weather events that can cause flooding. It is therefore vital that we continue to support the development of flood resilient communities through the work of all key agencies

6. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group notes the contents of the report, the responsibilities of those organisations involved in flood assessment and drainage work, and their roles in preparing and recovering from flood incidents.

For more information contact:	Dave Banks Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk Karen Emery Emergency Planning Officer 0115 9148399 kemery@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices:	None.

This page is intentionally left blank



Communities Scrutiny Group

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

Draft Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2021 -2025

Report of the Executive Manager - Communities

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report presents the draft Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy - Aims and Objectives, developed by the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG) on which the Council are represented.
- 1.2. The Group is being consulted on the issues within the updated strategy, for the period 2021 - 2025 to allow councillors to influence its development, to ensure it meets the needs of the Council and allow the Council to subsequently adopt this Strategy. It is planned that the updated Strategy be completed by the end of 2020.
- 1.3. The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 - 2020 was presented to Cabinet on 10 November 2015, following consultation with the Community Development Group on 14 July 2015. This incorporated tree and woodland policies both in a dedicated section and as a recurring theme throughout the document. It was resolved that the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 - 2020 be adopted and endorsed the approach of incorporating a tree and woodlands policy into this Strategy.
- 1.4. In January 2020, the Government reintroduced the Environment Bill, which is currently making its way through Parliament. The draft provisions indicate the Government's current intentions to introduce "mandatory biodiversity net gain". Biodiversity net gain follows on from the Government's aim in its 25 Year Environment Plan to "leave the environment in a better state than we found it". Broadly speaking, "biodiversity net gain", as set out in the Environment Bill, requires development to deliver at least a 10 per cent improvement in "biodiversity value".
- 1.5. Council resolved, in July 2020, to scrutinise the feasibility of sowing native wild flower seeds along the road verges that it manages and to put forward recommendations to Cabinet.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) consider the draft Nature Conservation Strategy - Aims and Objectives
- b) make comment and input into the developing Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2021 - 2025

- c) endorse that the RNCSIG commit to develop guidance on Bio-Diversity net gain related to planning development in response to the Environment Bill currently making its way through Parliament.

3. Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1. The object of this Strategy is to protect and enhance Rushcliffe's wildlife interest, whilst helping achieve the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives.
- 3.2. The current adopted Nature Conservation Strategy runs to the end of 2020 and needs updating for its work to continue.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy is a partnership document of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (the Strategy Group), which brings together statutory agencies and voluntary bodies, with the Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust playing leading roles, but encompassing the results of wide-ranging consultations with individuals, groups and organisations.
- 4.2. The Council is represented on the Strategy Group by the Environmental Sustainability Officer.
- 4.3. The Strategy is produced by the Strategy Group, guiding the work of all the partners. Previous iterations have been adopted by the Borough Council and directs the Council's work on Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.
- 4.4. It is expected that the Strategy covers the following:
- Overview of Rushcliffe's Wildlife
 - Successes of the 2016-2020 Strategy
 - Principal Habitats Found in Rushcliffe
 - Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)
 - Designated Wildlife Sites
 - Nature Reserves
 - Rushcliffe's Landscapes
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Climate Change
 - Community Involvement
 - Planning Policies and the Protection of Wildlife and Habitats
 - Other Policies Drivers
 - Nature Conservation Aims and Objectives
 - Key Target Indicators.
- 4.5. The section on Principle Habitats will set out the importance of the main habitats found in Rushcliffe, including for Woodland and Trees and Species Rich Grasslands. It suggests what policies partners should take to protect and enhance these habitats. It is proposed to include a commitment to:
- Promote appropriate new woodland planting, particularly where linked to existing woods

- Develop tree-planting schemes, carbon offset schemes and community orchards
- Promote sympathetic woodland management
- Use tree preservation orders for threatened valuable amenity trees
- Encourage sympathetic management of other grassland and examine options to create/extend native species rich grassland
- Support the County Notified Road Verge scheme and seeking to ensure road verges receive appropriate mowing regimes and are protected from excessive winter salting.

4.6. Work by partners on the 2016-2020 Strategy highlights include:

- The introduction of active management of Dewberry Hill and Lily Ponds in Ratcliffe on Trent
- The establishment of tree wardens in Rushcliffe and supply of 5,329 free trees to the public and 363 trees to parishes and communities between April 2018 and April 2020
- An increase in nature conservation volunteering to 12,591 hours in 2018 in comparison to 8,378 hours in 2014 and 3,138 in 2004
- 23 projects supported with Rushcliffe Borough Council bio-diversity grants
- Barn Owl which is an indicator of a health environment with population growth - 126 chicks ringed in 2019 in comparison to 4 in 2000 and 47 in 2015.

4.7. An annual report is produced on the progress of the Strategy. The latest report, published in 2019 covering the work carried out in 2018, is available for inspection as a background paper.

4.8. The Strategy Group is now consulting on the developing Strategy and would value the input and comment of members of the Communities Scrutiny Group.

4.9. A wider public consultation will follow; this will be primarily via partner websites (including the council's website) and social media. Interested organisations including parish councils and the Borough Council will be written to and invited to contribute.

4.10. A final draft version of the Strategy will be returned to Communities Scrutiny Group in 2021 for endorsement and to seek commitment in the delivery of the Strategy.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

5.1. The Strategy provides an evidence-based approach to biodiversity management which supports a balanced approach to development throughout the Borough.

5.2. Not adopting the Strategy could result in nature conservation being inadequately considered during major new developments.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

6.1.1. The officer support costs of assisting the delivery of this Strategy are met within existing budgets. This includes a Service Level Agreement with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for £15,750 per annum.

6.1.2. The Council also provides Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Support Grants with a budget of £6,000 per annum to assist in delivering the Strategy's aims and objectives.

6.1.3. On the 9 January 2018, Cabinet resolved to establish a £50,000 grant scheme for a three-year period to support tree protection and promotion in Rushcliffe which enable the delivery of a free tree scheme and parish tree scheme. This grant is due to conclude at the end of financial year 2020/21.

6.2. Legal Implications

6.2.1 Supports the Council in exercising its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, enacted by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

6.2.2 The emerging Environment Bill 2019-2021 is likely to extend the requirement of the 'Environment Duties' under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and require the provision of Biodiversity Net Gain to planning permissions.

6.3. Equalities Implications

6.3.1 Provision of high-quality nature conservation resources across the borough supports all residents and can help address health inequalities.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

6.4.1 Section 17 highlights that local authorities, when carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area. It is therefore important to give due consideration to community safety issues in the development of nature conservation strategies.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Although the environment is usually discussed within the context of sustainability, it is equally important for an individual's quality of life. Indeed, environmental conditions not only affect human health and well-being directly, but also indirectly, as they may have adverse effects on ecosystems, biodiversity, or even more extreme consequences such as natural disasters
-----------------	--

Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	It is critically important the significant growth projected in the Borough is sustainable and takes into consideration nature conservation and the bio-diversity net gain targets from developments as required by the emergent Environment Bill
The Environment	The report supports all aspects of the Environment theme of the Corporate Strategy

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) consider the draft Nature Conservation Strategy - Aims and Objectives
- b) comment and input into the developing Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2021 – 2025
- c) Endorse that the RNCSIG commit to develop guidance on Bio-Diversity net gain related to planning development in response to the Environment Bill currently making its way through Parliament

For more information contact:	Dave Mitchell Executive Manager - Communities 0115 9148267 dmitchell@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 – 2020 The Nature of Rushcliffe 2018 Annual Report – published August 2019 Cabinet, 9 January 2018 – Options for Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Draft Nature Conservation Strategy 2021-2025 – Aims and Objectives Appendix 2 – Draft Nature Conservation Strategy 2021-2025 forward, contents and acronyms

NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2021-25
(DRAFT)

STRATEGIC AIM:

To protect and enhance nature conservation in Rushcliffe, help mitigate the effects of climate change on wildlife and provide ready access to wildlife rich green spaces. There will be a particular emphasis on species-rich grassland, wetland and woodland habitats, and species characteristic of the Borough such as grizzled skipper, great crested newts and brown hare. This will be achieved through forming effective partnerships, brought together through the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG).

OBJECTIVES:

1) Promote Landscape Scale Conservation to create a more resilient natural environment, by:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue using the Focal Areas identified in the Biodiversity Opportunity Matching Mapping exercise to target action for landscape scale nature conservation projects (Partners: RNCSIG, NWT, RBC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeking opportunities for delivery of aspirational large-scale projects, with particular emphasis on improving connectivity across the landscape or catchments (Partners: RNCSIG, NWT, RBC, PCs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide advice and support to organisations whose land holdings or interests have a significant role in nature conservation in Rushcliffe. These might be private landowners, businesses, parish councils, friends groups and other organisations etc (Partners: NWT, RNCSIG, RBC, NCC, , CRT, NBAG, TVIDB)

2) Promote the maintenance and enhancement of nature reserves, by:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeking to ensure that all nature reserves have a current Management Plan (Partners: NWT, RBC, PCs, Friends Groups)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeking to ensure that all nature reserves have sufficient resources available to deliver the management plan and assist with provision of resources wherever possible. (Partners: NWT, RBC, PCs, Friends Groups)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encouraging local community involvement in the management of nature reserves (Partners: NWT, RBC, Friends Groups, PCs, TCV, SNG)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

3) Promote sympathetic land management for wildlife in rural and urban areas, by:

a.	The sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) through provision of advice and/or signposting to useful resources. (Partners: NWT, NFaW, NFU, DEFRA, NBW, CLA, NE)
----	---

b.	Encouraging farmers to develop sympathetic management practices and increase the take up of agri-environment schemes through provision of advice or signposting to useful resources. (Partners: NFaW, NWT, NFU, RuBOP, CLA, NE)
c.	Encouraging wildlife friendly management of buildings, corporate landscaping, public open space, school grounds and private gardens by provision of advice or signposting. Partners: RBC, NCC, NWT, CRT, EA)
d.	Supporting programmes to benefit national priority species and habitats and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species and habitats (especially neutral and calcareous grasslands, native woodlands and wetlands) as appropriate (Partners: NWT, NBW, RBC, EA, NBAG, TVIDB)
e.	Promoting the management of the existing Notified Road Verges and work with partners to maintain existing habitat and create additional habitats alongside our transport corridors. (Partners: NCC, Via East Mids, Highways England, Network Rail, RBC, NWT, CRT)
f.	Trees and Woodland (to be developed)
g.	Water – Rivers and Canals (to be developed)

4) Support monitoring of Rushcliffe's biodiversity, by:

a.	Liaising with and working in closer partnership with NBGRC in relation to species monitoring and the Local Wildlife Site network (Partners: NWT, RBC, NCC, NBGRC, Friends)
b.	Promoting participation in species survey programmes, as well as encouraging local initiatives to record wildlife. (Partners: NBGRC, NWT, RBC, specialist wildlife groups), ensuring that records are submitted to the relevant recorders or groups
c.	Supporting the work of the Notts Biodiversity Action Group by promoting BAG activities and reporting against LBAP targets. (Partners: NWT, RBC, SNG, NCC, NBAG)

5) Raise awareness of nature conservation issues by:

a.	Publicising the work of partners and local nature conservation groups, as well as wildlife related issues through news releases and social media posts. (Partners: NWT, RBC, RCC, NBW, NCC, TCV, Friends Groups)
b.	Extending wildlife education opportunities by supporting youth wildlife groups and enhancing wildlife education programmes in schools, colleges and Adult Education. (Partners: NWT, RBC, NCC, educational providers, uniformed groups)
c.	Promoting contacts, exchange of knowledge and resource sharing amongst groups and organisations associated with nature conservation locally by running events such as the Conservation Volunteer's Forum. (Partners: RBC, NWT, SNG, NBAG, Friends Groups)
d.	Promoting access to wildlife and countryside, specifically promoting disabled access where appropriate by circulating promotional materials and maintaining relevant websites. (Partners: RBC, NCC, NWT, SNG)

6) Seek to influence the impact of development on wildlife, by:

a.	Ensuring that local planning policies relating to biodiversity and environmental issues are based on the principles set out in the National Policy Planning Framework and national
----	--

	best practice both in terms of protection and mitigation. (Partners: RBC, NWT, CPRE, NCC, NBAG, EA)
b.	Ensuring that opportunities are taken to benefit people and wildlife through the design of buildings and green infra-structure and seek to implement Natural England's ANGSt standards and national best practice. (Partners: RBC, NCC, CPRE, CLA, NFU, NE)
c.	Using Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders to help protect important features. (Partners: RBC, NCC, NWT, CPRE)
d.	Implementing policies to reduce levels of environmental pollution; seek to achieve good ecological status for rivers; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change. (Partners: RBC, Catchment partners, NCC, EA, CPRE, NWT, TVIDB)
e.	Seeking to influence Regional, National and European decision making to promote wildlife friendly policies by commenting on relevant consultations. (Partners: NCC, RBC, NE, NWT, CPRE, EA, NDLNP, TRT)
f.	Promoting the use of native local provenance planting by signposting to current best practice guidelines (Partners : RBC, NCC, NWT)

7) Supporting the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy, by:

a.	Continued support for the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG) in helping deliver the strategy's objectives. (Partners: RBC, NWT, NBAG, Friends Groups)
b.	Producing an annual report on what has been achieved to progress nature conservation in Rushcliffe and the deficiencies that need to be addressed. (Partners: RNCSIG)
c.	Reviewing the strategy during 2025, or sooner if appropriate. (Partners: RNCSIG)

This page is intentionally left blank

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2021 – 2025 (DRAFT)

FOREWORD

In 2018 the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) declared a Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis, stating “that the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis are inextricably linked and must be addressed together. Restoring biodiversity has the potential to both mitigate against the effects of climate change, through enhancing carbon-storing habitats ... and helping society and nature to adapt to the inevitable challenges we face from a changing climate”. CIEEM called for action ... through nature-based solutions”.

In 2020 an International statement of intent, known as the Edinburgh Declaration, calling for bold action on biodiversity loss has been made in Scotland by subnational governments, cities and local authorities.

The community have consistently shown that there is a great deal of interest in the natural environment of Rushcliffe. When residents are aware that sensitive wildlife sites are threatened, they are quick to show their concern. This strategy not only sets out to try to safeguard existing known sites of interest, but also to encourage the development and improvement of new sites, while seeking to address the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis we all face. The strategy also seeks to preserve the existing links between wildlife sites and to establish new links to allow the spread of wild native plants and animals.

The objective of the strategy is not only to benefit wildlife; visitors and residents will also benefit through the opportunities to observe and enjoy nature. A wildlife-rich environment has been shown to provide health benefits and economic benefits. Properly pursued, the strategy will benefit not only those who live and work in Rushcliffe now, but also future generations.

Public interest must be translated from words to action. Everyone has a responsibility to do their bit and this strategy outlines actions that statutory and voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals working together can implement.

This strategy replaces previous strategies produced in 2003, 2010 and 2015. The strategy has been developed by the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG), which brings together statutory agencies and voluntary bodies, with the Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust playing leading roles, in partnership with a wide group of individuals, groups and organisations. This strategy supports the work of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, implementing the county Biodiversity Action Plan at the borough level.

Changes in government guidance on sustainable development, biodiversity and planning, climate change and changes in legislation all emphasise the importance of effective environmental protection and wildlife conservation for meeting the aims of sustainable development, and the need to provide a good quality environment in which people can live and work.

The major organisations shown below commend this strategy to everyone who reads it. We will do our bit, so please join us and do yours.

Rushcliffe Borough Council



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust



Nottinghamshire Biodiversity
Action Group



Nottinghamshire County
Council



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
CONTENTS	2
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	3
1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2) OVERVIEW OF RUSHCLIFFE'S WILDLIFE	5
3) SUCCESSES OF THE 2011-2015 STRATEGY	6
4) PRINCIPAL HABITATS FOUND IN RUSHCLIFFE	7
5) NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (LBAP)	9
6) DESIGNATED WILDLIFE SITES	11
7) NATURE RESERVES	12
8) RUSHCLIFFE'S LANDSCAPES	12
9) GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	15
10) CLIMATE CHANGE	15
11) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	16
12) PLANNING POLICIES AND THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND HABITATS	16
13) OTHER POLICIES DRIVERS	17
14) NATURE CONSERVATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	19
15) KEY TARGET INDICATORS	21

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN DOCUMENT

BG	British Gypsum
BTC	Bingham Town Council
TCV	The Conservation Volunteers (Previously BTCV)
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BuC	Butterfly Conservation
CA	Countryside Agency
CLA	Country Land & Business Association
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CRT	Canal & River Trust (Previously British Waterways)
CTC	Cotgrave Town Council
CE	Crown Estate
DEFRA	Dept. of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FoG's	Friends of Groups
FoRCP	Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park
GPC	Gotham Parish Council
IWA	Inland Waterways Association
KPC	Keyworth Parish Council
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site (Previously SINC's)
MFDS	Manor Farm Donkey Sanctuary
NBAG	Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group
NBGRC	Nottinghamshire Biological & Geological Records Centre
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers Union
NFaW	Nottinghamshire Farming and Wildlife
NBW	Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NRV	Notified Road Verges
NU	University of Nottingham
NWT	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
PCs	Parish/Town Councils
RBC	Rushcliffe Borough Council
RCAN	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
RNCSIG	Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RuBOP	Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project
SBPC	Sutton Bonington Parish Council
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STW	Severn Trent Water
TVIDB	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
Vol's	Volunteers
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



Communities Scrutiny Group

Wednesday 7 October 2020

Work Programme

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services

1. Summary

- 1.1. The work programme is a standing item for discussion at each meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group. In determining the proposed work programme due regard has been given to matters usually reported to the Group and the timing of issues to ensure best fit within the Council's decision making process.
- 1.2. The table does not take into account any items that need to be considered by the Group as special items. These may occur, for example, through changes required to the Constitution or financial regulations, which have an impact on the internal controls of the Council.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group agrees the work programme as set out in the table below.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

	Items / Reports
28 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future of Edwalton Golf Course• Dog Fouling, Littering and Fly Tipping – part two• Rushcliffe Equality Scheme – part two
29 April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon Management Plan Update

For more information contact:	Peter Linfield Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8349 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices (if any):	None.

This page is intentionally left blank