What Is the 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy'?

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy was enacted (with other government legislation under the Environment Act, such as The Environmental Land Management (ELM) strategy, and the Sustainable Land Use Framework) to halt the catastrophic loss of Biodiversity in England. England is among the most nature-depleted countries in the world, and Wiltshire plays its part in the loss. 'Wiltshire and Swindon' is No.36 of forty-eight Areas instructed under the Policy Paper published on 30th June 2023 to set up and enact LNRS. That document states 'For Nature to recover: targeted, coordinated, and collaborative action will be needed'.

At present the LNRS for Wiltshire and Swindon is at the mapping stage, and that is the bulk of its task. At this current stage it is rather weak on including our rivers in the mapping - this is a huge omission. This is not only a matter of preventing water pollution, it is also the preservation of 'blue-green corridors' so vital to our biodiversity.

Alison Levy is the LNRS Lead officer at Wiltshire Council. She gave a talk to CFBoA on the 9th July in which she rattled through the very dense information she has to deal with. Since then, there have been various webinars and surveys to try and enable members of the public to understand more, and to have a go at the interactive map as it exists so far.

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8288/Wiltshire-and-Swindon-Local-Nature-Recovery

We can all do our bit to help restore and maintain UK Biodiversity: CFBoA members are familiar with this!

https://royalsociety.org/news-resources/projects/biodiversity/how-can-you-protect-biodiversity

There are two locations in Bradford on Avon which exemplify how LNRS should be used in collaboration with Wiltshire Planning: The Old Golf Course/Town Tip (where a 'Keep it Green' campaign is running), and Avonleigh Orchards organic farm, which supplies customers with locally grown organic produce, but is under pressure from a decision to build a steel fabrication works adjacent to the farm. Further up river, purposeful collaboration is vital to protect the river Avon at the Cooper Tires site in Melksham, and this is also an issue in Chippenham. These locations, and the risk to biodiversity, were again brought to the attention of our MP Brian Mathew, at an event organised by CFBoA on 12th October.

At Westminster level the LNRS deserves and requires support but also scrutiny over its application. Too often, biodiversity renewal and increased housing supply are presented as 'either/or'. This does not have to be the case, and is an outmoded approach. Everyone can continue to exert pressure on all fronts to build energy efficient , affordable homes, which enable residents to live full lives in harmony with nature.

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/becky-pullinger/planning-success-how-new-uk-government-can-deliver-housebuilding-targets

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