

Wivenhoe Local Nature Plan

WTC Planning Committee 7th Nov 2023

Background: context, origin and status

- Global biodiversity crisis
 - Environment Act duty to “protect and enhance biodiversity”, and
 - Govt policy of Local (County-led) Nature Recovery Strategies
- Essex County Council’s Climate Action Commission
 - Climate Focus Area = Colne & Blackwater river catchments
 - Parish/Town Councils to produce own Local Nature Plans

= Wivenhoe Local Nature Plan

- 1 of 3 pilots (alongside Tiptree and Stisted) sponsored by ECC
- No route map or format to follow
- Status = Appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan

Inputs: Community Engagement

- **Community Workshop** (May) – 27 residents, key priorities = gardens, development, Council leadership, green spaces
- **Public survey** (July) – 52 respondents, confirms support for LNP, for workshop priorities and stresses leadership role of the Council
- **Technical Group** (current) – 5 local expert naturalists identifying key places for nature and how best to manage them; connectivity for nature and key policies for nature in Wivenhoe
- **Neighbourhood Plan** (for review) – existing priorities focus on environment and provide key policy contexts for the LNP

Outputs: Policies and actions

- **Development policies** which may affect Planning policy, i.e. identifying priorities for planning gain
- **Management policies** which would govern day to day management of i.e. specific green spaces, or governing public access
- **Actions** - specific measures that should be take to protect and enhance nature and biodiversity in and around the town
- **Collaboration** - few if any of the ideas already emerging can be completed by any group alone

Process: stages of development

- **Create material and draft** (current)
- **Working draft** (January) for Environment and Planning Committees
- **Consultation version** (March) for Full Council
- **Consultation** (April/May) to test proposals

- What are the other relevant issues?
 - Local Plan review; Neighbourhood Plan Group