

COMMUNITY NATURE PLAN 2018-2020

PROJECT REVIEW

Listed below are key projects which demonstrate the importance of the Council's biodiversity partners to the delivery of the Community Nature Plan on an ongoing basis, particularly its health and wellbeing theme. These are outlined on page 10 & 11 of the 2020-2022 Community Nature Plan, the subject of this Executive report.

- **The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)** leads on, and provides expertise for, the successful 'Wild Banbury' project and a new 'Wild Bicester' project which has recently been launched and jointly funded by the Bicester team, healthy placeshaping and wellbeing. Both Wild Banbury and Wild Bicester provide opportunities for conservation volunteering, connecting with nature as well as benefits for wildlife habitat. BBOWT has also recently launched a series of online Wild Parishes webinars.
- **Wild Oxfordshire** supports local community projects with ecological advice. Following on from organising a successful 'Green Zone' at the 2019 Kidlington Gala Day, their community ecologist is currently involved in developing a green space project in Kidlington led by the Council's healthy placeshaping team and helping with improving the biodiversity of PC owned green spaces
- **RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)** owns and manages the Otmoor Nature Reserve which is a haven for wildlife in the District with visitor trails, bird hides and a wetland watch lookout building
- **Warriner School Farm** has been unable to provide its usual programme of primary school and youth group visits in 2020 about the importance of the natural environment as a food source, for its health benefits and for its intrinsic value but has been actively supporting socially distanced community events with family packs of nature-based activities
- **Muddy Feet Training** delivers forest school and outdoor learning sessions to schools in the District and is currently working with special needs children at Bardwell School in Bicester. The Council also provided funding for Muddy Feet to develop a resource pack for teachers and parents 'Transitioning back to school during the corona virus pandemic'
- **Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA)** has provided support to improve outdoor facilities in Deddington, Adderbury and Milcombe relating to housing development in 2018. OPFA assisted Deddington and Stratton Audley Parish Councils who received MHCLG funding towards pocket park projects in 2019; and Swalcliffe Parish Council with its plans for the Swalcliffe Community Woodland
- **Cherwell Swift Conservation Project** organises annual monitoring of swifts throughout the District involving local people. The information gathered is sent to the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre who map the data and make it available to the Council for planning purposes