

Eden Locality Board Workshop 2.10.24.

Report by Michael Hanley

## 1. Local Nature Recovery

Nicola Jordan (NJ): Locally there has been a reduction of 32% in birds, 68% in wild flowers. This is due to habitat degradation (50%), exploitation, pollution (20%), climate change (10%), invasive species (10%).

Nature recovery: Halt and reverse decline, managing and protecting existing habitats, specific action on particular species, building a resilient landscape for the future.

Why is it important?: Provision of raw materials and food, recreational activities, health and wellbeing, purification of water, employment.

Megan Lindeman (ML): Discussed Environment Act of 2021. Everywhere to have LNRSs ( Local Nature Recovery Strategies) by March 2025. Need to develop priorities and measures. There will be a wide range of stake-holders: WAFC and Cumberland Councils, Lake District National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park. Two parts: statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map, identifying habitats and species, threats and pressures and opportunities.

Local Habitat Map: Areas of particular importance and areas that could become important for biodiversity.

LNRS will be an overview rather than deal with fine management. It will be non-binding and will not give any level of protection. It doesn't give permission to create a habitat.

There will be six themes: woodland, grassland, built environment, coastal, wetland and moorland.

Potential users: community groups, local organisations, volunteering opportunities, schools.

P Bell (PB, LD): How will you involve young people?

NJ: We will send training packs to schools.

PB: Suggested they involve the local Youth Parliament.

M Eyles (ME, LD): Asked about SSSIs

M Hanley (MH, L): Asked about the use of neonicotinoid pesticides (which are very toxic to bees and pollinators) and the verdict of the use of pine martens in the suppression of grey squirrels.

ML: Yes, we have talked about the red squirrel and the need to look at other things. This might depend on the pine marten and this in our potential re-introduction group. As far as pesticides go, we publish advice on environmentally friendly ways of reducing pesticides and fertilizers.

## 2. Flood Risk Management Strategy

WAFC Officer: The Environment Agency has the lead on all strategy. They analyse the impact and cause of flooding and identify areas of risk. They grant aid to deliver schemes. They are also involved in water course changes. If anyone wants to change a water course, they have to get permission. There are projects concerning flood resilience and coastal erosion. This area was previously under the county council.

Strategy: legislation, coastal protection, flooding, ground and surface water,

J Derbyshire (JD, LD): We need to look at the risk of ground water flooding from the point of planning.

PB: Discussed the rising water table and a map, is this continuing to rise?

Officer: A map of the ground water levels is definitely something we need to do. Last year this was a problem in Ulverston.

A Connell (AC, LD): The involvement of Cumbria County Council with flooding in the past seemed very peripheral compared to the Environment Agency (EA). ( Storm Desmond in Appleby due to the river overflowing).

Officer: We have worked with local farmers and others to put in measures to keep the water going into the rivers.

JD: Discussed reinvigorating emergency response groups.

Officer: There is a brilliant group in Ulverston.

Kellie Bradburn-Sims (KBS, WAFC Community Officer): Discussed PAGs and action plans. We could do with some technical insight.

Officer: Stewart Taylor is the officer who covers Eden. He can help groups in the Eden area.

### 3. Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure.

James Hulme (JH, WAFC officer): Discussed funding from LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure ) fund. The EV strategy was published in November 2023. It looked at residents who don't have driveways (off-road parking). The deadline for banning the sale of new internal combustion engined vehicles was 2030, but this was pushed back to 2035 by the last government. £300k is needed for each EV charge point. There are about 312 at the moment, 1800 are planned. An additional £2.2 million in funding is expected by the end of the year.

Four types of charging situation are planned: destination charging ( supermarkets, car parks, hotels, railways), home charging (on street: gullies, lighting columns, bollards), journey charging (service stations, car parks) and workplace charging.

Of the 312 charging stations, 65 are on council land. In Barrow, there are 36 twenty two kilowatt chargers at 10 sites.

The gully method (for home charging without off-road parking) is provided by the firm Kerbo Charge which is currently being trialled by WAFC. This method involves creating a small tunnel in the pavement with two rubber blades sealing the roof of the conduit. The cable can be pushed down into the conduit. The cost of this is about £800-900. There is a £350 grant to help buy the 7 Kw charger. Planning permission may be required.

ME: Asked about planning permission. Couldn't the council have a way of getting around the planning application fee? Couldn't you do a block of applications? Also will there be road markings to cordon off the area next to the conduit?

JH: Yes we could look at block applications for chargers. No the owner will not be able to put markings on the road. If there is some one else's car parked there, a longer cable will be needed.

MH: Asked about the charge arm method (the cable swings on an arm about six feet above the pavement).

JH: No we will not be using this method because there are problems with it. On-street bollards with charge points on them are planned. Public charging is always more expensive.