

Mapping project update for KPC 9 June 2023

KPC are asked:

- To approve the final report of the Mapping Project (report and summary attached) prepared by Wild Business on behalf of KPC with funding from SDNPA.
- To approve the setting up of the Kingston Nature Recovery Group as a sub-group of KPC to take the work on nature recovery forward.

Background

1. The outcome of the Mapping project is a detailed report which provides a baseline setting out the state of nature in Kingston Parish and outlines opportunities for nature recovery. The challenge now is to make the best use we can of this information and translate it into concrete actions for supporting nature recovery in the parish.
 2. Britain is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. Improving bio-diversity will help to tackle climate change. We are uniquely placed in Kingston to make a contribution given the rich natural assets we have.
 3. The opportunities that have been identified include proposals which relate to agricultural and downland and include:
 - Conservation and restoration in protected areas (SSSIs)
 - Expanding the coverage of nationally important calcareous grassland
 - Regenerative agriculture
 - Proposals for the management of St Pancras Green as a people and nature recreation zone
 - Increasing the vegetation structure in the village through wilder boundaries, verges and gardens
 - Adopting principles of nature recovery for the village as set out in the report.
1. Ellie Rotheray (University of Sussex) will present the report to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 June.
 2. Funding for the mapping project was secured partly on the agreement with SDNPA that learning would be shared. To this end it is important that information about the project and ongoing development is available to a wider audience through the KPC website.
 3. The mapping project came about following the development of KPC environmental policy and action plan, through the work of a group of interested people (Action Group members, councillors and interested residents with environmental expertise). A more focused group, a sub-group of KPC, the Kingston Nature Recovery Group, has been set up to take this work forward. The group will be chaired by Helen Sida (an experienced environmentalist) and will have representation from KPC, the SDNPA and interested residents with support from committed environmentalists. The group will regularly report back to KPC.

Christine Moulder
May 2023