

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
8 SEPTEMBER 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director - Operations

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CITY COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT 2010/11

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide information with respect to progress against the actions and targets contained in the PCC Biodiversity Strategy (2010).
- b) Allow feedback to be given by the Committee with respect to progress against the existing strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider the progress made against the City Councils 2010 Biodiversity Strategy and to make any recommendations with regards to the future implementation of the Strategy.**

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

3.1 The 2010 strategy contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA via the LAA Biodiversity target which is based on National Indicator 197 (improved local biodiversity), now replaced by National Indicator 160. It is more generally linked to the Community Strategy and National Indicators via the Cleaner/Greener agenda and sections of these documents. It has been agreed with the Greater Peterborough Partnership that reporting against the PCC Biodiversity Strategy will be used, along with other reporting, to give a more detailed picture of the breadth of the actions taking place for biodiversity under the LAA Biodiversity target.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 This report is submitted to the Committee by the PCC Biodiversity Officer Working Group as a progress report for 2010/11 against the existing PCC Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy was agreed in 2010 with a requirement for annual reporting on progress against the specific actions and targets of the strategy.

4.2 This progress report is against the 2010 PCC Biodiversity Strategy.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The key issues which the Committee need to consider are laid out in the appendices. All progress on required actions since the 2009/10 progress report have been achieved from within the Council's existing budgets. Future ability to progress against the 2010 strategy will be dependent on some changes to land management and maintaining existing resources where possible.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The 2010 Biodiversity report included consideration of cost and resource implications. It was made clear that the actions set out in the 2010 report would have to be achieved within existing resources and that it was envisaged that biodiversity gain could be made through adjusting rather than completely changing current practices. The adoption of the vision statement by Full Council strongly reinforced this.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation and discussion has been undertaken with the Executive Director of Operations and the City Council's Biodiversity Officer Working Group.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Feedback from the Committee will be used to inform the future focus of the PCC Biodiversity Officer Working Group.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40).
- Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty, Defra, May 2007.
- Peterborough City Council Approach to Biodiversity submitted to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee in 2010.
- Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy (including Rural Vision Strategy and Environment Capital manifesto).

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix A: Report of progress against actions and targets of Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity Strategy
- 10.2 Appendix B: Full reports from the members of the Biodiversity Officer Working Group

Appendix A: Report of progress against actions and targets of Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity Strategy

	Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy	Update on Progress/Action underway	Barrier to Progress	Future Action
1	<p>All City Council and contract staff directly involved in the management of open space should be given training and guidance on good management practice to safeguard and promote Biodiversity.</p> <p>This should include the identification of 'model' sites to demonstrate best practice.</p>	<p>The Natural and Historic Environment Team has continued general liaison and advice to officers and departments from across the City Council with respect to Biodiversity. In addition to those specifically represented on the Biodiversity Officer Working Group these also for example include highways and rights of way officers.</p>	N/A	Continue this role.
2	<p>Where PCC owned or managed land forms part of a wildlife corridor its management will aim to facilitate its role as a part of the ecological network it is part of.</p>	<p>An extension to management has now been successfully employed on Stamford etc road verge County Wildlife Site, Ailsworth which links with Ailsworth Marsh and Green Lane CWS.</p> <p>In addition, some financial resources have now been allocated towards extensions to the four other Road Verge CWS recommended in the Biodiversity Strategy (at Wittering, Helpston, Upton & Southorpe). Work is currently being undertaken to negotiate these into the new Enterprise contract.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A Discussions on-going with Enterprise.</p>	<p>Continue this situation</p> <p>Continue to progress negotiations with Enterprise.</p>
3	<p>Secure funding for enhancement works and SSSI specific management for the PCC owned part of the Orton Pit SSSI.</p>	<p>This is the only PCC owned SSSI and consists of part of the treebelt which runs along the southern edge of the Fletton Parkway. A woodland grant scheme could be sought to cover a significant proportion of SSSI specific</p>	<p>Limited resources existed within City Services to develop such a bid. However the newly formed Enterprise contract should now be able to progress this work. The grant application could form</p>	<p>Enterprise to agree timetable with PCC for developing a Woodland Grant Scheme bid.</p>

6

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		works within the Treebelt, however this has yet to be applied for.	part of wider scheme covering majority of PCC-owned woodlands.	
4/5	All PCC County Wildlife Sites to be positive management to conserve and where possible enhance the site for the criteria for which they are designated CWS.	<p>The re-surveying of all wildlife sites has continued during the reporting period which is in part covered under a service level agreement between the Wildlife Trust and the City Council.</p> <p>Eye Green Gravel Pit: The existing management by the Wildlife Trust on behalf on the City Council continues to ensure this site remains in positive management.</p> <p>The Boardwalks: Existing management has been maintained however external funding for restoration and habitat creation works as well as works to paths and signage has yet to be sought. It is anticipated that in the longer term a similar arrangement with the Wildlife Trust could be achieved as at Eye Green.</p> <p>Debdale pond: Existing management has been maintained during reporting period.</p> <p>Broadway Cemetery: Existing management has been maintained during reporting period.</p> <p>Eastfield Cemetery: Wildlife Site status</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Funding bid will be required to be made by Enterprise therefore staff resources will need to be allocated to deliver this.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continued budget allocations for SLA with Wildlife Trust essential.</p> <p>Continue this situation.</p> <p>Enterprise to agree timetable with PCC for developing funding bid.</p> <p>Continue this situation.</p> <p>Continue this situation.</p> <p>Carry out re-survey to confirm</p>

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		<p>is currently incompatible with the ongoing burials at this site. Works with respect to the wildlife site are therefore not compatible with the sites primary function. It is therefore likely to be de-designated following a final resurvey.</p> <p>City managed ancient woodland (Pocock's Wood, Grimeshaw Wood, Highlees Spinney, Spencer's Hurn & Water Spinney): Minimal works carried out during reporting period due to lack of financial resources available. External HLF funding bid currently being developed by PECT in partnership with PCC/ Enterprise to address lack of management.</p> <p>Holywell Fish Ponds: Existing management has been maintained during reporting period.</p> <p>PCC managed County Wildlife Site Road Verges (Southey Lodge verge; Stamford Rd./Heath Rd./ Ailsworth Rd./King St. verges; Barnack road verges & Bedford Purlieus-Wittering road verge): Existing management has been maintained involving a cut at the end of the growing season (late September depending on weather conditions) and removal of cuttings.</p> <p>An additional cut at the start of the</p>	<p>In addition to HLF bid, it is considered that in order to achieve management required as outlined in Ancient Woodland Report, EWGS funding application will need to be made by Enterprise, therefore staffing resources will need to be allocated to deliver this.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A Discussions on-going with</p>	<p>whether de-designation required.</p> <p>Enterprise to agree timetable with PCC for developing EWGS application. Enterprise/ PCC to continue to work with PECT to develop larger funding bid for woodland restoration/ updated management plan.</p> <p>Continue this situation.</p> <p>Continue this situation.</p> <p>Continue to progress</p>

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		<p>growing season to reduce standing grass growth has not yet been implemented. However some financial resources have now been allocated to this task.</p> <p>Onsite signing of CWS road verges to assist PCC staff, contractors and utilities companies continues to be implemented with the addition of 23 new signposts having recently been installed within Barnack ward.</p> <p>Following its recent designation as a County Wildlife Site, 1400 metres of verge at the south end of Highfield Road (700m of road length) has been added to the County Wildlife Site management specification for road verges.</p>	<p>Enterprise.</p> <p>N/A On-going work</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>negotiations with Enterprise.</p> <p>Continue to progress installation of new signs.</p> <p>Continue this situation.</p>
6	<p>Employ best practice procedures to deal with invasive non-native species on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.</p> <p>Otherwise the occurrence of invasive non-native weed species should be reported by PCC officers where this is observed as a result of carrying out their normal duties.</p>	<p>The Boardwalks LNR is the only relevant known site containing Orange Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Initial treatment of Knotweed appears to have been relatively successful, however follow-up treatments are likely to be necessary to effectively eradicate this species from the LNR.</p> <p>Effective control of Orange Balsam is currently being achieved by Peterborough Conservation Volunteers on behalf of PCC.</p>	<p>Continued commitment from Enterprise required to eradicate Knotweed from Boardwalks LNR.</p> <p>N/A effective control currently taking place.</p>	<p>Follow-up treatments will be required during 2012 with subsequent on-going monitoring.</p> <p>Continued financial support of PCV's essential.</p>

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		New Zealand Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula helmsii</i>) has been recorded at Botolph Green Pond. An effective treatment of the crassula has been carried out by Enterprise and now the local community action group with support from PCC and the Wildlife Trust are developing a management plan for the area.	N/A crassula being effectively treated.	Continued support of local group and assistance with monitoring of pond plants.
7	Planning related departments of the City Council to continue to work with internal advisers, conservation bodies and local groups with respect to the production of the Local Development Framework and also specific development proposals.	<p>The Natural and Built Environment team continue to provide specific advice to both Development Control officers with regard to specific development proposals and to Planning Policy colleagues in relation to the LDF including policies and site allocation documents.</p> <p>PCC in partnership with the Environmental Records Centre is keeping the key environmental characteristics of the Authority area under review in order to be able to progress the LDF and has also produced the annual monitoring report on the LDF.</p> <p>The monitoring of barn owls to the East of Peterborough has proved important (cost £2395 PA) in the authorities ability to consider major road and wind farm applications.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue current efforts.</p> <p>Support for the ERC is on-going. Continued budget allocations essential.</p> <p>Continued budget allocations for barn owl project essential.</p>

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		County Wildlife Site monitoring has also had a key role to play in the ability of the authority to comply with these requirements.	N/A	Continued budget allocations for Wildlife Trust SLA essential.
8	In the short-term reasonably significant areas should be identified for trialling new approaches to landscape management.	A number of trials have been carried out and/or continue. These include. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunningdale trial woodland coppice area. • Crematorium Wildflower area. • Central Park Wildflower strip. • Dogsthorpe and Olive Road allotment Initiatives 	This will become clear as management of trial areas progress.	The trial areas approach continues and positive/ negative aspects of management investigated. Dependent upon this, expansion of management for biodiversity within a site or to another similar site can then be given informed and realistic consideration.
9	Biodiversity should be incorporated into all landscape management contracts.	Biodiversity already features in a number of landscape management contracts; these include the mowing regimes of protected road verges and management of areas such as the Bluebell community area and Broadway cemetery. The production of biodiversity specifications for consideration at contract renewal continues to be investigated. The need to work within existing resources is however an over-riding factor.	N/A	Support of these efforts continues.
		A specification with respect to working on watercourses with water voles was	N/A	N/A

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		<p>incorporated into the Drainage ditch management contract when it was renewed.</p> <p>Woodland and shelterbelt management is undertaken in a manner to sustain and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>A specification with respect to the implementation of hedge, shrub and tree works in the bird nesting season was developed as part of the update of the biodiversity strategy. Key feedback from RSPB and Natural England was secured for this specification.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Concerns with respect of cost of implementation from Corporate Management Team.</p>	<p>N/A.</p> <p>The Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee has referred this to Peterborough City Services (now Enterprise) to progress this independently of the Biodiversity Strategy. Support will be provided from the City Councils Officer Working Group for Biodiversity as required.</p>
10	<p>Production of management plans for open spaces as has been done for Central Park. In this context, where appropriate, incorporate differential grass cutting regimes in parks, verges and large open spaces.</p>	<p>This is under investigation by the Officer group much information with respect to site management is already held.</p> <p>It will need to be linked to the trial areas discussed above. Plans would need to be written sequentially by the relevant officer to that site. It would not be possible to write management plans for all sites concurrently due to the magnitude of this task.</p> <p>The City Councils ancient woodland has been surveyed and widespread consultation undertaken. A management plan that will secure these valuable assets for decades to come has been</p>	<p>Linked to trial areas</p> <p>The production of management plans is potentially a very time consuming process.</p> <p>Any changes to management will need to be achieved within existing resources.</p>	<p>Trial areas approach continues.</p> <p>Progress sequentially. Investigate sources of external funding.</p> <p>Ways in which management could be amended at no additional cost continue to be sought/ investigated.</p>

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		<p>produced. Investigations underway with Bereavement Services with respect to Pockocks wood and brining this into favourable management for conservation and public access.</p> <p>Part of the works sponsored by Froglife at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve has included the production of a management specification for the site, works at the site for example by Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have proceeded in accordance with this plan.</p> <p>A biodiversity assessment of Central Park has been produced in support of its green flag status.</p> <p>The Bereavement Services Team produced a management plan for the memorial gardens which led, at the first attempt, to the award of the Green Flag in 2009. Development of the management plan resulted in the award of a further Green Flag in 2010.</p>	<p>Implementation of the plan is reliant on existing resources and accessing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential sources of external funding are identified in the plan that has been produced.</p> <p>Continue management in accordance with specification.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Maintain this status.</p>
11	The loss of trees, hedges and shrubs will be resisted unless there are sound horticultural or other reasons to indicate otherwise e.g. disease, structural damage or the shrubs are due for replacement.	<p>This approach will be specified within the new Trees and Woodland strategy currently being finalised and will be applied by Enterprise.</p> <p>In addition the Natural and Historic</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue current efforts.</p> <p>Continue current efforts.</p>

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		Environment team continue to provide this advice in relation to privately owned hedges and shrubs.		
12	Where it is appropriate consideration will be made for the gradual replacement of non-native species with native species.	<p>This has been investigated by the Officer Group; the appropriate and gradual nature of this action is viewed as being key. For example non-native shrubs could only be replaced once they have reached the end of their lifespan. There would be a significant cost element to undertaking this in advance of such a time.</p> <p>Planting opportunities in the shelter belts have all been filled with native, and wherever possible locally sourced plants.</p>	<p>Cost of early replacement.</p> <p>Limited budgets are available for this item.</p>	Continue current efforts.
13	Give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.	<p>PCC Natural Environment Project grants have continued. Up to 15 community wildlife schemes are supported each year.</p> <p>Support for community projects has continued, as has support for projects such as Broadway Cemetery and Cuckoos Hollow groups.</p> <p>Peterborough Conservation Volunteers continue to undertake conservation tasks for Recreation Services on PCC sites and County Wildlife Sites with support from the Natural and Historic Environment Team. These have included works at the Boardwalks Local</p>	<p>This has been successful in the reporting period; funding for the next reporting period has been allocated at the same level.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Dependant on continued allocation of budgets.</p> <p>Continue to support these efforts.</p> <p>Maintain budget allocations and continue to support these efforts.</p>

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		<p>Nature Reserve as well as Debdale, Basil Green ponds Barnack grassland and Ermine Street County Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>The probation services also undertake works on semi natural areas and Nature Reserves.</p>	N/A	Support to this group to continue.
14	Recognise the role of allotments and cemeteries in promoting Biodiversity.	<p>This approach has been trialled at the Dogsthorpe allotments site. For example young offenders have undertaken a pond creation scheme with the Froglife group. This is contributing to both of the parts of this action point.</p> <p>Where allotment sites are not utilised this is very difficult to achieve.</p> <p>The Allotments Officer has produced a wildlife leaflet for allotment holders.</p> <p>Meetings with allotments committees have been undertaken to discuss how the biodiversity of allotments can be increased and the possibility of using Natural Environment Grant funding to facilitate this. This grant has for example paid for hedging materials which have been planted at an allotment site by the users in the reporting period.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Limited resourcing to bring disused plot back into active use.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>This project is continuing to be supported.</p> <p>Recreation services have actively promoted allotments and allotment tenancies are continuing to increase as plots are cleared and brought into active use to meet the demand.</p> <p>Continue existing management and projects.</p> <p>Continue current efforts and Natural Environment Project grant funding.</p>

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		<p>In conjunction with sponsorship from Frog Life and utilising available sponsorship the tenants to various sites have constructed ponds to encourage amphibians.</p> <p>The wildlife value of cemeteries is well recognised. A wild garden of remembrance has been created at the crematorium and the Friends of Broadway Cemetery Group continue to appreciate the wildlife value of this site.</p> <p>A great deal of work to control bramble and scrub at the Broadway Cemetery Site has continued in the last reporting period.</p> <p>The wildflower area at the Crematorium continues to develop with self propagation supported by careful planting of native species. As with Eastfield Cemetery, the balance between the demands of the bereaved and supporting biodiversity needs sensitive management.</p> <p>The Children's Memorial Garden at the Crematorium is maturing well with a good mix of indigenous planting supporting a range of butterflies, bees and other insects. The woodland pond has naturalised well and sports its own</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Antisocial usage of this site continues to be a concern.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>The efforts of Bereavement Services, supported by Officers from other relevant departments and bodies are ongoing.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>

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		<p>flora and fauna.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to develop a management plan for Pockocks Wood and to identify sources of funding, with the aim of re-opening the woodland to visitors.</p>	N/A	Continue these efforts.
15	Support initiatives to encourage wildlife friendly gardening, recognising the increasing amount of land devoted to this usage.	<p>Wildlife Gardening has been a strand of the Peterborough in Bloom competition since 2006.</p> <p>School wildlife projects have also been supported via the Natural Environment Projects Grants Scheme administrated by the Natural Environment Team and also the eco schools initiative. In the reporting period this has for example included the planting of school orchards, restoration, creation and enhancement of school ponds and wildlife areas.</p> <p>58 PCC schools have either registered, participated, or are currently working towards an eco-school award (see below). Others are actively involved in similar schemes or have developed their own action plans; PECT have their own education officer who assists schools with the scheme. Many of these schools also have school gardens and wildlife spaces.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to budget allocations.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Support of urban wildlife initiatives is continuing both directly and also indirectly such as those with other organisations as Froglife and the Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>

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16	With partners investigate the re-instatement of a Peterborough Wildlife Group or Wildlife forum.	No further action has taken place regarding the setting up of a city-wide Wildlife Group, however the Natural Environment Team continue to support and encourage local community wildlife groups, for example at Cuckoo's Hollow nature reserve.	Delay in re-recruitment of Wildlife Officer has slowed progress, however it is anticipated this can now continue to be pursued.	Wildlife Officer to progress.
17	Establish measurable annual targets for the creation of new areas of wildlife interest.	<p>The Biodiversity Partnership continues to review and update the local Biodiversity Action Plan targets for specific habitats and species for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p> <p>The Natural Networks partnership is investigating how the targets from the Green Grid Strategy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan and Peterborough Environment Audit can be brought together as one set of targets for Peterborough. If this were achieved it may be possible to further extract a set of targets for the City Council.</p> <p>PCC continues to work in partnership and support PECT in developing the Forest for Peterborough concept. The F4P draft Business Plan sets out specific targets for tree planting and woodland creation in the city and PCC continues to seek opportunities for new tree planting as well as monitoring the number of trees planted on its own land.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>NNP currently under-resourced to progress this further.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Support for the BP is on-going. Continued budget allocations essential.</p> <p>Consider utilising Skills for Future post to progress action during 2012.</p> <p>Continue to report back to PECT re numbers of trees planted.</p>

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18	Continue to support the Environmental Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	<p>The centre, which is currently hosted by the Wildlife Trust and based in Cambourne, continues to receive support from PCC and other authorities and organisations in Cambridgeshire. It has completed the establishment phase funded by HLF and has progressed into a self sustaining operation.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment Team and Planning Policy have continued to support the Environmental Records Centre which has provided data for a number of PCC projects and reports including those associated with the Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report and National Indicator 197.</p> <p>In addition, PCC receives a weekly planning list search update from the Records Centre to assist in identifying protected sites and species associated with each application. This ‘front-loading’ of data assists with identifying ecological issues at the outset of development and ultimately may enable developments to progress more smoothly than would otherwise be the case.</p>	<p>N/A project progressing very well.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Support for the BRC is ongoing. Continued budget allocations essential.</p> <p>PCC to continue to provide environmental records to the Centre to ensure data records are as up to date and complete as possible.</p>
19	Give particular emphasis to the	The protection of these habitats	N/A	Emphasis on the protection of

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	<p>protection of ancient and semi-natural habitats through all the City Council's activities.</p>	<p>continues to be emphasised in planning for example through the existence and use of policies and allocation of development sites in the Local Development Framework.</p> <p>The City Council's ancient woodland has been surveyed and a management plan that will secure these valuable assets for decades to come has been produced.</p> <p>Security concerns raised with respect to Pockocks wood by neighbouring businesses have been responded to in the reporting period. This has been led by Bereavement Services in conjunction with the Natural and Historic Environment Team as well as Peterborough City Services and Strategic Property.</p> <p>Further work has been undertaken during the past autumn/winter period at Broadway Cemetery, a County Wildlife Site, to raise tree canopies and remove unwanted self-sets. This has improved the ground flora as well as the aesthetic appearance of the site. Evidence indicates that wildlife is increasing at this cemetery and, hopefully, the bird and bat boxes previously provided are helping in this respect.</p>	<p>Implementation of the plan is reliant on existing resources and accessing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>ancient and semi natural habitats is being continued.</p> <p>Potential sources of external funding are identified in the plan that has been produced.</p> <p>Dialogue continues.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>

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		<p>Children's Services assets and school place planning team also operate a "landlord's consent" scheme whereby all schools are required to register capital works to their premises, this enables monitoring and advice to schools in respect of grounds works, planting schemes, ponds, etc. Occasionally works which are not in accordance with City Council policy or procedure, such as inappropriate felling or pruning of trees, can be intercepted via this scheme.</p> <p>Children's Services has responsibility for all trees on school sites and are in the process of going out to tender to various arboriculturists for the maintenance of the trees on a 3 year rolling programme. This will ensure that the sites are visited on a regular basis and general advice will be given, including the addition of features which will enhance the grounds as wildlife habitats.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has led on the achievement of the National Indicator Target for Biodiversity (percentage of County Wildlife Sites in positive management). This has included close liaison with key partners such as the Wildlife Trust, Environmental Records Centre and Peterborough Geology group.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p>

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		<p>Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have also played a vital role in undertaking work on Peterborough sites to maintain and bring them into positive management. Within this surveys, provision of advice to landowners and activities have been carried out on behalf on the Natural and Historic Environment Team by the Wildlife Trust via a Service Level Agreement.</p> <p>Continued support for the long standing Peterborough Barn Owl recovery programme. This is now recognised as one of the most successful of these programmes in the UK. Monitoring in the last year has also included additional boxes erected in the previous reporting period which replacement those lost or which had fallen into disrepair over the last 14 years. The data from this ongoing monitoring scheme has proved crucial in the provision of advice to the Planning Department with respect to a number of strategic planning applications for example for wind farm proposals and public enquiries and how they would relate to this key environmental feature of the Unitary Area. Press releases for this project and a new webpage have been published in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Continued support for monitoring and</p>	<p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued budget allocations.</p> <p>None in the reporting period,</p>	<p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget</p>

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		<p>habitat management for the rare four spotted moth in Peterborough. The monitoring has also allowed the extension of the neighbouring County Wildlife Site and its continued assessment as being in positive management which has directly contributed to the National Indicator 197 target included in the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic environment team continues to play an active role with the County Biodiversity and Peterborough Natural Networks Partnerships.</p> <p>Operational works within the shelterbelts has been followed by chipping the cut back into the belt and the stacking of the logs for their gradual decay and production of invertebrate habitat.</p>	<p>possible concern with respect to continued budget allocations.</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued budget allocations.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>
20	<p>Investigate and exploit external funding opportunities for creating and enhancing the Biodiversity value of City Council managed land. For example from Forestry Commission, Landfill Tax or Aggregates Levy.</p>	<p>All members of the Officer Group have access to the Funding Database on the BAP partnership web pages.</p> <p>The seeking of external funding would have to be linked to a number of actions outlined above.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has supported the development of a Skills for the Future Bid to the</p>	<p>N/A at the present time - linked to other actions.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Linked to actions/areas above for which for which external funding could be sought.</p> <p>Additional detail is laid out in this respect in the proposed update to the PCC biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>

	Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy	Update on Progress/Action underway	Barrier to Progress	Future Action
		<p>Heritage Lottery Fund by Peterborough Environment City Trust. This includes one post which will be hosted within the team during 2012 which will map and update the Green Grid Strategy as a live electronic (GIS) document and undertake field surveys of habitat networks. One built environment post will also be hosted within the team.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has supported the development of a Countywide pond restoration project by the County Biodiversity Partnership. Whilst an initial bid was unsuccessful, there is the possibility that reserves held by the BP may enable some 'quick-win' pond restoration schemes to progress in Peterborough during winter 2011/12.</p> <p>Debdale Pond in Orton Warterville has received attention under guidance from PCS from the local open space friends group in an attempt to clear the banks and allow sunlight to gain entry. In addition there has been a local schools bird box campaign utilising the mature trees on site.</p> <p>In 2010 PCS began a review of the management techniques deployed within the shelter belts and an assessment initiated for their potential to accommodate multiple habitats at levels</p>	<p>Dependant on securing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>

	Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy	Update on Progress/Action underway	Barrier to Progress	Future Action
		ranging from the forest floor to the top This is to be an ongoing process and one that will feed into the Tree & Woodland Strategy which is currently being finalised.		
21	Continue to review the use of pesticides (including fungicides and herbicides) in the City Council's land management.	<p>COSHH regulations require that this is undertaken and therefore this is ongoing for all users of pesticides.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in the Council's cemeteries has been significantly reduced and is now only used for weed control on paths and roads.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in the Crematorium gardens has been significantly reduced by a policy of manual hoeing and weeding of the beds, etc. Pesticides are now only used for treating the roses or for weed control on paths and roads.</p>	N/A	N/A

Appendix B: Full reports from the members of the Biodiversity Officer Working Group

1. Bereavement Services

Cemeteries

- 1.1 The wildlife value of cemeteries is continuing to be recognised, the Friends of Broadway Cemetery Group continue to appreciate the site, which is a County Wildlife Site. The control of bramble and scrub is ongoing at Broadway and the evidence of wildlife has been constant since the last reporting period.
- 1.2 No further action has taken place at Eastfield Cemetery since the last report and the County Wildlife Survey carried out in 2009. The mowing regime has remained the same as it was felt that the cemetery is relatively new compared to Broadway and a change in the cutting regime to aid the wildlife who not be suitable. It has been noted that the sighting of rabbits and squirrels have increased in recent years.
- 1.3 Bereavement Services may put forward an application and management plan to the Green Flag Award Scheme in 2012 to try and get accreditation for one of their cemeteries.

Crematorium

- 1.4 The wildlife area has again continued to develop, the native species are propagating well supplemented with the planting of plugs of native species. The sensitive management of the area has ensured that the compromise with the cutting regime has been accepted by the bereaved.
- 1.5 The Children's Memorial Garden continues to flourish it is regularly maintained in a sympathetic manner which ensures it continues to attract butterflies, bees and other insects. The planned extension to the path from the garden into Pockocks Wood has been shelved due to the discovery of an active badger sett along the proposed route.
- 1.6 The reopening of an old path into Pockocks at the eastern end has been considered, a tree survey to make safe the route has been carried out and funding is now being identified. With bramble cleared and the tree canopies lifted it is hopeful that native woodland plants may once again thrive.
- 1.7 The Bereavement Services Team have been awarded a further Green Flag for 2011.

2. Children's Services

- 2.1 Children's Services has responsibility for all trees on school sites and are in the process of going out to tender to various arboriculturists for the maintenance of the trees on a 3 year rolling programme. This will ensure that the sites are visited on a regular basis and general advice will be given, including the addition of features which will enhance the grounds as wildlife habitats.
- 2.2 58 PCC schools have either registered, participated, or are currently working towards an eco-school award (see below). Others are actively involved in similar schemes or have developed their own action plans, indicated below as 'other comparable frameworks'. PECT have their own education officer who assists schools with the scheme.

Eco Schools Awards Available: Bronze, Silver, Green Flag which must be renewed every 2 years.

School Name	type of school	Eco School Award	Date awarded/registered	school garden/ pond
Abbotsmede Primary	primary	bronze	01/12/2008	Well developed garden & pond and links to John Clare cottage
All Saints C of E Junior School	primary	Silver	01/03/2011	Garden & pond
Arthur Mellows Village College	Secondary academy	registered	09/06/10	
Barnack C of E Primary School	primary	Bronze	02/02/2011	Garden & pond
Beeches Primary School	Primary	Bronze	01/05/2011	Garden & pond
Bishop Creighton Primary School	primary	Registered	01/01/2011	Garden & pond
Braybrook Primary School	primary	Silver	01/04/2011	Garden
Brewster Avenue Infant School	infant	Registered	01/07/2011	Garden & pond
Ormiston Bushfield Academy	secondary	bronze	01/01/2008	Garden
Castor C of E Primary School	primary	Bronze	12/05/2010	Garden
Cavestede Early Years Centre	Early years centre	Silver	01/01/2010	Garden & pond
Discovery Primary School	primary	Silver	02/10	Garden
Dogsthorpe Infant School	infant	registered	01/11/2008	Garden
Dogsthorpe Junior School	junior	silver	01/05/2008	Garden & pond
Eye C of E Primary School	primary	1 st Green Flag	02/10	Garden & pond
Eyrescroft Primary School	primary	Silver	01/06/2011	
Fulbridge School	primary	bronze	01/11/2006	Garden & pond
Gladstone Primary School	primary	Bronze	01/02/2011	Garden
Gunthorpe Primary School	primary	bronze	01/07/2008	Garden
Hampton College	secondary	Silver	07/10	
Hampton Hargate Primary School	primary	bronze	01/02/2008	
Hampton Vale Primary School	primary	Bronze	01/02/2011	Garden
Heltwate School	special	Registered	01/07/2011	Garden
Heritage Park Primary School	primary	Bronze	01/07/2011	
Iqra Academy	Secondary	Faith in the environment school	03/2010	-
Highlees Community Primary School	primary	bronze	01/03/2008	Garden
Jack Hunt School	secondary	Silver	06/10	
John Clare Primary School	primary	1 st Green Flag	01/07/2011	Garden
Ken Stimpson Community School	secondary	Silver	01/03/2011	Garden & orchard
Leighton Primary School	primary	silver	01/07/2008	Garden & pond
Longthorpe Primary School	primary	Bronze	16/03/2006	Garden

School Name	type of school	Eco School Award	Date awarded/registered	school garden/ pond
Marshfields School	special	-	-	Garden
Matley Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	02/10	Garden
Middleton Primary School	primary	Bronze	01/04/2011	Garden
Nene Valley Primary School	primary	silver	01/07/2006	Garden & Pond
NeneGate School	special	-	-	Garden currently being developed
Newark Hill Primary School	primary	Bronze	04/10	Garden & Pond
Newborough C of E Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	01/10/2009	Garden & Pond
Northborough Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	02/2010	Garden, Pond & Orchard
Norwood Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	02/10	Garden
Oakdale Primary School	primary	Bronze	01/04/2011	
Old Fletton Primary School	primary	bronze	07/01/2009	Garden & Pond
Orton Longueville School	secondary	Registered	06/2010	
Orton Wistow Primary School	primary	registered	29/06/2006	Garden & Pond
Parnwell Primary School	primary	Silver	15/05/10	Garden
Paston Ridings Primary School	primary	-	-	
Peakirk cum Glinton C of E Primary School	primary	Registered	01/05/2011	Garden & Pond
Peterborough School	independent (4-19)	1 st Green Flag	07/10	Garden & Pond
Phoenix School	special	Silver	15/03/10	Garden
Queen's Drive Infant School	infant	Registered	2009	Garden
Ravensthorpe Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	10/2009	
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	primary	Green Flag	07/10	Garden & Pond
Southfields Infant School	infant	Green Flag	12/09	Garden & Pond They now have an allotment as well as gardens in grounds
St Augustine's C of E Junior School	junior	4th Green Flag	01/07/10	
St Botolph's C of E Primary School	primary	Silver	01/01/2011	Garden
St John Fisher Catholic High School	secondary	Bronze	01/10	
St John's Church School	primary	Registered	19/03/10	
St Thomas More RC	primary	Other	02/10	Garden

School Name	type of school	Eco School Award	Date awarded/registered	school garden/ pond
Primary School		comparable framework		
Stanground College	secondary	-	-	
Stanground St John's C of E Primary School	primary	Registered	01/04/10	Garden
The Duke of Bedford Primary School	primary	Registered	01/11/2010	Garden
The King's School	secondary	silver	01/06/2008	Garden & Pond
The Thomas Deacon Academy	city academy	registered	01/05/2008	Garden
The Voyager School	secondary	Silver	07/09	
Thorpe Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	09/2010	Garden
Watergall Primary School	primary	Registered	01/07/2011	Garden & Pond
Welbourne Primary School	primary	bronze	01/07/2006	
Welland Primary School	primary	-	-	
Werrington Primary School	primary	1st Green Flag	01/02/2009	Garden
West Town Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	09/2009	
William Law Primary School	primary	Silver	03/10	New orchard planted and small garden
Winyates Primary School	primary	Registered	01/05/2011	Garden
Wittering Primary School	primary	-	-	
Woodston Primary School	primary	Other comparable framework	Pre 2009	Garden

- 2.2 Children's Services assets and school place planning team also operate a "landlord's consent" scheme whereby all schools are required to register capital works to their premises, this enables monitoring and advice to schools in respect of grounds works, planting schemes, ponds, etc. Occasionally works which are not in accordance with City Council policy or procedure, such as inappropriate felling or pruning of trees, can be intercepted via this scheme.
- 2.3 With a rapidly expanding school building programme at both primary and secondary level sustainable features are being incorporated wherever possible. Green roofs that encourage birds and insects are being installed for both new builds and replacement roofs. External landscaping designs are developed to provide some natural spaces both to benefit wildlife and to be an educational resource for pupils. Where a pond had to be relocated to enable a school extension to be built, advice was taken from Natural England and Froglife to ensure suitable alternative ponds were provided.
- 2.4 Schools are funded mainly from Government grants and the vast majority of the funding is devolved to them to make their own management decisions. Therefore, they do not have to comply with City Council procurement regulations. This means that they can use their own preferred contractors, and are free to specify and order works. Schools have to apply for appropriate planning and building control permission as well as consent from Childrens Services as landlords

3. Climate Change

- 3.1 Unfortunately there has been little progress against the refresh of the climate change strategy due to the need to focus resources within other areas of the climate change work. However, the climate change officer has now begun the process of refresh with a view to prepare the draft version for Environment Scrutiny in early 2012.

4 Natural Environment

The Natural and Historic Environment Team by its nature continues to be involved with much biodiversity activity both within the City Council and in partnership with external partners. A significant proportion of the team's activity is focussed in providing expert advice to the Planning Departments with respect to the development of the Local Development Framework as well as planning applications and the implementation of development within the Unitary Area.

4.1 Recent/ongoing activities. These include:

- a) Leading on the achievement of the National Indicator Target for Biodiversity. This has included close liaison with key partners such as the Wildlife Trust, Environmental Records Centre and Peterborough Geology group. Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have also played a vital role in undertaking work on Peterborough sites to maintain and bring them into positive management.
- b) Support to the development of the successful Skills for the Future Bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by Peterborough Environment City Trust. This includes one post which will be hosted within the team during 2012 which will map and update the Green Grid Strategy as a live electronic (GIS) document and undertaken field surveys of habitat networks. In addition one built environment post is currently being hosted within the team during 2011.
- c) Continued support for the long standing Peterborough Barn Owl recovery programme. This is now recognised as one of the most successful of these programmes in the UK. The data from this ongoing monitoring scheme has proved crucial in the provision of advice to the Planning Department with respect to a number of strategic planning applications for example for wind farm proposals and public enquiries and how they would relate to this key environmental feature of the Unitary Area. Press releases for this project and a new webpage have been published in the last 12 months.
- d) Liaison and advice to officers and departments from across the City Council with respect to Biodiversity. In addition to those specifically represented on the Biodiversity Officer Working Group these also for example include highways and rights of way officers.
- e) Surveys, provision of advice to landowners and activities carried out on behalf on the Natural Environment Team by the Wildlife Trust via a Service Level Agreement.
- f) Continued support for monitoring and habitat management for the rare four spotted moth in Peterborough. The monitoring has also allowed the extension of the neighbouring County Wildlife Site and its continued assessment as being in positive management which has directly contributed to the National Indicator 197 target included in the Local Area Agreement.
- g) Representation of the City Council with and support to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre which has provided data for a number of PCC projects and reports including those associated with the Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report and National Indicator 197.

- h) Representation of the City Council with and support to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and its associated projects. The work of the partnership has recently included the development of a ponds restoration project aimed at restoring at least 30 ponds across the County with at least 5 of these within the Peterborough area. Whilst the initial bid was unsuccessful, it is anticipated that funding may become available from reserves in the Biodiversity Partnership to enable several of Peterborough's ponds to be restored in the near future.
- i) Representation of the City Council within and support to the Natural Networks Partnership.
- j) Administration and technical support to the City Councils Natural Environmental Grant Scheme which has supported a significant number of projects with schools, Parish Councils and other organisations.
- k) Continued support to the planning department to enable the integration of Biodiversity into new development. This has for example included recent and ongoing developments at, Hempstead, Great Haddon as well as wind farms, road schemes and minerals and waste sites. A planning application checklist has also been produced based upon the Natural England standing advice for use by planning applicants and planning officers.
- l) Continued support to the Planning Policy Team with respect to the production of Local Development Framework.
- m) Liaison with and support to local conservation organisations such as the Wildlife Trust, Buglife, Froglife and the Langdyke Countryside Trust and their sites and projects.
- n) Provision of support and guidance to landowners and community groups in relation to biodiversity, this has included Schools and Parish Councils.
- o) Provision of biodiversity education via schools liaison, interpretation, guided walks and presentations, including a bat walk.
- p) Support to the Peterborough Green Festival for example through Officer support during the planning of this event and provision of activities as part of the festival.
- q) Administration and support to the Peterborough Tree and Pond Warden Networks. The City Council continued as a full member of the Tree Council and was therefore able to continue to fully support the tree Warden Network.
- r) Continued support to Peterborough Conservation Volunteers where their activities have taken place on PCC owned sites and Peterborough County Wildlife Sites.

4.2 **Current activities:** In addition to the continuation of many of the activities listed in 4.1 current activities and projects of note include:

- a) Leading and co-ordinating the update on annual progress against the City Councils biodiversity Strategy, which is due to be reviewed by Cabinet in September.
- b) Support to PECT with respect to the production of work and training plans for Skill for the Future placements which will be hosted with the team.
- c) Continued support to the County Wildlife Sites System and progression against the LAA/National Indicator target.

4.3 **Future Activities:** Where relevant and budgetary approval is received it is planned to continue activities listed in 4.1 and 4.2 such as the Natural Environment Projects Grant. Other planned future activities and projects of note include:

- a) To continue to work with the project group of the Biodiversity Partnership to prepare project bids for various schemes aimed at enhancing biodiversity at several of Peterborough's County Wildlife Sites and ponds.
- b) To continue to work with PECT to ensure that the Skills for the Future posts hosted by the team are well recruited and a success.
- c) To work with bereavement services to investigate the production of a management plan for Pockocks wood and possibly the accessing of external funding for woodland management works.
- d) To work with Natural Networks partners on the Forest for Peterborough initiative.

5.0 **Property Design and Maintenance**

5.1 Local Authorities have an explicit duty to consider biodiversity in the discharge of their functions. In accordance with this duty and the City Councils Environmental Strategy the Property Design and Maintenance division actively champion biodiversity and sustainability in a number of ways, the majority of which are already incorporated into standard practice through the careful specification and monitoring of contracts. For example:

- ensuring trees are adequately protected when development takes place
- planting new trees for any that have to be removed when development takes place,
- the control of waste and pollution,
- the sustainable sourcing of materials,
- the temporary storage of soils that might otherwise be removed from site,
- good site fencing to ensure that areas damaged by the very disruptive nature of construction activity to a minimum

Building on previous initiatives, the Property Design and Maintenance division, now Enterprise Peterborough, continues to promote biodiversity and sustainability, wherever it can.

5.2 Over the last year green roofs have been installed at Hampton Hargate and Woodston Junior Schools as well as on Children's Centres at John Clare School Helpston, and Thorney.

5.3 A green roof is also being proposed at Eye Primary School and the design for the new Welland School includes extensive green roofs, rain water harvesting and wood chip heating.

5.4 At Hampton Hargate two wildlife ponds have been created to replace one that was lost in the extension works. This project also includes rain water harvesting and ground sources heat pumps.

5.5 The new Community Car Park at Werrington using sustainable drainage concepts has created opportunities for short term damp habitats within its extensive wild flower areas.

5.6 Planting schemes, which included a small area of new woodland at Clare Lodge continues to use native plants wherever appropriate as well as woven willow structures in children's areas.

5.7 By designing with the ethos of removing the need to consume electrical energy for lighting and ventilation, we seek to make significant reductions on existing and new buildings

potential carbon footprint thus having a positive environmental impact in the short and long term.

6.0 **Peterborough In bloom**

- 6.1 An annual garden competition has been co-ordinated for the last 5 years, 2011 being the fifth year; this includes a wildlife friendly category. This receives a steady percentage of entrants and the gardens are judged on a wide variety of elements, all contributing to biodiversity. Peterborough was also awarded a Gold award for Anglia in Bloom.

7. **Enterprise Peterborough (formerly City Services)**

Action in support of biodiversity & sustainability taken or planned 2010/11

- 7.1 The G50 parkway grass cutting specification has been changed to one breed along the kerb line of 50mm to 100 mm with the remainder cut at 100mm to 200mm where it was previously 75 mm. In addition various areas across the city are now cut at 50mm to 100mm where previously they were cut at 25mm to 50mm. This not only reduces an operational carbon footprint but allows for colonisation of wildflowers.
- 7.2 The cutting regime for shrubs has been altered to flail works from the traditional cutter bar which results in a quicker operation for carbon diminution as well as a reduction in collection requirement followed by transportation to tip. In addition the tops of shrubs/hedges are not cut back between 1st March and 31st August due to the active/nesting birds policy. A site-line cut only, on a health and safety basis, is carried out which totals 10% of the 750,000m² and the same amount for 58,000lm of hedges.
- 7.3 Operational works within the shelterbelts has been followed by chipping the cut back into the belt and the stacking of the logs for their gradual decay and production of invertebrate habitat. In addition chippings from shrubs and hedges are cut back into the beds where possible and into shelterbelts if the beds are not possible.
- 7.4 An agreement has been made between Betterland and City Services through which garden waste collected from the brown bins is taken and composted, the latter being used to grow plants purchased by the Authority for amenity landscaping. Recently we delivered approximately 300 tonnes of leafs, grass cuttings, bedding plants for composting.
- 7.5 The composting facilities at Bretton Park have been expanded and the resultant material reintroduced over the shrub and annual beds. Estimated tonnage amounts to that within the region of 300 tonnes during 10/11.
- 7.6 The Crematorium has retained the Green Flag award within the time period with support for associated issues of sustainability. We have also retained a Green Flag award for Central and Itter Parks.
- 7.7 As a component of the In Bloom campaign a move has been made towards recycling of the dead heads cut from bedding. Historically the outcome was to transport material to tip.
- 7.8 The Boardwalks at Thorpe Meadows continue to be opened up by thinning the canopies of the Willow trees overhanging the numerous ponds. This action has been taken to promote amphibian habitat creation.
- 7.9 Debdale Pond in Orton Warterville has received attention from the local open space friends group in an attempt to clear the banks and allow sunlight to gain entry. In addition there has been a local schools bird box campaign utilising the mature trees on site.
- 7.10 An area of land adjacent to Potter's Way has been allowed to develop naturally during the last 4 years through deliberate non-intervention.
- 7.11 A review of the management techniques deployed within the shelter belts continues along

with an assessment of their potential to accommodate multiple habitats at levels ranging from the forest floor to the top. This on-going process will feed into the Trees & Woodland Strategy which is currently being finalised.

- 7.12 At Central Park some areas, the sunken garden for example, offer the potential for different planting schemes rather than the summer bedding planted at the moment. Different planting schemes designed to attract bees, etc. need to be explored. The use of perennials is another option, as are using native species. Also, we could stack logs after trees are removed and leave a section of the trunk standing, rather than clearing and grinding.
- 7.13 Planning applications detailing the implementation of SUDS are forecast to become far more frequent in the future. Management will have an element relating to bio-diversity and maintenance teams will require very specific training to manage SUDS systems in a professional manner.
- 7.14 Julia Chatterton has been leading on PCC SUDS work and has also, as part of the flood risk management programme, looked at watercourses. There is currently nothing in the Enterprise Peterborough specification about managing watercourses although there is the PCC requirement in the method statements. Julia is going to prepare a specification during the autumn and there will be some funding for Enterprise Peterborough to manage the City's watercourses according to the specification, next year. The Wildlife Officer is likely to be contributing to the specification.

ALLOTMENTS:

- 7.11 An on-going review of allotments is seeking to address rubbish dumping issues and investigating opportunities for composting. In addition the Allotments Officer has contributed towards a workshop organised by the Environment Network at the Green Backyard.

PLAY PROVISION:

- 7.12 The Big Lottery Wildplay project has now been completed and the successes include an increase in the number of children and young families using their local greenspace or nature reserve; new audiences to wildlife activities and sites from different ability, socio economic and BME groups; a fresh approach to encouraging people into the natural environment using play and adventure; an increase in children and young people joining local wildlife groups and an increase in the number of children and young people enjoying their local greenspace in a positive way.
- 7.13 An unexpected outcome from the Wildplay project was the demand from young people for adventure and from families for guided outdoor events. There is scope to build on this work and do much more of it. Funding needs to be directed at facilitation of play rather than capital items such as structures. The Wildlife Trust built Watch Groups in for sustainability but these groups can only accept a certain number of children and families. We developed materials for children and adults with children / group leaders to facilitate and encourage further development self-interest, but we have evidence of demand from more people in Peterborough for a facilitated service of this nature; nothing else exists here.

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