

# Community groups and town/parish councils

## Home Environment Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy

### Community groups and town/parish councils

By law, all public authorities – including local authorities and town and parish councils – have a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity in exercising their functions. They must 'have regard to any relevant local nature recovery strategy.' With the exception of parish councils, public authorities must also 'report on actions taken to meet this duty'.

While current local planning policy for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin doesn't refer directly to LNRS, future iterations will be required to do so. It's expected that this would include particular consideration for the areas identified as having the highest potential for nature recovery.

### Town and parish councils

Town and parish councils are ideally placed to identify local biodiversity opportunities and threats, mobilise community action and act as trusted intermediaries between residents and higher-tier authorities.

Many town and parish councils are already taking practical action for biodiversity – such as planting trees and hedgerows, creating ponds and wildflower meadows, protecting watercourses and redesigning parks and recreational spaces.

The LNRS team is working with the [Shropshire Association of Local Councils VSALCW](#), [Middle Marches Community Land Trust](#) and other partners to encourage and support town and parish councils to develop their own tailored nature recovery plans and work together in local clusters. The SALC network provides a ready-made infrastructure for town and parish councils throughout the county to share knowledge and coordinate action on local nature recovery. To find out more, email [LNRS@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@shropshire.gov.uk)

### Community groups

There are lots of community groups working to help the nature in their area: [community wildlife groups](#), [Wildlife Trust local branches](#), [Telford Green Spaces Partnership](#) and many more. Organisations and individuals are involved in a range of activities – surveying, practical work parties, running events and delivering local projects.

**Citizen science and monitoring:** encourage residents to participate in species monitoring and habitat surveys. This helps build local data and awareness and supports evidence-based decision making

**Volunteering and stewardship:** support and join local restoration projects such as planting native species, reducing pesticide use and creating pollinator-friendly zones in gardens and public spaces

**Education and outreach:** organise or attend nature walks, school programmes and public talks to raise awareness of nature and ecosystem services

**Collaboration with local councils and conservation groups:** work with others to identify and restore parish-owned land to make it more wildlife friendly. Transform community gardens, school grounds, and allotments into biodiversity hotspots. These areas can serve as stepping stones for wildlife and educational hubs for residents

If you want to enhance the nature in a road verge there are resources and advice on the [Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project VRSVPW website](#).

### Find out more

[What is the LNRS and why is it important?](#)

[How to help nature now: schools, community groups, and town and parish councils](#) [Explore all LNRS priorities and actions, and the LNRS map](#)