

Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation Responses



The consultation for the Biodiversity Action Plan ran from November 2022 until May 2023 and took on two forms – a series of interactive workshops with identified interest groups and partners and an online public consultation.

1. Interactive Workshops

The Climate Team help three interactive workshops to gather opinions on the content for the Biodiversity Action Plan.

1. November 2022 – Held at the Depot for Neighbourhood Services and Parks staff, there were 15 participants
2. January 2023 – Held at Civic Centre for volunteers from Council Friend’s Groups and local biodiversity focused community groups. The 14 participants came from

Friends of Farington Lodges	Leyland in Bloom
Friends of Paradise Park	Penwortham in Bloom
Friends of Worden Park	Guardians of Nature
Friends of Walton Park	Withnell Anglers
Friends of Hurst Grange Park	Progress Housing Community Inspector

3. January 2023 – Held at Civic Centre for representative of national and local wildlife organisations. The 29 participants came from

The Bee Centre	Merseyside and West Lancs. Bat Group
Chorley and District Natural History Society	Natural England
Dragonfly Surveyor	Preston Society
Environment Agency	River Ribble Trust
Groundwork	RSPB
Lancashire Badger Group	WWT Martin Mere
Lancashire County Council – Ecology Team	SRBC Planner
Lancashire Ecological Records Network	SRBC Operations Supervisor - Grounds Maintenance
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	

Workshop participants were asked to consider the same six areas

1. Threats to sites and biodiversity
2. Opportunities for improvement
3. Challenges and barriers
4. Solutions to the identified threats, challenges and barriers
5. Community involvement
6. Contents for the Action Plan

The results of these sessions have been combined and are included as Appendix one. The responses from each session are colour coded and then grouped in themes to show where there was consensus across the three sessions.

2. Online Public Consultation

The online public consultation on the main themes developed during the workshops ran for 10 weeks in March, April and May 2023. There were 79 responses.

95% of responders felt that it was important to take action to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Ribble, with habitat fragmentation, pollution and development being seen as the things most likely to threaten biodiversity in the Borough.

The preferred ways to improve biodiversity in the borough were

Option	Percent
Make more native wildflower meadows	84%
Creating, restoring and protecting habitats	81%
Wildlife corridors – linking habitats together to allow wildlife to move around safely	77%
Litter / fly tipping / dog fouling enforcement	76%
Plant more trees	75%
Designate more sites for protection	70%
Education and awareness raising	65%
Create artificial refuges for wildlife – bee hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways etc.	65%
Create unmanaged biodiversity areas	63%
Improved management of parks and open space	62%

93% of respondents felt that South Ribble should allocate some areas of the parks and open spaces for nature, reducing maintenance, allowing the grass to grow, excluding dogs and managing for wildlife rather than people

58% respondents said that they would be happy with an increase in the amount of ‘weeds’ in the streets and on our parks, if we reduced the amount of herbicides that we used. Those that were against this suggested more cautious, targeted use or a swap to natural weed killers instead. A decreased use of herbicides in Parks was suggested, or increased community action to keep local areas looking neat and tidy.

90% of respondents agreed that working in partnership between the Council, landowners, businesses and local communities was key to restoring and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough.

When asked about what action they would be prepared to do to help nature, 77% said they work on their own property, 61% said they would volunteer on local projects and 49% saying they would join a local volunteer group / organisation.

Full details of all the questions and the responses are given in Appendix Two.

Appendix One – Interactive Workshops Response Summary

Key to text colours -

SRBC – Grounds and Parks teams

Community Gardening Groups / Friends of Groups / In Bloom Groups

Wildlife Groups and Organisations

1. Threats to Biodiversity and Sites

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money Lack of funding</p> <p>Maintenance resources for planted areas</p> <p>Poor / intensive land management – mowing / tilling</p> <p>Wrong times and too much</p> <p>Lack of habitat maintenance</p> <p>Footpath maintenance</p> <p>Lack of protection for biodiverse land</p> <p>Ivy on trees is a big problem – harbouring overwintering insects that are eating the alder leaves and killing off the trees</p> <p>Drainage ditches aren't being cleared.</p> <p>Ponds are clogged up with duckweed and rubbish</p> <p>Cutting grass verges too much – need to leave long for wildflowers, insects and birds</p> <p>Lack of collaboration</p> <p>Lack of longevity for associated roles</p> <p>Loss of environmental subsidies</p> <p>Changes to agri-environmental schemes</p> <p>Neglect</p> <p>Maintenance needs to be consistent</p> <p>Stuck in ways, using outdated processes</p> <p>Lack of understanding</p>	<p>Trees</p> <p>Lack of tree cover / shade</p> <p>Poor tree planting / poor practice / habitat loss</p> <p>Unsympathetic hedge cutting</p> <p>Ash dieback</p> <p>More TPOs</p> <p>Loosing trees to disease – Ash Dieback</p> <p>Under recording / monitoring of some species / types</p> <p>Habitat loss, fragmentation</p> <p>Loss of ponds, hedgerows, trees, meadows</p> <p>Species or population isolation / fragmentation</p> <p>Loss of / lack of corridor routes / connectivity</p> <p>Loss of habitat for building</p> <p>Loss of green space for car parking</p> <p>Loss of green space</p> <p>Species disturbance by dogs</p> <p>Wildlife displacement</p> <p>Division or larger wildlife areas – lack of wildlife corridors</p>	<p>Agriculture – land use and hedgerow removal</p> <p>Intensive agriculture</p> <p>Farming pressures</p> <p>More control over industry and farming</p> <p>Loss of small farms with many small fields and hedgerows etc to large scale farms</p> <p>Recreational pressure</p> <p>Recreational pressures</p> <p>Human disturbance</p> <p>Population Growth</p> <p>Housing and industrial development</p> <p>Manmade structures / obstacles</p> <p>Treatment plants – poor management</p> <p>Hunting / shooting</p> <p>Direct hunting at home and abroad</p> <p>Impact of game management</p> <p>Cost of living</p> <p>Abstraction</p> <p>INNS – plants, animals, invertebrates, crustaceans</p> <p>Management and eradication of INNS</p> <p>Value of INNS for pollinators – alternatives / phasing</p> <p>Planting on non-native or locally non-native species</p> <p>Escaped species introduction (e.g. mink)</p> <p>Avian Flu</p> <p>Water quality (run off / diffuse pollution</p> <p>Leaching into water courses</p> <p>Management of run off into watercourses</p> <p>Pollution from the road network (including vehicle fumes)</p>	<p>Weaknesses in policing</p> <p>planning conditions</p> <p>Development</p> <p>Local planning policy</p> <p>Local Plan</p> <p>Planning system needs an overhaul</p> <p>Planning to work around ecological sites of interest</p> <p>Built development</p> <p>Fewer new builds – more on brownfield sites</p> <p>Re-evaluation of BNG</p> <p>Lack of experience in LAs – e.g. SRBC consults GMEU</p> <p>Development / urbanisation</p> <p>Too much development / road building</p> <p>Over development – hard paving, human population</p> <p>Planning rules – insufficient protection</p> <p>People pressure on sites</p> <p>Cars</p> <p>People parking on pavements and verges</p> <p>Planting / gardening trends of removing hedgerows, less plants and more tarmac</p> <p>Fake grass</p> <p>Unrealistic Nature Recovery targets</p>	<p>Attitudes towards the environment</p> <p>Cats killing songbirds</p> <p>Dogs disturbing habitats and wildlife</p> <p>Discourage shrines on memorial benches</p> <p>Lack of knowledge</p> <p>Encourage wildlife awareness in private gardens</p> <p>Education in schools</p> <p>Expand knowledge of what are INNS</p> <p>Biosecurity – poor education</p> <p>Have Forest School classes started up again on site to encourage children to respect their green space?</p>

<p>Spraying streets with weed killers – less food for pollinators, less habitat and run off into waterways</p> <p>Alternatives to pesticides / herbicides</p> <p>Over-use of weed killer</p> <p>Pesticides / herbicides / artificial fertilizers</p> <p>Fly tipping and litter is an issue</p> <p>Dogs and dog waste – action needed</p> <p>Training of SRBC workers</p>	<p>Peat degradation – agriculture and recreation</p> <p>Loss of peat through cultivation</p> <p>Persecution of predators</p> <p>Inappropriate development – loss of forage, roost and breeding sites</p> <p>‘Pest’ species surviving mild winters</p>	<p>Agricultural run off – manure</p> <p>Nitrification</p> <p>Pollution – litter / pesticides / agricultural / industrial / household</p> <p>Farm waste and run off from fields and industry</p> <p>Chemical run off – fish kills</p> <p>Pollution – especially waterways, streams and canals</p> <p>Washing machines emptying into streams</p> <p>Soil erosion</p> <p>Electromagnetic radiation</p>	<p>Climate change – water temp / flooding / drought / erosion / Invert lifecycle changes</p> <p>Impact of climate change on coastline</p> <p>Ribble estuary – costal erosion / climate change / loss of habitat</p> <p>Loss of flood plain</p> <p>More extreme weather events</p> <p>Alternative energy too expensive</p>	
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2. Opportunities for improvement

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Identify -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible wildlife corridors through the borough Possible wetland sites <p>Effectively manage existing wildlife sites</p> <p>Connectivity – hedgerows</p> <p>River restoration – de-culverting, bed restoration, better connectivity / flood plains, meandering, more shades, buffers / ecotone</p> <p>Managed realignment</p> <p>Greater protection of large areas of land with a lot of wildlife potential – not little fragments that are not managed</p> <p>Coordinated review of land management (SRBC)</p> <p>Default should be all land as BHS unless designated as not</p> <p>Encourage green land management by landowners</p> <p>Small areas of SRBC land – give to residents where they can improve biodiversity by better management</p> <p>All council sites not mown unless there is a H&S risk</p> <p>Better maintenance of sites</p> <p>No Mow May</p> <p>Mow less</p> <p>Leave strips of unmown grass next to hedges</p> <p>Leave grass under trees (not mown) (Croston Manor)</p> <p>Stop raking out under shrubs and hedges</p>	<p>Grass verge management</p> <p>Manage road verges for wildlife</p> <p>More planting on road verges</p> <p>Native / locally native flower areas – long term at sites currently sown with alien flower mixes</p> <p>Re-establish locally rare / scarce / extinct species in the borough based on historic data</p> <p>More use of indigenous species</p> <p>Pollinators, what has caused the decline and how can it be reverted?</p> <p>Supply of wildflower seeds to SRBC residents for gardens (advert in with Council tax notification)</p> <p>Less amenity grassland – more meadow</p> <p>Support planting of more desirable species in gardens – pollinators etc</p> <p>Tree planting needs to be native species, not conifers and not on valuable habitat – peat bogs and heathland</p> <p>Preserve more hedgerows</p> <p>Right tree for the right area</p> <p>Protect mature trees</p> <p>Remove laurel hedges and swap for alternatives for free</p> <p>Weigh up the best way to manage areas for biodiversity – not just tree planting</p> <p>Nature reserves</p>	<p>Mitigation needs to be rigorous and enforced – developers get away with vague promises and ridiculous policies</p> <p>Restrict development – don't build on green belt, already seen displacement of wildlife</p> <p>Better incentives for farming, improving nutrient management</p> <p>Street lighting to reduce brightness / light pollution</p> <p>Discourage parking on road verges and pavements</p> <p>More incentives for green energy</p>	<p>Swift boxes / sparrow terraces on all developments</p> <p>Artificial badger setts</p> <p>Wildlife warning system</p> <p>Stronger push for SUDs</p> <p>Removal of weirs and barriers</p> <p>Better water quality / bathing water / WFO</p> <p>Making space for water (Coastal retreat)</p> <p>Introduce swales into woodlands as well as ponds</p> <p>Minimum tree requirements – depending on size of development for BNG</p> <p>Carbon market – woodland / peatland</p> <p>BNG</p> <p>LNRS – identify opportunities and priorities</p> <p>Cooperation – organisational LNRS delivery plans</p> <p>Make contractors show us what they are doing to improve biodiversity</p> <p>Reform of the planning system</p> <p>Reduce development to reduce population</p> <p>Pick your own schemes</p>	<p>Cranfield Uni – Peat mapping (shallow peat soils ~30cm)</p> <p>Engage farmers</p> <p>Engage owners of BHS</p> <p>More collaboration / knowledge sharing / better technology</p> <p>Connect groups with residential homes and organisations where we can go and rewild their green spaces</p> <p>Partnership working with ecology firms</p> <p>Citizen Science</p> <p>Encourage communities to engage with their local wildlife group to organise events such as bat walks, bird ringing etc.</p> <p>Downloadable scavenger hunts appropriate to each location</p> <p>Involve local people to care for them</p> <p>Give residents wildflowers to plant to increase the bee population</p> <p>Encourage people to practice improvements at home</p> <p>Educate on the benefits of home composting.</p> <p>Discounts to residents on compost bins and water butts</p>

<p>Stop spraying hedge bases Stop using selective weed killers on sports pitches Schedule changes – hedge cutting out of nesting season Be less tidy to allow insects to live as food for hedgehogs</p> <p>Regular monitoring Stronger enforcement of current rules</p> <p>More funding Ensure biodiversity is adequately funded and prioritised</p> <p>Staff training on the diversity of species</p> <p>Ring up the council to collect the bulbs that are being thrown away</p> <p>Litter picking incentives – need to make litter picking ‘cool’</p> <p>LWT working with farmers at Wrea Green Land below St Mary’s, Penwortham and the churchyard / river area – possibly owned by Anglican church and Blackburn dioceses</p> <p>Land between Longton Drumacre Lane – Walmer Bridge – create as woodland, ponds, hedgerow and paths (one already there)</p> <p>Land between Longton sports and social club to Drumacre Lane – develop as woodland, orchids, ponds, woodland walks from existing footpaths</p>	<p>More hedgerows Create more ponds Encourage living walls Secure beehive areas Encourage species More green roofs More bat and bird boxes Bee friendly flower beds that are not sprayed with weed killer and non-native flowers planted</p> <p>Wildlife friendly parks Hedgehog highways – encourage residents to make gardens more accessible and wildlife friendly</p> <p>Standing dead wood Habitat piles</p> <p>Salt marsh creation / realignment of coastal flood banks Strategic wetland creation and Natural flood management and biodiversity On site water storage – Ponds / reservoirs</p> <p>Encourage diversity around allotments</p> <p>More orchards – edible foods and herbs More community fruit trees (map so know where to find them)</p> <p>Buy up available land to protect it from future development</p>		<p>Council to work with local organic veg growers to incentivise residents to buy veg boxes – local food, less waste, less carbon</p> <p>Refill Stations, household goods Repair cafes or pop up shops – repair items locally so don’t have to throw away</p> <p>Ask local garages to remove free plastic gloves from the pumps</p> <p>Reduce parking outside schools, encourage parents to walk or ride bikes instead Publish local bike riding routes Publish walking routes – encourages families to get outside and engage with nature Green footpaths</p> <p>Sustainable living workshops – grow organic food at home, companion planting to encourage wildflowers at home alongside vegetables Penwortham needs organic food markets, somewhere that sells local produce</p>	<p>More education in schools / extra-curricular Local youth as environmental champions Insect boxes / bird boxes supplied to schools for children to take home Support sustainability in schools Ensure every school in the borough has a green / eco council Gardening, woodland workshops at schools, encourage children to engage with wildlife and nature. After school groups led by community groups getting children outside in nature More education in schools – via events to help people understand how to help Work with younger people to encourage</p> <p>Social prescribing Collation of roadkill data</p> <p>Educate residents to use alternatives to glyphosate and slug pellets</p> <p>Also educate the decision makers</p> <p>Bring back the Ranger Service Brickcroft example – roll out to other parks more education Educational centre at Worden Park</p>
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3. Challenges and Barriers

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money Slow ineffective funding systems Lack of investment in project developments – shovel ready projects Resources Replace mowers with suitable machines to cope with the changes Complexity – regulations and policies / uncertainty / conflict of interest Lack of funding – government priorities Lack of funding – make money more accessible Bureaucracy Lack of money Resources - available land and Financial / budget money Funding for residential giveaways General funding – fixed budgets. Don't waste money on other things eg cladding changing rooms at Worden.</p> <p>Farming policy Incentivisation of landowners to protect / improve land for biodiversity – funding? Lack of staff is keeping volunteer time down Lack of staff Dedicated role for a person to look after volunteers Age of volunteers Adequate staff training levels to carry out more environmentally friendly ways of working, i.e.. Hand weeding more labour intensive Maintenance capacity – coppice woodlands etc Recruit staff and train</p> <p>Reliable data – current state / modelling / predictions / data sharing Box ticking / tokenism</p>	<p>Habitats are valued only if public are informed of the wildlife value External impacts on migratory species Chose the right areas for wildflowers Ponds – safety, cost of fencing</p>	<p>Environmental abuse is profitable Inequitable access to the environment Running out of space for nature Population increases Landowners lack of empathy to biodiversity Untrained dogs Fighting against the weather</p>	<p>Land availability Lack of advisory staff / volunteers to talk to landowners etc. Lack of understanding of how important biodiversity is for humans – food production Awareness of habitat importance Imbalance of politicians – more bias to economics rather than gains to the natural world Organic farming perceived as too costly Getting developers to add in ponds, swales and drainage and to maintain them Industry and businesses Cost of living crisis Plastics Government Policy Government encouraging / can't stop development building Housing demand / car orientated society</p>	<p>Apathy / perception Willingness from public / local authority Ignorance Public awareness improvements Lack of awareness by general public Consumer behaviour, wastefulness Lack of knowledge Lack of knowledge Wider change in culture – human nature Lack of trust in NGOs, charities, Local authorities and government by public and each other Public interest and incentives Changing public view on what looks tidy or 'a mess' – messy is better for wildlife Public understanding Public used to things being done a certain way Lack of education Increased education of school children of need / importance of native wildlife and biodiversity Should be a compulsory part of the</p>

<p>Paper exercise – placing documents away and policies not being implemented</p> <p>Lack of co-ordination between different objectives</p> <p>Lack of evidence / good practice</p> <p>Cross boundary working</p> <p>Legislation with no teeth</p> <p>Fly tipping / litter – consequences</p> <p>Legislation</p> <p>Expectations – quick fixes to problems rather than ecologically effective ones</p> <p>Poor expectations</p> <p>Misinformation</p> <p>Short sighted projects that look good</p> <p>Too tidy</p> <p>Reluctance to change</p> <p>Use of pesticides</p> <p>Vandalism</p>			<p>Enforce contractors doing their bit for biodiversity.</p>	<p>curriculum that continues to high school</p> <p>Resistance to change</p> <p>Conflict of interest</p> <p>Publicity</p>
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4. Solutions

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Effective up to date mapping</p> <p>Innovative financing options</p> <p>Increased funding and staff</p> <p>Funding to develop projects</p> <p>Financial certainty / stability will decrease speculation</p> <p>Financial support for reliable data</p> <p>Better use of funds available</p> <p>Change work patterns to free up money</p> <p>Funds need to be directed to environmental projects because of their importance</p> <p>Biodiversity to have economic value recognising</p> <p>More resources – land and funding</p> <p>Land banking</p> <p>Agencies need to work more closely together</p> <p>Partnerships – catchment areas / coastal / others</p> <p>Partnership based projects</p> <p>Greater coordination / networking</p> <p>Locally agreed priorities / plan</p> <p>Working to strengths (organisations)</p> <p>Certainty / clear direction irrespective of policies</p> <p>Enforce existing byelaws</p> <p>Cabinet minister dedicated to the environment</p> <p>More Lengthsmen to improve footpaths</p> <p>Leave green waste on site – brash and log piles, reducing mechanical usage – fuel, energy, noise</p> <p>Cameras</p>	<p>Turning grazing land into orchards – fruit trees to replace income from lamb, red meat / dairy</p> <p>Legislate so that hedgerows must be planted rather than fences</p> <p>If an area is wet, then create wetland / bog gardens</p> <p>Ponds – design and location</p>	<p>Harsher punishments for environmental crime</p>	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain</p> <p>Why not 15% BNG rather than 10%</p> <p>New government policies</p> <p>Planning conditions</p> <p>Secure by design</p> <p>SPDs for development – reduce / improve design</p> <p>Corporate social responsibility</p> <p>Corporate responsibility</p> <p>Clause in contracts about biodiversity</p> <p>Wildlife bridges and tunnels</p> <p>Improved dialogue with landowners</p> <p>Properly funded countryside stewardship</p> <p>Incentivise ecological practice / increase profits through improved environmental measures</p> <p>Independent monitoring</p> <p>More stringent use of ecological consultants for planning</p> <p>Incentives for families – bottle deposit schemes</p> <p>Supermarket involvement</p> <p>Take away outlets should take more responsibility for their waste. More pressure on corporates like McDonalds and Cadbury's</p>	<p>Grassroot education</p> <p>Environmental apprenticeships</p> <p>Funding for environmental education</p> <p>Information pack to children / parents at school</p> <p>Education via public events / Friend's groups / social media</p> <p>Try to involve Friends Groups more</p> <p>Embrace / value volunteers</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Educate at all levels</p> <p>Use social media to educate</p> <p>Closer liaison with universities (local) to bring more presentations / lectures to general public and / or local wildlife groups / clubs / societies</p> <p>Public involvement in planning / delivering environmental projects</p> <p>Improved education of the public – signs / information boards</p> <p>Include people – ownership</p> <p>Wider engagement</p> <p>Incentives for families – bottle deposit schemes</p> <p>Supermarket involvement</p> <p>Take away outlets should take more responsibility for their waste. More pressure on corporates like McDonalds and Cadbury's</p> <p>Funded, targeted schemes for residents</p> <p>Stand up to the pressure and consult with the public</p>

5. Community Involvement

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money – get some out there</p> <p>Enough staff to manage volunteers</p> <p>Work in partnership with organisations that already have community involvement</p> <p>Links forged between groups</p> <p>Sharing best practice with other Local Authorities</p> <p>More work with Probation Service</p> <p>Government and local government investing in NGOs</p> <p>Monitoring and advertising of sites – before during and after</p> <p>Low cost signage at sites, social media QR codes</p> <p>Friends of groups</p> <p>Working with and supporting more Friends of groups</p> <p>Provision of an indoor space for Friends Groups as a drink / biscuit after sessions adds to social benefits of volunteering</p> <p>Larger membership of Friends Groups and resources to manage</p>	<p>Wildflowers (Longton)</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Continuity of survey work across volunteer groups</p> <p>Target on native plants and let nettles, ivy etc grow for habitat</p>	<p>Ash dieback / INNS – reporting / logging / plotting / education / removing / treating</p>	<p>Get farmers and landowners into the same room and talk to them honestly about the future</p> <p>Farmers / landowners</p> <p>Liaison with landowners / other public sector landowners / farmers and incentives for each group</p> <p>Prison land</p> <p>Golf courses</p> <p>Corporate engagement / volunteering</p> <p>Corporate partnerships – volunteering</p> <p>Local businesses involved in projects</p> <p>Volunteer days – in / out of work</p> <p>Team building days – internal and external</p> <p>Businesses – Bae / Highways England / Railtrack / UU / Canal and Rivers Trust / National Grid</p> <p>Local businesses support local projects</p> <p>Church eco groups</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Promotion at supermarkets, galas etc</p> <p>WCAF – woodland creation accelerator fund</p> <p>Interaction with wildlife groups / organisations</p> <p>Free tree schemes / wildflower schemes</p>	<p>Making use of social influencers</p> <p>Identify the people who are listened to and talk to them / influence them to influence others</p> <p>Use local radio stations</p> <p>Create podcasts for local biodiversity / wildlife</p> <p>Encourage wildlife recording</p> <p>Citizen science</p> <p>CASTO (river specific) citizen science</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Invest more in early years education – nursery / forest schools</p> <p>Should start in schools – Forest Schools, allotments, clubs etc</p> <p>Make more garden areas for schools / community groups</p> <p>Communication between conservation groups</p> <p>Bring members of the public with different interests together e.g. anglers & kayakers</p> <p>Invitation to local landowners / major stakeholders to presentations on biodiversity</p> <p>Encourage landowners to open days on their properties with biodiversity experts to help advise / encourage changes to land use</p> <p>Biodiversity open garden days</p> <p>Volunteer / You Tube / presentations on local walks</p> <p>Flora / plant / bird identification days</p>

<p>Friends Groups – encourage, engage, educate</p>			<p>Social prescribing / free transport and equal access / school twinning for projects</p> <p>Better investment in environmental guardianship / stewardship – start with those who already have a keen interest and get them to do more monitoring / reporting</p> <p>Promote / embrace projects</p> <p>Off road Trampler for mobility</p>	<p>Expert leaders on walks concentrating on seeing things rather than walking as the exercise</p> <p>Events in Parks e.g. – talks with RSPB, bat watching, pond dipping</p> <p>Photography competitions – postcards or calendars</p> <p>Guided walks</p> <p>Citizen Jury – empowering interested local people to be able to direct ideas / funding</p> <p>Development restrictions and structure planning restrictions</p>
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6. Action Plan Content suggestions

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Partnership working – Council should be working with partners not alone to maximise benefits to wildlife</p> <p>Wider environmental group</p> <p>Catchment wide meetings / cooperation</p> <p>Management that is committed</p> <p>More staff and volunteers</p> <p>Investment of time and money</p> <p>Overlay land ownership map with habitats maps</p> <p>Engaging BHS landowners</p> <p>Corporate buy in from landowners and within council</p> <p>Education of landowners – make information available in addition to the top levels such as SSSIs, BHS etc.</p> <p>All areas should be managed locally, preferably by residents who have experience of living there</p> <p>Cutting trees and grass at the right time</p> <p>Reinforcing local byelaws</p> <p>Reducing pesticides, herbicides etc</p> <p>More equipment to enable flexibility of teams – e.g. rough cut mowers</p> <p>More flexible working practices</p> <p>Constantly review working practices</p>	<p>Improve biological recording</p> <p>Important habitats and precise records of species</p> <p>Data sharing / reliability / currency</p> <p>Long term data modelling</p> <p>Nest boxes etc in urban area</p> <p>Connectivity and habitat corridors</p> <p>Identifying risk areas for roadkill</p> <p>Specific habitat targets for receptive Landowners</p> <p>Identify and protect</p> <p>Promote habitats for bats, hedgehogs, deer</p> <p>Replace urban meadows with native</p> <p>Difference between wildflowers and Urban Meadows</p>	<p>INNS initiatives to work to remove such species</p> <p>Information on INNS, especially those escaping from gardens to vulnerable habitats</p> <p>More control of INNs and dedicated Grounds</p> <p>Maintenance team to tackle</p> <p>Accountability and enforcing around mitigation / BNG</p> <p>INNS / pests</p> <p>Removal of INNS</p> <p>Water storage – ponds / reservoirs / tanks for summer irrigation</p> <p>SuDS systems</p>	<p>Effective BNG measures</p> <p>Ensure biodiversity targets are met by developers in the borough</p> <p>BNG and more resources around assessing planning applications, wide skills set needed</p> <p>Ask landowners take responsibility for biodiversity</p> <p>Ensure developers and planners are well informed and educated</p> <p>Lancashire Nature Partnership</p> <p>Lancashire Peat Partnership</p> <p>Projects equivalent to REMADE if funds become available</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Food recycling – what's happening?</p> <p>Renewable Energies</p> <p>Green roof</p>	<p>Who is doing what and where?</p> <p>Older naturalists meet younger people using apps, SM etc.</p> <p>Encourage the use of apps like iRecorder / iNaturalist</p> <p>Send records in to LERN</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Get Lancashire Botany Group active again</p> <p>Church Groups</p> <p>Landowner involvement / target groups at existing NFU events</p> <p>Targeted events</p> <p>Work with schools and colleges to support the biodiversity / sustainability agenda.</p> <p>We like the photography competition idea.</p> <p>Community Hubs and Learning Centre</p> <p>Pop up hubs on parks and town centres</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>Days – promo radio, not all internet</p> <p>Eco areas</p> <p>Skills to develop community groups</p> <p>Incentives to volunteer</p> <p>Educate the public</p>

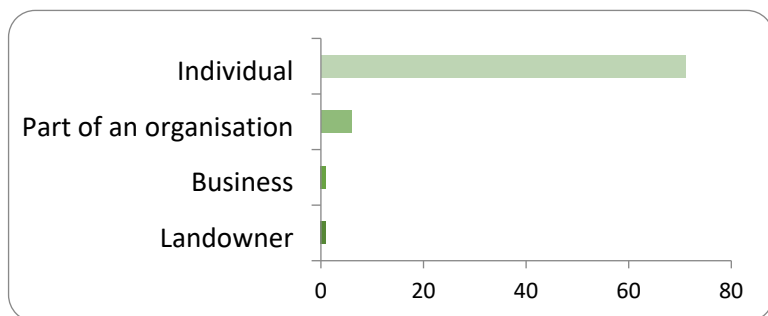
Appendix Two – Summary of responses from the online public consultation

Following on from the development of our Biodiversity Strategy, we're now looking to create the Action Plan to help guide how we deliver conservation at a local scale. The creation of South Ribble's Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership effort to target actions in 5 main areas.

- Management
- Habitats and Species
- Environmental Pressures and Mitigation
- Sustainable Development (ensuring what we do meets current needs but will not compromise the needs of future generations)
- Education / Awareness

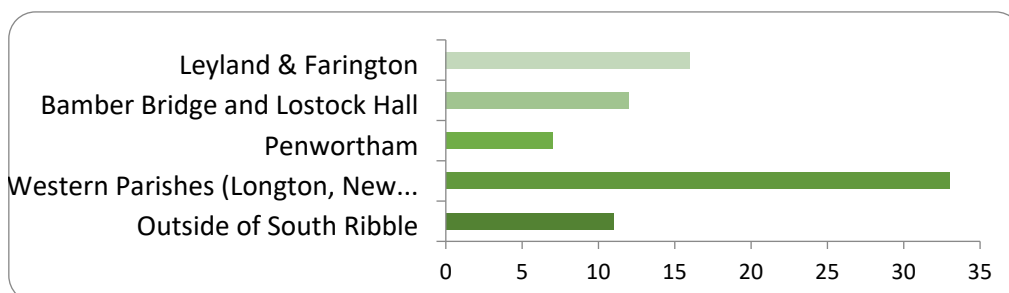
Integral to the creation of the Action Plan is the collaboration of interested parties, sharing knowledge, expertise and resources to deliver action for nature. We have already consulted our own Parks and Grounds staff, our Volunteers and other local volunteer groups, local wildlife groups and national wildlife Non-government organisations. We would now like to know what you think about some of the main themes and issues that have been raised.

1. Are you responding as?



Option	Total	Percent
Individual	71	89.87%
Part of an organisation	6	7.59%
Business	1	1.27%
Landowner	1	1.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

2. Which part of the borough are you from?



Option	Total	Percent
Western Parishes (Longton, New Longton, Much Hoole area)	33	41.77%
Leyland & Farington	16	20.25%
Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall	12	15.19%
Outside of South Ribble	11	13.92%
Penwortham	7	8.86%
Eastern Parishes (Gregson Lane, Samlesbury, Coupe Green area)	0	0.00%

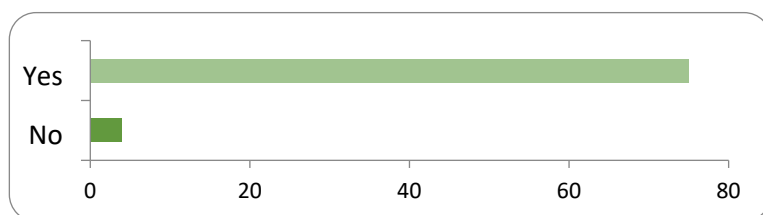
Not Answered

0

0.00%

We are aware that Planning laws and developments are emotive issues when it comes to the environment and biodiversity. While this will be referenced in the Action Plan it is not possible for this document to change UK planning law. If this is something that you feel strongly about, then the Local Plan for Chorley, South Ribble and Preston is currently being updated and will be open for a second round of consultation late summer 2023. Adding your views in this arena will have much more impact, than comments here.

3. Do you think that taking action to protect and enhance the natural environment in South Ribble is important?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	75	94.94%
No	4	5.06%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? (there were 9 responses)

There are more important things to sort out, like feeding the poor and making sure they are warm

Nature and green space, with wildlife and natural plants, are absolutely essential for the wellbeing of residents. Previous destruction of green spaces was destroying what little Nature we had left. That must cease, and Nature and wildlife protected for their own sake as well as ours.

There are far more important priorities.

Because you take too much of our money already. I'd rather have it stay in my pocket.

Absolutely, but not to the detriment of existing habitats or local that it might impact.

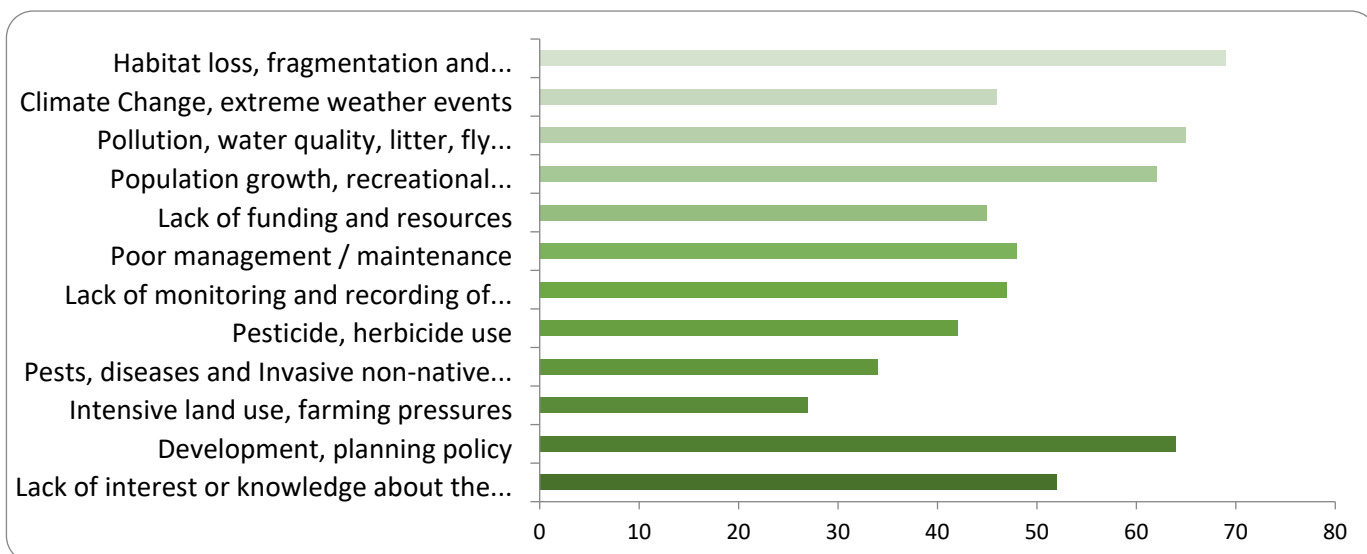
Glamping pods in Longton absolute ridiculous they only want to do this is so then in 5 years they can get planning passed for houses

Very important that we protect what we have left. As we are all aware the UK has lost more wildlife than the rest of Europe and is the least biodiverse country in Europe.

Want to have plenty of greenery and better public services before building g more houses

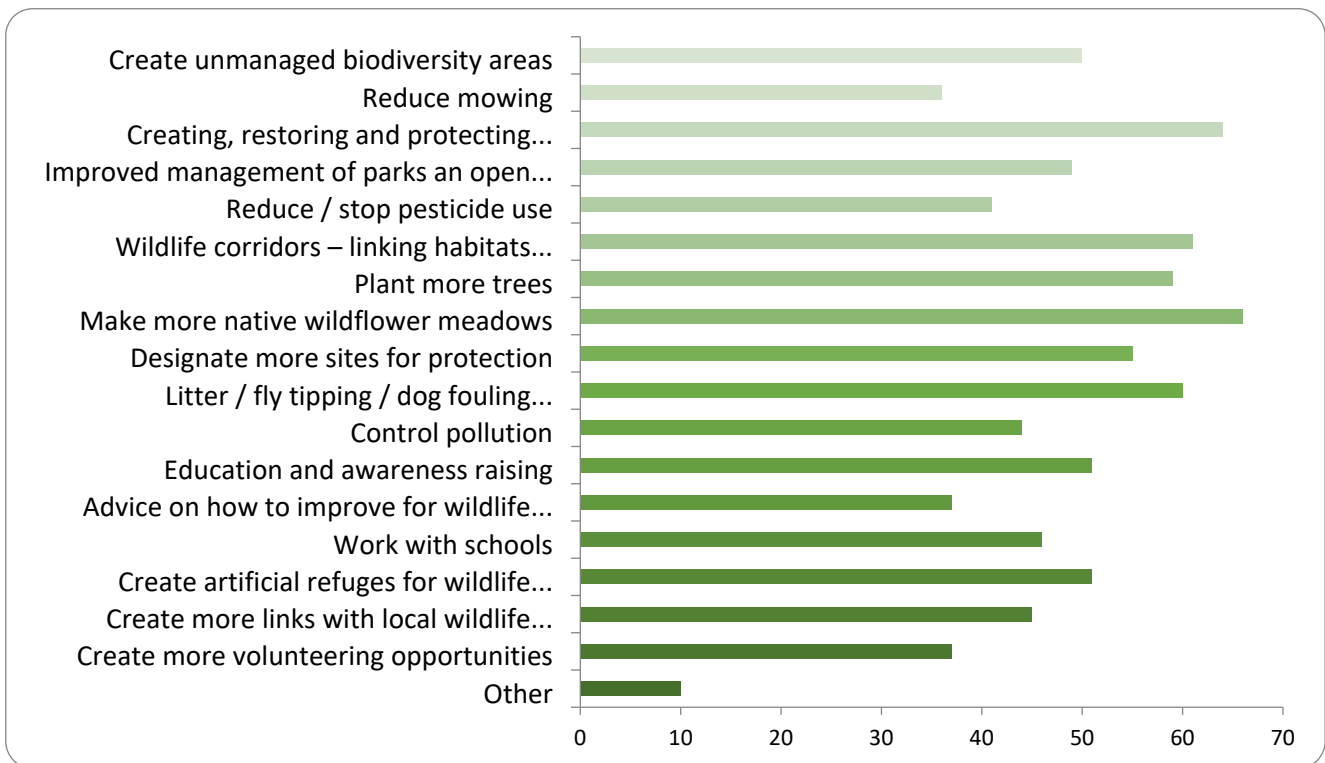
We need nature for our health and wellbeing being and every year green space is lost as more and more houses/factories/ shops are built. Wildlife is in decline and so we need to try and save it from extinction...and that is also for our survival as all life on earth is interconnected. We need natural reserves of green space to help our air quality too.

4. Please pick all the things you feel threaten biodiversity in South Ribble



Option	Total	Percent
Habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance	69	87.34%
Pollution, water quality, litter, fly tipping and dog fouling	65	82.28%
Development, planning policy	64	81.01%
Population growth, recreational pressures, human disturbance	62	78.48%
Lack of interest or knowledge about the environment	52	65.82%
Poor management / maintenance	48	60.76%
Lack of monitoring and recording of species and habitats	47	59.49%
Climate Change, extreme weather events	46	58.23%
Lack of funding and resources	45	56.96%
Pesticide, herbicide use	42	53.16%
Pests, diseases and Invasive non-native species	34	43.04%
Intensive land use, farming pressures	27	34.18%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5. Please pick all the things that you feel should be done to help improve biodiversity in the borough –



Option	Total	Percent
Make more native wildflower meadows	66	83.54%
Creating, restoring and protecting habitats	64	81.01%
Wildlife corridors – linking habitats together to allow wildlife to move around safely	61	77.22%
Litter / fly tipping / dog fouling enforcement	60	75.95%
Plant more trees	59	74.68%
Designate more sites for protection	55	69.62%
Education and awareness raising	51	64.56%
Create artificial refuges for wildlife – bee hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways etc.	51	64.56%
Create unmanaged biodiversity areas	50	63.29%
Improved management of parks and open space	49	62.03%
Work with schools	46	58.23%
Create more links with local wildlife groups and organisations	45	56.96%
Control pollution	44	55.70%
Reduce / stop pesticide use	41	51.90%
Advice on how to improve for wildlife in private gardens	37	46.84%
Create more volunteering opportunities	37	46.84%
Reduce mowing	36	45.57%
Other	10	12.66%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

6. Please tell us what other actions you would like to add (there were 27 responses)

Stop building houses on the wildlife habitats in the first place
I would like to see the introduction of green bus stops so that flowers that grow on the roofs of these bus stops create an urban path for pollinating insects
Regarding native wildflower meadows - the wildflower plantings of the last few years have been lovely but have mostly been annuals and include non-native species. Planting up with native perennials will cost less and require less maintenance in the long run, may look slightly less 'pretty', but will help ensure our native meadow species flourish.
Events in the community to educate children with parents during school holidays and weekends. Council Teaming up and helping promote and advertise with community allotment groups, forest school groups, wildlife charities in the area to promote families getting more connected to nature, joining outdoor extracurricular for health, wellbeing and to environment education and voluntary conservation.
All of the above are key
Encourage secondary as well as primary schools to take an interest in the environment, to turn over some of their land for wildlife conservation and protect and maintain existing trees and woodland within their playing fields. Reduce close mowing on these fields and stop strimming field edges where wildlife live.
Better planning policy to prevent the most damaging industries like intensive livestock get planning permission
Stop cutting down mature trees to make way for development.
Encourage local people to take charge of unused areas such as the piece of land on Gaskell road to be used as a common area for growing fruit, flowers and veg
Avoid building on green belt land
Leave ponds where building is taking place, don't culvert streams. Wildlife needs water. Small mammals died last year in the drought particularly our hedgehogs.
A somewhat biased question assumes that improving biodiversity is anything to do with the council. Get the bins right and slash staff numbers instead.
Stop strimming of grass verges.
Engagement with organisations any information they have about certain areas, species etc to know what is using the habitat. Knowledge is key - for instance more trees are good but to the expense of freshwater areas which maybe more should be created. (Ponds can have a cooling affect, are habitats for dragonflies, newts etc, are good for mental health, are a drinking source for animals).
Ensure planning consents require developments to apply the biodiversity and SUDs hierarchy and that their delivery is guaranteed to be funded by the developer and delivery of targets enforced.
Generally, building on green belt land should be stopped.
Enforce TPOs (that office is impossible to contact despite multiple requests by phone and email)
Stop building more and more houses
More links with school, especially secondary education. Help schools make biodiverse areas within the school grounds
Control of invasive animals and plants. For example, grey squirrels. Red squirrels have been seen in the area but are at risk as long as there are grey squirrels.
Control invasive species e.g. grey squirrels
"Less building of new houses
Less new housing estates
More bridle paths
More effective Grey Squirrel Control in Parks and other land managed by the Council. Removal of Grey Squirrels because they are non-native invasive and make room for Red Squirrels to recolonise.

Stop commercial development and building on green belt land. It's absolutely outrageous that farmland & green belt fields are being sold off and planning permission given to build on these areas. A perfect example of this is the proposal for a glamping site in Longton. It's ridiculous and totally inappropriate. The proposer is paying lip service to biodiversity, using all the "buzz words" in his planning application. It's merely "smoke & mirrors" If this goes ahead, biodiversity will go out of the window and it will make way for a housing estate on farmland. Do not let it pass

Biodiversity would also improve with reduced car dependency and use and an increase in electric car use with corresponding rise in take up of public transport (to reduce air pollution particulates).

Significant reduction in artificial lighting would help biodiversity. Light pollution is a major biodiversity issue. If commercial premises turned off their lights when the premises are not in use it would really help. Encouraging residential occupiers not to have lighting on in their gardens/yards etc etc or even a ban between certain hours, ditto.

A joined-up approach would be most useful. The Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy may help with that, as and when produced and implemented.

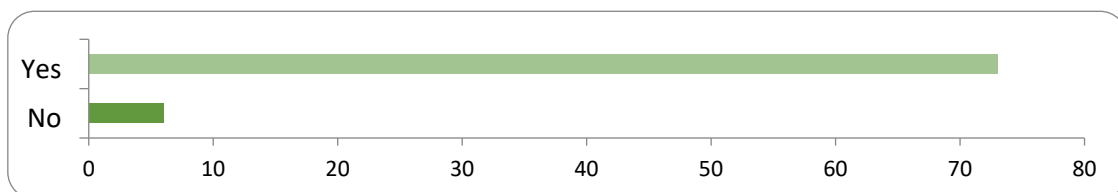
Management of existing woodland, especially ancient woodland, is a greater priority than tree-planting. The latter cannot recreate the ancient soils and the complex ancient ecosystems that ancient woodland supports.

Intertidal and marine management needs addressing: a whole Ribble Estuary approach would be appropriate.

A joined-up approach would be most useful. The Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy may help with that, as and when produced and implemented.

Management of existing woodland, especially ancient woodland, is a greater priority than tree-planting. The latter cannot recreate the ancient soils and the complex ancient ecosystems that ancient woodland supports. Intertidal and marine management needs addressing: a whole Ribble Estuary approach would be appropriate.

7. Do you agree that South Ribble Borough Council should allocate some areas of their parks and open spaces to nature, reducing maintenance, allowing grass to grow longer, excluding dogs and managing for wildlife and not people?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	73	92.41%
No	6	7.59%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? There were 7 responses

Only a small area of the borough is made up of parks and they have important value for people to use for recreation, exercise, etc. They should be well planted with trees and plants and ponds maintained but you should keep a good portion where you cut the grass for children to play on, allow dogs for good walks (good for owners too!) Etc.

Controlling where people are allowed to go is wrong

The old railway line Todd Lane Junction needs regular husbandry it is a disgrace. Steps up from embankment falling into disrepair yet money spent tarmacking areas where tree roots spoil the path. Too many brambles.

Basically. A cop out from maintaining local parks to save money by councils. Children need places to play safely. Dogs should not be banned, where are people supposed to exercise dogs when all the fields for miles are being built on

Because you will abuse your perceived authority.

There are already areas like this in my area - places like the Brickcroft with areas fenced off from people and dogs are kept on leads so walkers can still enjoy it but wildlife isn't disturbed. The public footpaths are also overgrown as it is. Areas around the edges of parks can be left unmowed with wildflowers planted. More of these could be planted. It is also a better idea to stop building on the fields we have than to take away parks! Stop building more houses which in turn creates more traffic as well as taking these areas away.

Just educate people to be more aware of their surroundings and environment and they can help to improve the area. If you exclude people, they will be less willing to help.

8. Which parks and open spaces should we create these areas on? There were 55 responses

Worden Park.

Withy Tree park could do with more natural areas, sorting out the small ponds in and around the park, clearing and managing the small overflow stream to make suitable for habitats

More seasonal flowers around the park

Worden Park Leyland

St Catherine's Park Bamber Bridge

Cuerden Valley Park

Hurst Grange Park Penwortham

All parks and open spaces should have a designated area

Hurst Grange, Worden and St George's Playing Fields, Penwortham.

All parks can have some portion where grass is left longer, wildflower meadows created, more trees planted. Just make the size of the area proportional to the size of the park and ensure the balance of space for people the play, exercise, relax Vs space for wildlife is kept.

All play parks surrounded by grass could have a patch with a sign next to it explaining its use to educate families. The sign could also have the suggestion that families create their own "wildlife only patch" in their garden. Connecting with young children and their role models/families to nature is really important.

All of them

Parks without playgrounds, such as paradise lane.

All of them, but particularly Worden park, for years one of the best natural parks in the north west. Stop emphasising the creation of so many children's playgrounds and sports pitches in South Ribble and do more for wildlife. Plastic-filled playgrounds and designated sports areas discourage creativity and awareness of the environment. Prohibit the use of bicycles in Worden Park woods: they destroy pathways, create noise and danger to walkers.

All of them! We need to do this properly to have the impact we need

Withy Grove

All parks. And large open areas should have some of these spaces. They need to be large enough to support some of the bigger animals not just tiny patches of fenced of areas for insects.

Roadside verges

Roundabouts

Motorway verges

Can you not allocate a proportion on all parks / open areas

Unused woodland, overgrown land etc

All parks and open spaces should be able to accommodate wildlife as well as people. They are an integral and necessary part of healthy life.

none

Cuerden Valley park. Farington Moss, all new build developments should have these spaces built into the planning agreement.

Farington park, Worden Park, Leyland town centre, Bamber Bridge town centre

I like the grass being left long at Worden Park with mowed footpaths. New ponds could be protected, or signs added (I believe the one at Worden Park maybe getting something to protect from dogs) as the ponds have been created for more biodiversity.

At Moss Side there is plenty of grassland that could have wildflowers. Also, there is an old skateboard park that could be repurposed for nature as its never used, there is already a football pitch and a bigger playground."

Larger ones. Not great conservation value to have tiny piecemeal bits here and there other than for education and where volunteers are engaged to maintain the habitat.

Please also consider golf courses, churchyards/cemeteries and road verges"

There is land off Back Lane that currently has application in to put caravans on it, this is a perfect location to leave unmanaged or plant bee and butterfly flowers to support pollination

Longton Brick Croft and green belt land where possible.

Longton Brickcroft

Existing green belt land

Worden Park

Farington Park

Cuerden Valley Park

Leyland Golf Course

Paradise Park

Malt Kiln Woods/Nature Area

Hurst Grange Park

Dog Kennel Woods

Middleforth Green/Park

Hurst Grange Park

Worden Park

Longton marshes

Howick Cross

Middleforth Green Park

All

A % on all parks, with signage to help educate and raise awareness of the importance

Hurst grange. Worden. I'm not so familiar with others but I'm sure there are more.

It is hard to answer this when I do not know exactly what the council owns and what is private land. It is important to have a balance of safe places for our children to play as well as areas for wildlife. Wildflowers could be put around the borders of all parks and community fields.

On all council owned areas

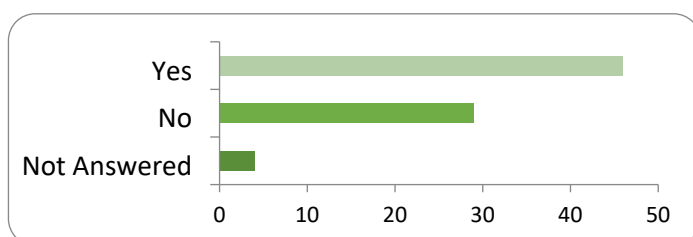
Any that are large enough
As many as possible
All parks
Areas that aren't used for community sport
Plant wildflowers on any grass verges etc"
All parks, but with Worden Park as the flagship and education centre, working with local schools and colleges and the local retail shops to ensure that the message about less mowing, more native wildflowers is getting out
Withy Grove Park, Holland House estate
Any land that isn't currently used by people - hedgerows - areas of grass around the village - the graveyard would look stunning with an area of natural beauty
Walmer bridge park
Any suitable woodland where Red Squirrels can re-establish themselves Cuerden Park, Worden Park Brickcroft would be ideal
Worden Park Leyland
Hurst Grange Penwortham"
All parks should have some of their space allocated.
As many as possible, including wildflower meadows
On the larger parks such as Longton park next to Longton school it's has the space
Wooden park
All of the parks, even the small ones
All of them wherever possible
All
Every park if it is big enough to have a designated "wild" area. The more it is done, the more that people see and learn and can begin to understand the issue. Communication of the right kind and at the right time is important to achieve this.
All parks in the and open spaces in the Borough
Withy Grove Park in Bamber Bridge
I can't immediately say. That would require strategic analysis as to which were most suitable and for what and how each fits into the wider nature recovery network. Off the top of my head I do know that some are identified, at least in part, as Lancashire Biological Heritage Sites.
Wherever possible. Worden park is trying to move towards this.
Farington park - like the new tree area that was planted a few years ago. Could do something similar on 'Trumpet park' by the Oaks estate in Leyland, this is a large open field at the moment and would be perfect for more tree planting.

9. Which parks and open spaces should we not create these areas on? There were 33 responses

Withy trees - keep access for walking dogs into surrounding areas maybe keep on leads though
None
I can't think of any that wouldn't be improved by this
I think parks with playgrounds as kids may want to venture into the wild areas

Existing long-established play and sports areas.
None
Playing fields
Not sure
all of them
All parks should have these areas
Also, don't exclude dogs from all water courses and fields. They need places to run and enjoy. Same with other uses of parks including sports pitches, it isn't to take things away but to protect areas that have been worked on.
Ones with too many dog walkers and too much need for intensive recreational play
All parks would benefit in my opinion.
Some areas of all parks and open spaces in South Ribble could benefit from more diverse habitats
Not sure.
Possibly New Longton, because I believe all the managed green space is dedicated to football pitches and cricket, which is important for the community. But I would love to see more wild spaces there too if there was a suitable site. Possibly between the playground and the football pitch?
Places that are used regularly by families and the community for health and wellbeing.
Any small ones vital to communities
Any that are likely to be vandalised
Ones that are used for walkers / horse riders etc
None
Only small parks which don't have the capacity to create adequate benefit.
None
All
For some families and people, their local park is their only green space. So, it is important that parks in such areas can be used by such people, particularly their children. Urban or suburban "no go" areas in parks in disadvantaged or economically deprived areas should not be used to restrict human access unless the park is big enough to limit movement or apply restrictions that only apply at certain times .
I can't immediately say. That would require strategic analysis as to which were most suitable and for what and how each fits into the wider nature recovery network.
All of them
Not sure

10. If we reduce our herbicide use there will be an increase in weeds in streets, back alleys and on our parks and open spaces won't look as tidy, would you be happy with this?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	46	58.23%
No	29	36.71%
Not Answered	4	5.06%

If no, why is this? There were 29 responses

Better natural maintenance like cutting back areas more frequently using chemicals shouldn't be an excuse to areas looking untidy especially when it comes to walkways

The emergence of weeds makes a place look uncared for. I use white vinegar on my garden.

Everything is there for a reason and instead of employing people to spray herbicides all over the environment employ people to tidy these natural weeds up and maintain areas better

Should be a more balanced approach parks and open spaces should have reduced herbicide use and let the weeds grow. Maybe only use them when essential i.e. streets

There is a biodiversity crisis.

Use herbicides more cautiously. Consider where it is really needed for something other than 'it looks tidy'.

We pay for this maintenance so for the council it's only about reducing costs without reducing council tax

Litter and debris will then amass. Weeds will spread quickly into other areas.

Feels like this is an excuse to not maintain things. General maintenance is already not great in many of these areas.

If back alleys and streets look untidy promotes anti-social behaviour

Think keeping an area tidy helps people to have pride in their environment and improves Health & Wellbeing.

Can these areas be managed under community services where people work/ keep an area tidy"

Again, South Ribble looks scruffy. Roadsides need weeding or the drains become blocked and then the flooding is increased.

It does not look good. I think limited use in residential areas would not be an issue.

don't want untidy environment

Streets and footpaths should be cleared to maintain standards and encourage pride in an area. Herbicides in parks should be minimised where possible, unless as a last resort to manage plants which out-compete wildflowers: Horsetail and Himalayan balsam etc.

Plants around buildings can eventually lead to further damage and if left unmanage could become dangerous

There is no reason not to use herbicides on street and back alleys.

Why not use environmentally friendly ones that do not harm wildlife but keep unwanted plants under control, such as knotweed etc.

South Ribble is a beautiful place and I would not be happy for it to look like a slum area. Hopefully, there is a form of natural herbicide that can be utilised.

This would be where volunteering would help.

Yes and no - there is no reason someone can't be employed to maintain areas if they are already employed to spray herbicide!

However, within reason - some ""weeds"" are good for wildlife and can be left in the right areas if they are causing no harm and not blocking routes."

Maybe. If communities and volunteers are given more responsibility maybe some of the tidying can be done manually without herbicides.

Actually, you could use steam/hot water to kill the plants in streets ad back alleys and this is more sustainable and kinder to the environment

Use more environmentally safe herbicides

A happy medium would be the answer

Not all herbicides are bad

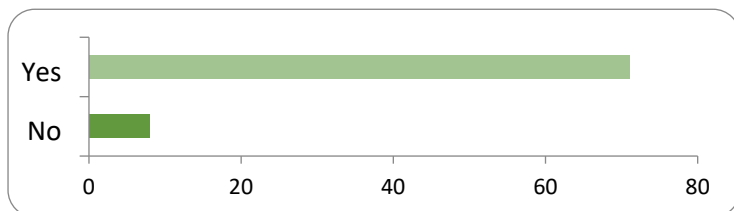
We should be using weed killers which are not harmful to wild life and humans

It would depend where, and what species.

There has to be a measure of management.

As an authority we only own 4% of the land in South Ribble. Building partnerships between the Council, landowners, businesses and local communities is key to restoring and enhancing biodiversity across our borough.

11. Do you agree with this statement?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	71	89.87%
No	8	10.13%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? There were 10 responses

Landowners and local authorities do not always see eye to eye on issues of this nature so some landowners should reserve the right to manage their own land without interference from the relevant authority. However, there will be landowners who will embrace these considerations from councils with mutual agreement to suggestions.

Maybe it's true but again feels like the council are trying to offload their responsibility and accountability. Just look at the destruction created by the monstrosity that was approved for Caddick in Farington. Hundreds of mature trees ripped up to create a monumental eyesore. This was council land that could have been reserved for nature.

assumes biodiversity is anything for the council to get involved with. Stop wasting my money.

It should also specifically include agricultural owners and tenants

Absolutely, there is a piece of land off back lane that should be purchased by the council and used for this very project

Not as a blanket measure. For example, a planning application has been submitted for a glamping site on a green belt field on Back Lane in Longton which includes 10 glamping pods, an administration building and a landscaped park area. This field is currently home to deer, foxes, peregrine falcons, pheasants, rabbits, hares etc. Were this development to be approved, despite the park land area, it would undoubtedly have a negative effect on the current biodiversity of the land.

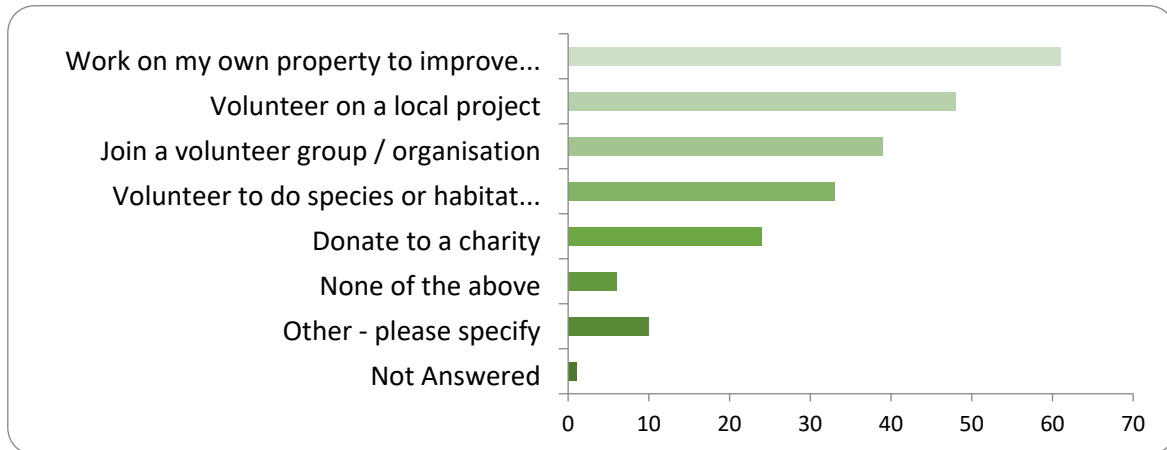
Not as a blanket approach to achieving biodiversity. South Ribble has only limited green belt land left following previous policies to develop and build. The council needs to work closely with the people of the borough to achieve a balanced environment that will support biodiversity for future generations.

I feel some landowners are paying lip service to biodiversity to further their own agenda

We need to protect what green belt we have left. Use brown field sites and as people are now working more from home could we not utilise the land the empty offices are built on.

To enable less concrete

12. What action would you be prepared to take in the future to help local biodiversity?



Option	Total	Percent
Work on my own property to improve biodiversity	61	77.22%
Volunteer on a local project	48	60.76%
Join a volunteer group / organisation	39	49.37%
Volunteer to do species or habitat survey work	33	41.77%
Donate to a charity	24	30.38%
Other - please specify	10	12.66%
None of the above	6	7.59%
Not Answered	1	1.27%

If other, please let us know what? there were 16 responses

Petition other larger landowners to take responsibility for their contribution
I am elderly and Disabled; otherwise I would volunteer. However, my own garden is a haven for wildlife in the town centre.
There are far more important things to worry about at the current time.
I'm sure there are many willing volunteers, but you need to create the opportunity for people to get involved.
I already run Leyland Hedgehog rescue, give talks on environment, wildlife, and in particular hedgehogs to educate people to their important but simple needs.
Organisation/individual research/survey work. If there are questions the council have about an area or species, then relevant people may be able to bring answers from their insight's surveys or studies. Also, students and other individuals/groups may want to do some research and being able to pass this onto someone.
Support with "backroom" tasks for volunteer organisations
support tree planting programmes via Lancashire Woodland Partnership
promote community activity and school activity (e.g. Carbon Literacy training)"
I would love to volunteer to improve the local environment. Whenever I've looked for organised schemes locally, I've ended up giving my time to projects on the other side of Preston or even as far as north Manchester.
I am a geography teacher so help to educate more on the local environment

Let's Grow Preston would be delighted to assist in delivering workshops and getting the message out

take part in educating the public about biodiversity by running workshops in species identification

I already run a Volunteer Group. Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Squirrel Initiative, working in conjunction with British Red Squirrel

I am a trustee and the Chair of the Lancashire group of CPRE The Countryside Charity. I already do hours of voluntary work every week for the charity and donate to it regularly!

I will continue to work for The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside.

Would be keen to see more volunteering opportunities for young people, local high schools and colleges could be contacted for students to volunteer in litter picking or planting schemes. Lots of litter picking volunteering opportunities run by local counsellors are during the working day, preventing those who work or are in education participating

As part of the new [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) and national register of land for [Biodiversity Net Gain](#), there will be opportunities for new large-scale conservation projects. As these are still to be identified, can you think of any wildlife improvement schemes that we may be able to collaborate on with landowners and partners? These can cross Borough boundaries and pull together land owned by multiple agencies.

13. As these are still to be identified, can you think of any wildlife improvement schemes that will be able to collaborate on with landowners and partners?

Nothing immediately comes to mind.

Everywhere I go I see litter and rubbish especially around works premises. What's the point of having fines for littering when there is no-one around to enforce it. Major country wide media urging people to clear up their mess. Businesses, by law, should be made to keep their surroundings clean and litter free. Actually, more litter in the streets after the refuse collection. This will create healthier spaces and get rid of the unsightly mess. I have visited a few different countries and the UK is the dirtiest but what can we expect as we must be the only country in the world to have our rubbish bins adorning our front step instead of tubs of flowers.

Add Green Wildlife Bus Stops in and around LCC authority's

Rather than specific schemes give consideration to working with colleges and universities in the area to adopt and innovative approach that could benefit all parties.

It would be great to have Incredible Edible across the borough - local shops, railway stations etc having planters with herbs etc which people can harvest.

A bee keeping initiative would be good as well, local hives and teaching people bee keeping skills.

Actually, ensure that areas designated as biological heritage sites are not impacted on by development through the Local Plan.

Teaming up with these wider schemes to create community conversations. Chorley flower show and Leyland in Bloom competitions are great as long as they encourage wildlife and no pesticides.

'No Mow May' (to encourage pollinators) with [plant life.org.uk](http://plantlife.org.uk)

1000 hours outside challenge" (to connect people with nature) 1000hoursoutside.com

30 Days Wild" (to educate and challenge communities to get involved together to create wildlife highways and other things on their street as a community rather than individuals.) wildlifetrusts.org"

Stop building on green land

No more roads - encourage more use of public transport so the demand for roads decreases

Awards and incentives for businesses and landowners that that 'do their bit' for enhancing biodiversity.

Do more of what you already do.

Hedgehog highways - hedgehogs are declining

More butterfly / bee friendly flowers around the area, such as buddleia which is low maintenance

The large school field attached to Wellfield High School has some very old and beautiful trees, which are teeming with wildlife and several species of bats. In the past I have tried to interest the school in creating a wildlife study area here, but despite the school claiming ""Green"" credentials, the response was that it was not part of their curriculum and they were too busy. The trees are neglected and where previously were areas of rough grass are now, with better equipment, mown and strimmed so closely that wildlife is disappearing. Lancashire County Council is responsible for maintenance of the field, and LCC and the school need to be made aware of the wildlife habitat loss they are causing - the many tawny owls that were there have all but disappeared because loss of cover has removed their prey, and if the trees are neglected the bats may go too. Part of the field could be preserved as a valuable town centre nature reserve."

Converting polluting intensive animal farming to agro-ecology and halting any new factory farms from being built. This includes reducing the amount of chemicals used by farmers and shifting what they grow to reflect a more sustainable diet (i.e. less meat, more veg, pulses and legumes). This would produce more food, employ more people, and free up land for rewinding and nature recovery.

All landowners must improve biodiversity on their land by planting trees, halting the use of pesticides and basically getting rid of grass to replace with an array of other plants

Companies that have large areas of restricted land such as BAE Systems.

Some farmers have land that is unworkable or of limited use that could be used.

Verges along train tracks.

Inaccessible land of any kind / reason. Some of the small areas around estates that get mowed could be converted.

Purchase of land should also be considered but needs to be set aside for environmental purposes in perpetuity.

To ensure that light pollution from such things as floodlights is appropriately challenged and acted upon from a planning enforcement perspective.

Ponds in farmers' fields such as the one adjacent to the public footpath at skew bridge Leyland road should be treasured not allowed to fill in with trees and sedges. These are a rarity and need conservation. The stream which runs at the bottom of the same field is unique in the area and has a large amount of ancient hedgerows again the stream is overgrown and blocked with fallen trees and rubbish.

Keep on top of planning and building applications that would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife, one current example being the planning application for glamping pods on back lane in Longton. With the best will in the world birds, insects, bats, general wildlife and the fields will be disturbed, this is not what we want!

Leave hedges in place and do not mow within two feet of them allowing corridors for wildlife to thrive.

More ponds or streams.

More education regarding the dangers of littering. Less strimming under shrubs and hedges.

So many hedgehogs are mutilated and left to die this way, noses and legs chopped off.

We don't need to be so pristine we push wildlife out. Learn to appreciate wonderful diverse nature

Hedgehog highways in all new building developments. Leave existing mature trees in all new building developments.

Hand clearing of shrub areas when clearing for a new development, machine clearing kills and injures so much wildlife

Protected dark areas and roosting spots for nocturnal animals, such as bats.

As mentioned, there is land off Back Lane in Longton that could be purchased for this very idea. It would be ideal as I have seen, deer, foxes, owls, pheasants, rabbits and a range of birds that use the area.

Not in the immediate vicinity.

Work closely with local Farmers and Landowners. A close collaboration between Conservation and Agriculture is the way forward to improve biodiversity and restore habitat, alongside improvement of our local environment i.e. our waterways and hedgerows etc. But making sure to benefit our local Agriculture and through this work support our farmers and as a result also improve our food security and produce levels. Nature friendly farming that is well supported by local authority to benefit our farming too.

Other Schemes such as: Nature friendly initiatives enforced on all Housing Developments. Including keeping corridors for wildlife to surrounding untouched land, bat and swift bricks implemented into the properties, complimentary nest boxes in gardens, creation of small ponds and increased number of trees planted on the development.

Waterways improvement - INNS control, litter and waste cleared from our streams and rivers, monitoring pollution i.e. sewage discharge and industrial run off etc

Wildlife Pond creation targeting protection of Great Crested Newts which ultimately creates habitat for a range of other flora and fauna species.

Offering help to local fisheries who already manage fantastic nature friendly spaces. Collaborate with them to put up bird boxes, bat boxes or create hibernaculum's around their lakes and ponds.

Conservation Grazing - consider this on any pastoral land/meadow land that the council may have or have access to. Grazing by cattle/sheep will create better opportunities for wildflowers to grow, improve soil health and provide an opportunity again to work with farmers and landowners.

Public Parks and Play Areas - put up more bird boxes and bat boxes.

Create discrete native wildflower meadows on the quieter areas of the parks or on the edges avoiding vandalism and any damage by dogs.

Don't waste time and money on tree planting initiatives, especially in our public parks and green spaces. (Let any woodlands there are regenerate and extend/connect through their own natural spread.)

Unless it is done on our existing nature reserves or agricultural land where they will not be vandalised and will thrive and actually have an impact on our environment (Collaboration with farmers and landowners again).

The plethora of wild animals that are killed on our highways is exorbitant and unacceptable. Could there be special routes and habitat for the likes of hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, deer and bats etc.

Provide connectivity between habitats

Re-wilding of unused or less-used space should be one an urgent priority - there are a lot of open fields here that don't seem dedicated to growing crops. For example, the council could fund farmers to replace sheep fields with new woodland. I'm sure charities like the woodland trust would happily provide native trees to plant.

We urgently need to enforce green belt legislation and stop the huge wave of inappropriate building that's going on at the moment. For example, around the Whitestake area, large areas of wild land (including valuable woodland) have recently been destroyed in favour of property development, when the emphasis should be on building housing on brownfield sites. One whole field near my house was completely cleared of established woodland (during the nesting season) by developers, to allow for a speculative planning application.

We've been trying to contact the Tree Protection office for months to request a TPO on the few remaining trees in this site, and nobody responds despite many emails and phone calls, which is disgraceful and indicates that the council do not care at all about biodiversity.

Create wildflower verges and mow less aggressively.

Plant more trees and wildflowers corner of Stanisfield Road and Lydiate Road. Get rid of grass verges and sow wildflowers. Plant and sow more on all roundabouts.

Stop building on fields etc

Control of invasive species. For example, Cumbria is doing a fantastic job culling grey squirrels and increasing red squirrel numbers. Targeted Himalayan balsam removal.

If you work with existing organisations like the very active In Bloom groups and garden clubs, local churches, schools, you will be able to identify spaces that matter to local residents. If members of these

local organisations are identifying spaces, then you have more chance of making positive and sustainable changes

Control invasive species e.g. grey squirrels

No more housing as this removes green spaces, hedgerows etc

Encourage all landowners to undertake the removal of the Non-native Invasive Species the Grey Squirrel.

I can provide Lantra accredited Grey Squirrel Management Training for staff and managers. The Course has been developed by British Red Squirrel in conjunction with the main players in the squirrel world including the UK Squirrel Accord."

A field that borders Waverly Drive and Hugh Barn Lane - locally known as Dawson's Pit in New Longton. The pond in this field used to have a thriving newt population about 35 years ago. I don't know the current state of the pond, but it would be wonderful if the habitat could be conserved/improved.

Wildlife corridors

Planting patches of wildflowers

Safeguard green belt by refusing applications to build on green belt land and require builders to include some green space in all developments

The lottery funded 300 km walk " GM Ringway" includes a part of Lancashire bordering Greater Manchester. A wildlife improvement scheme for the Ringway with collaboration between South Ribble Council and other Lancs. councils could "tick boxes", particularly if it could be used to create new wildlife corridors.

A joint venture with the Lancashire Nature Partnership (LNP) to create or add to wildlife improvement scheme(s).

Collaboration with the AONB of Arnsdale & Silverdale (border of Lancs. and Cumbria) to create a wildlife improvement scheme?

The Old Mill Industrial Park, on the Brindle Road site has been flattened and all the Trees cut down... it is now devoid of any wildlife, so it definitely needs some improvement.

These are identified - as Nature Recovery Focus Areas - across Lancashire, Greater Manchester & North Merseyside in the current iteration of The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside's Business Plan. That focussed on the Alt-Crossens Catchment and that on the Ribble Estuary and valley (to the upper tidal limit) cover parts of South Ribble Borough.

Further discussion would be needed internally and with partners as we must prioritise our own and shared resources where these are likely to achieve the most effect across our geographical remit.

Leyland in bloom is a fantastic group of volunteers already helping to improve our open spaces, maybe give them some funding instead of them having to raise their own funds.

Also, workshops for residents to become involved and interested.

Opportunities to purchase environmentally improving products and habitats eg, bird boxes, hedgehog houses and bug hotels.

14. If you are a landowner or a business that would like to work with us, please leave an email address or contact number

There were 6 responses which have been redacted from this summary

15. Are there any further comments you would like to make? There were 28 responses

No.

Bring back the patriotic spirit to the people to urge everyone to clean up their act.

15-minute cities and 20 minute neighbourhood are coming to this area and it's not about conversation it's about controlling the people

<https://www.facebook.com/billywatsontv/videos/134378899368992/?app=fb>"

There are local green spaces which are currently suffering due to selective management. We live on an estate bordered by the river Lostock- most days it's polluted and littered why can't the council put things in place to monitor/prevent this more stringently? There are ponds on the estate- unkept, overgrown with relatively low biodiversity value. These are ideal places for people to see and learn about biodiversity in action, free and accessible to all. In all honesty in this case fences are broken that surround the ponds, it's unsightly and dangerous for young children and hasn't been rectified in months. Surely, we could start with the smaller projects as well as the bigger ones?

Educating the community, helping advertise wildlife charities and everything wildlife friendly that the area would like to do would all be best placed in a locally accessed family friendly Facebook Group for example just for Lancashire County Council. Families could share ideas for their allotment gardens, wildlife corners, share successes in the community.

Climate change agendas are making the people poor. Unable to heat their homes or feed their children

Please work to save what remaining wildlife and Nature we have in South Ribble.

We really need to be bold and we support the council in taking strong action on this

Yes. You or Lancs. CC are doing a poor job of the Todd Lane reserve. Some trees have been pruned unnecessarily but not overhanging branches impeding cyclists. Look at existing areas first. Walton Park is another area. Muddy paths etc. If it wasn't for volunteers the area would look far worse.

Small bridge is needed from Central Park development across stream on old railway line. Road ends abruptly at stream.

I really hope we see some meaningful action in this area that is desperately needed to offset the destruction that results from development.

The sports facility development at Lostock Hall Academy is in direct conflict with elements of the Council's biodiversity strategy and has broader environmental impacts that need to be addressed by the Council. Specifically, light and noise pollution alongside disturbing the natural habitat of the associated nature reserve.

Ripping out of ancient hedgerows in fields when planning permission for new housing developments is passed needs to be stopped immediately. The hedgerows should be conserved and fencing erected two metres in front or behind them with hedgehog highways incorporated into the fences there is no need whatsoever to remove hedgerows it's criminal

I really hope this is an effort to make a difference and not just a tick box exercise.

Just empty the bins, bunch of wasters.

Work closer with local wildlife rescues to understand how they are affected by the mass development of green fields around the South Ribble area. Only allow planning

Permission to developers who can prove they are serious about protecting wildlife.

Please buy the land off Back Lane in Longton and preserve our green spaces

No.

A recent planning application for Glamping pods in Longton will destroy the existing biodiversity of the land that supports deer, birds of prey, hare, pheasant, foxes and hedgehogs. Surely this type of development would destroy the biodiversity that you claim to support.

I would highly recommend a strong focus on working with our local farmers, agricultural sector and sensible, like-minded landowners.

This benefits our farmers and public alike.

Provide better financial support to our farmers and encourage nature friendly farming to improve biodiversity, habitat creation/restoration/management and in turn improving the farmers land health and our local food production and overall food security, benefiting our agricultural sector."

Wildlife, biodiversity and sustainability are important issues which have largely been neglected over many years and this situation needs to be addressed immediately.

Groundwork CLM is a member of the Local Nature Partnership and happy to work with South Ribble BC on Nature Recovery activities.

Please please act to stop the tide of development on our previous green belt land. I appreciate that SRBC cannot change the laws, but currently you are not acting to enforce them, particularly with regards to established woodland

Rather than keep building large houses, consider smaller dwellings e.g. Apartments close to amenities and affordable without large maintenance fees to encourage downsizing to free up housing for families etc.

None

Let's Grow Preston is a charity that was created to support a network of community gardens and friends of open spaces in the advancement of conservation, and for maintenance, creation of open spaces and community spaces. We work with local residents and bring people together to encourage and enable community change.

Keep up the good work!

More information should be given to all residents regarding the issues raised above and how they can help to improve the environment

Children need to be made aware of what is happening and what they can do to help

The changes being made to South Ribble are obvious and visible. The wildflower areas are beautiful in summer, but you do need to advertise more what you are doing.

'No Mow May' is not being publicised, I only heard of it through Leyland in bloom last year.