



## UNRN Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2024

Final December 2022

### 1. Background

The Biodiversity strategic plan, "Building a Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network 2021-2024" set out ambitious plans to promote biodiversity within the town and the surrounding area. In general these plans remain appropriate, and progress has been made in a number of areas. However, it is necessary to update these plans to take account of progress and the resources available to support implementation.

A draft plan was considered by UNRN on 26 October 2022, and the attached action plan has been further amended in the light of comments. It will now be considered by Uttoxeter Town Council, and may be further amended, but in the interim the present document will guide the actions of UNRN.

### 2. The Role of UNRN

UNRN is primarily an *advocate* for biodiversity, seeking to encourage organisations and individuals who manage the environment in the town and surrounding area to adopt practices which enhance the natural world. While from time to time UNRN may directly manage projects which seek to promote biodiversity it does not have staff or funding to do this on a regular basis.

The plan set out in Appendix 1 below reflects this understanding of the role of the group.

### 3. Primary Objectives

The primary objectives for the next two years are:

1. Strengthening the UNRN committee by expanding membership
2. Ensuring that the responsibilities of UNRN and The Globe Group in relation to biodiversity are clear and deliverable
3. Developing effective communication systems so that it can influence residents and other organisations
4. Engaging with other agencies and individuals to promote biodiversity and the greening of Uttoxeter and the surrounding area by:
  - a. Putting forward proposals for the green redevelopment of the Maltings
  - b. Delivering the RHS funded volunteer planting scheme which will be managed by The Globe Group
  - c. Walking the five green links identified in the Neighbourhood plan to identify how they may be helped to become green routes for wildlife
  - d. Working with Uttoxeter Town Council and Uttoxeter In Bloom Committee to support additional planting in areas of the town (in the past year additional planting has taken place in Pennycroft Park, Heath Community Centre, and Howitt Crescent, among other areas)

- e. Continuing to engage with planning processes to ensure that new developments are bio-friendly
- f. Developing links with local landowners, including farmers, and with the Food and Farming Committee of Sustainable Uttoxeter
- g. Working to promote bio-friendly land management, and to help young people learn the importance of protecting biodiversity
- h. Using our chosen species of hedgehogs and swifts as examples of how residents and developers can help vulnerable species and promoting the concept of a bee and insect friendly Uttoxeter.
- i. Supporting climate change initiatives
- j. Working within the overall Sustainable Uttoxeter strategy

The actions which will enable UNRN to address these objectives are set out in the Appendix.

### **3. Status**

*UNRN has endorsed the plan set out below but has noted that the plan will also need to be ratified by the Town Council and may therefore be subject to further amendment.*

Marie Williams

Dave Trenery

*Co-Chairs UNRN*

## Appendix 1: Provisional UNRN Action Plan 2022-23

### 1 Organisation

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Update and Proposed Action</i>	<i>Responsibility and Timescale</i>
1. Strengthen UNRN to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible, so that stakeholders can influence our strategy	Invite representation from key stakeholders; ensure that information on activity is sent to all stakeholders, including representatives from ESBC, SCC, and the Farming Community.	<b>Lead:</b> Co-Chairs UNRN, <b>Timescale:</b> end 2023
2. Clarify respective roles of UNRN and The Globe Group in delivering Biodiversity Strategy	This review will clarify responsibilities	<b>Lead:</b> UNRN and Globe <b>Timescale:</b> End 2022 – <i>completed</i> .

### 2 Communication

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Update and Proposed Action</i>	<i>Responsibility and Timescale</i>
1. To develop an Electronic Newsletter and use the contact list of supporters as the basis for a circulation list.	<b>Action necessary:</b> First Newsletter published by end of January 2023, Content Press Articles x2.	<b>Lead:</b> <i>Content:</i> Member of UNRN/ <i>Administration/Distribution:</i> Globe. <b>Timescale:</b> End January 2023
2. To use local media (newspapers, magazines, radio) to get UNRN's message' into every home and business in Uttoxeter.	<b>Update:</b> Continue monthly press column, ensuring these are closely linked to UNRN Objectives; submit additional press releases etc as appropriate.	<b>Lead:</b> <b>UNRN Committee</b> to identify topics and authors; <b>Globe</b> to maintain database of articles and administer system. <b>Timescale:</b> Ongoing
3. To establish a Facebook page and a Web Page and ensure that these are linked to and from Town Council and other community webpages.	Facebook and Web pages have been established on main Globe website. <i>Content</i> provided by members of UNRN. <i>Admin:</i> Provided by Globe	<b>Lead:</b> <i>Content</i> UNRN. <i>Admin:</i> Globe <b>Timescale:</b> Content and links with other pages to be further developed during 2023
4. Identify new developments required once 1,2, 3 above implemented	Review Progress in October 2023 and establish new targets	<b>Lead:</b> UNRN <b>Timescale:</b> Report on progress May 2023
5. Use communications to promote biodiversity-friendly gardening, including promoting a bee and insect friendly Uttoxeter	<b>Update:</b> Leaflet published and distributed; Newspaper articles published. Joint Photographic competition (Uttoxeter in Bloom/Friends of Bramshall Road Park) to highlight insect and wildlife friendly practices launched.	<b>Lead:</b> UNRN: Identify member to lead on communication; consider further steps. <b>Timescale:</b> UNRN Agenda January 2023

	<b>Further Action:</b> (a) Continuation of publicity campaign; (b). Use of stalls at major events to promote biodiversity friendly practices if volunteers available (c) Continuation of In Bloom photographic competition as an annual event	
6. Encourage local retailers (Garden Centres and Supermarkets) to encourage planting of insect-friendly plants by stocking and advertising relevant plants and seeds. Encourage demand for such plants through media strategy	<b>Action:</b> (a) Uttoxeter in Bloom campaign to include this in communications (b) Incorporate this into the press and media strategy (see 2.2 above)	<b>Lead:</b> Co-chairs UNRN <b>Timescale:</b> End 2023
7. Develop UNRN knowledge of bee friendly practices to underpin public communication	Seek input from South Staffordshire Bee-Keeping Association and local beekeepers to develop UNRN expertise	<b>Lead:</b> KW/RH
8. Develop an educational programme for the public	Transforming the Trent Value (TTV) to develop a programme of workshops and talks for the public. <i>Initial event:</i> Hedgehog awareness day 25 March 2023	<b>Lead:</b> NL <b>Timescale:</b> Proposal End 2022 (completed) <b>Delivery:</b> 2023 onwards

### 3 Making Uttoxeter Greener

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Update and Proposed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility and Timescale</b>
1. Make proposals for a green redevelopment of the Maltings	<b>Update:</b> Leader of ESBC has agreed to arrange meeting with ESBC officers to consider UNRN proposals January 2023  <b>Further Action:</b> Develop proposals for Maltings for consideration by ESBC	<b>Lead:</b> CG /MW/DT  <b>Timescale:</b> End 2022
2. Deliver RHS funded project engaging referred volunteers in planting activities	Project led by The Globe Group who will provide information on progress and timescales	<i>Globe Group</i>
3. Identify current green areas and potential green corridors through town	<b>Update:</b> The Neighbourhood Plan identifies twenty-four protected green areas and five green links	<b>Lead:</b> UNRN; <i>Timescale</i> Report to UNRN June 2023; <b>Lead:</b> MW/DT

	thorough the town. UNRN will use these as a basis for our strategic planning. <b>Further Action:</b> Volunteers from UNRN will evaluate the green links to identify areas for development. Findings will identify opportunities for action.	
4. Work with stakeholders to develop wildlife corridors within Uttoxeter and surrounding area that enable isolated populations of animals to form larger communities	<b>Update:</b> Provisional green routes have been identified from Neighbourhood Plan. Action in 3 above will identify issues and opportunities.	<b>Lead: UNRN:</b> Timescale: June 2023 onwards.
5. Use the Town Council's involvement in Regional and National in Bloom competitions as a way of promoting the greening of the town	In Bloom promotes additional projects which contribute to biodiversity and greening town. Considerable progress made via UIB.	<b>Lead:</b> MW to provide report on UIB to UNRN outlining progress. <b>Timescale:</b> Jan 2023 and Ongoing
6. Identify potential areas for improvement and undertake additional planting in at least two areas of Uttoxeter (cross reference with line 2 above).	<b>Update:</b> significant progress in areas such as Pennycroft Park, Howitt Crescent, Heath Community Centre etc.	<b>Lead in this area to remain with UIB</b> (MW). UIB report will detail progress made and outline further targets. <b>Timescale:</b> Ongoing
7. Promote bio-diversity friendly gardening in the town	<b>Update:</b> Leaflet published and distributed; Newspaper articles published. <b>Further Action:</b> Continuation of publicity campaign (cross reference to Communication section line 5 above).	<b>Lead: UNRN:</b> Lead member for communication to be identified. <b>Timescale:</b> proposals to be considered Jan.2023
8. Town Council models wildlife friendly habitat creation practices in the management of Uttoxeter Cemetery and other land	<b>Update:</b> Town Council is sensitive to the need to promote biodiversity and already incorporates this into its land management practice. UIB also promotes such practices more generally. <b>Action:</b> UNRN members to encourage such practices	<b>Lead:</b> MW/AT/RH <b>Timescale:</b> Ongoing
9. Encourage developers to build in wildlife friendly elements into their developments including nesting sites for swifts and hedgehog holes in fencing, and green links between habitats	<b>Update:</b> Focus on Planning process encourages this. <b>Further Action:</b> Liaise with ESBC to promote a planning policy which incorporates swift bricks and hedge holes in new, large-scale development	<b>Lead:</b> Co-Chairs <b>Timescale:</b> Contact with ESBC by June 2023

#### 4 Expanding Habitats and creating an Insect Friendly Uttoxeter

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Update and Proposed Action</i>	<i>Responsibility and Timescale</i>
1. Evaluate existing practices <b>and</b> encourage practices promote insects (including pollinators such as bees) and other wildlife and encourage management of public and private land for the benefit of insects and other species.	<b>Update:</b> UNRN does not have the capacity to evaluate <b>existing practice</b> . UNRN role should be to encourage insect friendly practice via publicity and perhaps via offers of free, bee friendly plant seeds	<b>Lead:</b> Incorporate into communication strand.  <b>Timescale:</b> Ongoing
2. Seek to ensure that the planning and development process protects wildlife and promotes biodiversity	<b>Update:</b> Town Council monitors planning applications and encourages pro-biodiversity action ESBC's "Climate Change and Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document" also provides a framework for biodiversity gain from developments. <b>Actions:</b> (a) Continue to use planning process to promote biodiversity  (b) Strengthen Neighbourhood plan requirements for biodiversity friendly development	<b>(a)Lead:</b> MW/AT/RH <b>Timescale:</b> Ongoing  <b>(b) Lead:</b> UNRN Town Council Representatives. <b>Timescale:</b> To be determined by Town Council
3. Collate information on prevalence of insect and other species and identify priority species for intervention.	<b>Update:</b> Not realistic at the present time	<b>Defer</b>
4. Communicate with local farmers and NFU to encourage wildlife friendly activity: protecting and enhancing hedgerows, tree planting, minimising use of pesticides etc.	<b>Update:</b> Initial approaches have not borne fruit  <b>Action:</b> KC to seek update from NFU	<b>Lead:</b> Co-chairs/KC

## 5 Engaging Young People

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Update and Proposed Action</i>	<i>Responsibility and Timescale</i>
1. Inform Uttoxeter Learning Trust (ULT), and all Uttoxeter Schools of the Biodiversity plan, identify relevant school initiatives and seek their views on developing partnerships. Options are set out below.	<p><b>Update:</b> Meeting with ULT has supported UNRN obtaining relevant information about biodiversity friendly activities from local schools</p> <p><b>Proposals:</b> (a) Identify school-based initiatives and offer support where appropriate.            (b) Encourage schools to make provision for vulnerable species (e.g., Hedgehog homes/swift bricks)            (c). Schools are enthusiastic about addressing sustainability particularly in relation to energy. Globe will follow this up.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> (a)Co-Chairs, RH and KW (b) Co-Chairs; (c) KC</p> <p><b>Timescale:</b>            (a). May 2023            (b) September 2023 onwards            (c) Ongoing</p>

## 6 Species Action Plans

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Update and Proposed Action</i>	<i>Responsibility and Timescale</i>
1. Retain focus on hedgehogs and swifts until end 2023, using publicity strategy and encouraging planning processes to incorporate standards for swift bricks and hedgehog holes	<p><b>Update:</b> Hedgehog homes provided; needs of species promoted via leaflet.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b> (a). Continue to highlight the needs of these species in publicity            (b) Encourage ESBC to strengthen planning provision for these species.            (c) Consider whether other species should be prioritised by end 2023</p>	<p><b>Responsibility:</b> Co-Chairs UNRN</p> <p><b>Timescale:</b> End 2023</p>

DT/MW