

# Natural Infrastructure Newsletter

## Strategic Planning & Infrastructure

April 2017

### Joint Local Plan and investment

The final round of Consultation closed on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The next stage is for the plan to go in front of the independent inspector at the end of 2017. There are a number of strong policies including four on landscape, one for biodiversity, one for green and play spaces (including the protection of over one-hundred and seventy sites and Local Green Spaces). There are also specific policy allocations for 6 Strategic Green Spaces. The Council has recently announced exciting £6million investments in both Central Park and Derriford Community Park so watch this space for further updates.



For an interactive look at the policies take a look at: <https://plymswdevonplan.co.uk/policy>

### RSPB Update

The RSPB has launched a schools outreach project in Plymouth with 12 schools and nurseries taking part in 38 sessions since January. This has resulted in 980 children taking part so far. The three sessions on offer are the Big Schools Bird Watch, Giving Nature a Home and a Bioblitz. All of these get the children outside to explore the wildlife that makes its home within the school grounds. The RPSP have also been busy recruiting volunteers to help deliver these sessions, and now have a great team who have so far given us 63 hours of their time to the project.



More information: [Gemma.Dunn@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Gemma.Dunn@rspb.org.uk)

### Plymouth Open Space Network

POSN has celebrated its first year milestone with its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Members from park Friends Groups and green and open space organisations attended. Afterwards, the conversations continued at the West Hoe pub where members and attendees got to know each other, discussed future aims and objectives of the network, and about how best to serve Plymouth's open spaces and the groups that support them. Topics of interest included: funding for parks and green spaces, the role nature plays in health and wellbeing benefits, support for groups, and the sharing of information.



### Active Neighbourhoods

We had an excellent Easter with 208 participants at our wildlife and volunteering family events – 20% of whom are interested to continue to volunteer in their local nature reserve. They were certainly active – in total they took nearly 900,000 steps over the 6 sessions we ran – that's equivalent to nearly 17 marathons! We're supporting Naturally Healthy Devon's May programme of events. Why not join us? Activities include 'soundscape' walks, family wildlife fun and conservation volunteering.



Check out: [www.naturaldevon.org.uk/naturallyhealthyevents/](http://www.naturaldevon.org.uk/naturallyhealthyevents/) for all events across Devon in May. Or join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/activenighbourhoodsproject](http://www.facebook.com/activenighbourhoodsproject)

## Poole Farm



April marks the end of the winter practical work season. We can now look forward to warmer and, hopefully, drier weather! But it is also a fantastic time to look back upon the work we have done this past term. Over the winter period, volunteers, schools, college groups, and Plymouth Environmental Action

planted 900m of new hedgerows across the Community Park, consisting of 4,500 trees. It was a massive achievement for the volunteers and for the project. All the hedgerows trees are native species that are generally found in conservation hedgerows. Also on the 11th March, over 70 people attended our community day at Poole Farm, helping to plant the City's largest Community Orchard. The fruit trees planted were a mix of apple, pear, cherry, plum, damson and mulberry, all of which are native species to the UK and are of local varieties.

To keep up to date with Poole Farm, please email [derrifordcp@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:derrifordcp@plymouth.gov.uk) or visit Facebook: @PooleFarmProject

PEA recruited two Volunteer Project Officers in March - Sophie and Katie who are going



**Plymouth Environmental Action**  
Conservation Volunteering

to be spending a minimum of 6 months with us leading volunteers on practical nature conservation projects throughout Plymouth and surrounding areas. Both are recent biological sciences graduates looking to gain practical experience in conservation, leadership skills and volunteer management. They will be involved in every part of the planning and running of volunteer events including carrying out site visits, risk assessments, liaising with landowners, being on our committee, promoting events and leading volunteers through the practical projects, to name but a few!

We've got an exciting summer programme of practical conservation and skills workshops planned. We are also starting to introduce our biological recording program to enhance the volunteer experience!

For more details on, please visit [www.pea-volunteering.co.uk/](http://www.pea-volunteering.co.uk/)

## Marine Recreational Impacts Project

The waters of Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries have some of the most vibrant wildlife in the whole of Europe and as such are designated as a 'Special Area of Conservation' and a 'Special Protected Area'. We all love to enjoy time in or on the water but increasing recreational use can impact on the designated features of the site.

Funding has been secured to improve recreational water management with the *Marine Recreational Impacts Project*. Beth Siddons has recently joined the Natural Infrastructure Team and one of her first tasks will be to improve the information for water-users by working alongside the members of the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF).

There are several plans already in development to help raise awareness of the marine protected area and encourage its responsible use. First up will be TECF's 'Plymouth Waterways – A Guide for Small Craft' which will be getting a refresh. Next will be the design and installation of new information panels at access points around the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries. Phase 1 of the project will run from 2017-2020 and will see the commissioning of several studies into the scale and impacts of specific recreational activities to help guide the management strategy, as well as a number of other education and outreach initiatives.

For more information please email [beth.siddons@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:beth.siddons@plymouth.gov.uk)

## Urban Buzz

This spring has seen more stunning wildflower road verges created throughout the city as environmental charity



Buglife and Plymouth City Council near the end of this project in June. After the fantastic feedback we received last summer about displays including Western Approach, Derry's Cross and North Cross roundabouts, the project has continued apace with a total of 100 meadows created since the project started 18 months ago. All of these places will be full of beautiful flowers and buzzing with life come the summer (as long as it rains soon!).

To keep to date with progress and informed of any events please visit [www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz/plymouth](http://www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz/plymouth) or contact [laura.larkin@buglife.org.uk](mailto:laura.larkin@buglife.org.uk)