

Members are requested to NOTE this report from Councillor Suleman and consider the recommendations

Report Community Environmental Toolkit – High Level Summary

The bulk of the report describes each of the following habitats, their ecological benefits and how they can be improved:-

Woodland
Grassland
Scrubland
Wetland
Urban
Farmland

However, the key part of the report relates to the creation of the Community Environmental Plan. In doing so, there are a number of steps to follow with the most important being to undertake a detailed survey of the area by, for example, mapping habitats and areas of environmental interest. In doing so it is important to establish land ownership and work collaboratively with land owners to deliver the plan. In essence the survey is necessary to establish a baseline of the natural habitats that need to be conserved and protected, and areas of poor biodiversity that, if improved, could significantly benefit the environment.

The report includes a number of case studies that can be used to assist in the development of the environmental plan. In addition, there are a wide range of free resources available on the internet.

The creation of the Community Environmental Plan should not be seen as trivial. It will require significant work and collaboration across the Parish with both landowners and volunteers. The first step will be to form an Environmental Group whose task will be to help co-ordinate, plan, manage and carry out the activities in the Plan.

Recommendations

Members to CONSIDER:

- Creating a Parish Community Environmental Plan
- The formation of an Environmental Working Party (to be formed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 11th May)