

Shipston on Stour Local Nature Action Plan

The [Environment Act 2021](#) provides a framework where town councils are key local partners in delivering national environmental ambitions, especially in nature recovery planning and biodiversity enhancement, by cooperating with principal authorities and using their local expertise.

A Local Nature Action Plan has been drawn up by Shipston Town Council to help us to work together as a community with Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council to tackle the decline in biodiversity.

Shipston on Stour is an urban area containing green areas owned or leased by the Town Council, owned by Stratford District Council, Warwickshire County Council, or other landowners.

This draft action plan is led by Shipston on Stour Town Council as a first step towards a townwide action plan owned and drafted by the community, using its insights into our environment.

1. Identifying Stakeholders

Delivering this plan will require active support from a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals, both to identify opportunities and deliver them.

1.2 Stakeholder table:

Organisation	Role	Contact
Shipston on Stour Town Council	Coordinator, seeking funding, committee structure	Hilary Kelly Chair EWG
Stratford District Council Warwickshire County Council	Guidance and specialist advice Action on SDC land	Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils
Action and Interest Groups: e.g. local wildlife groups	Ideas, feedback, volunteers, work, surveys, ongoing site support	These include existing wildlife and Friends groups, residents' groups and residents we will bring together into local working groups as the plan progresses.
Neighbouring parishes	Ideas, feedback, volunteers, work, surveys, ongoing site support, project	Discussions with Barcheston, Willington, Barcheston etc. to discuss options

	collaboration in linked areas	
Groups for specific areas	Ideas, feedback, volunteers, work, surveys, ongoing site support	SWAN (South Warwickshire Area Network) Rosemary Collier rosemary_collier@btinternet.com Community & Social Inclusion Enabler Emma Gürdağ Emma.Gurdag@stratford-dc.gov.uk SAFE Vivien Walden walden64.vw@gmail.com
Residents' groups and individuals	Ideas, feedback, volunteers, work, surveys, ongoing site support	Shipston New Build Forum - Vanessa Benjamin-Smith Individual Residents – via social media, noticeboards and newsletters Parish Facebook Page
Other key local groups and organisations	Ideas, feedback, volunteers, work, surveys, ongoing site support, project collaboration	Schools (primary and secondary) Local organisations, who are not wildlife focused including youth, church, heritage, arts, sports and culture
Landowners and lease holders	Ideas, feedback, volunteers, work, surveys, ongoing site support, site access, project collaboration, sponsorship	Businesses Other public sector bodies owning buildings

Are these the relevant people for those areas – officers at SDC/WCC

2. Communicating the LNAP to stakeholders

2.1 Communication plan

Communication Plan				
Stakeholder	Objectives	Message	Delivery	Timeline
Town Councillors	Support action for nature on all Town Council grounds and help in engaging stakeholders	Council has agreed to commit to a LNAP	Acceptance of the LNAP by STC. Announcement of commitment in The Forum and Town Council website and promotion of public	January 2026

			meeting to share the LNAP draft	
Stratford District Council Warwickshire County Council				
Residents, local groups and organisations				
Local landowners and businesses				

3. Sites designated for nature importance

3.1 The Local Nature Action Plan will have highest influence on those pieces of land owned or leased by Shipston Town Council. These are indicated on the Shipston on Stour LNAP map which can be found at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1877xXDDdEUfdTJpCNZAZni8QqP0mcfk&ll=52.05768952344856%2C-1.624985637949885&z=16> and a list can be found at Appendix 1.

3.2 Land owned by Stratford District Council or Warwickshire County Council will also be influenced by the plan and these are shown in separate layers on the map.

3.3 It is hoped that land owned by local groups and organisations, in addition to privately owned land, will contribute towards the LNAP although it will be less strongly influenced by it.

3.4 The whole of Shipston is designated as an area which could become important for biodiversity, with specific areas designated as areas of particular importance for biodiversity within the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Shipston contains locations that are designated for reasons relating to species or habitat. The Local Nature Action Plan will need to recognise and follow national and site-specific advice when working in or near these areas. These are shown on the LNRS map at:

<https://maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/LNRS> and are as follows:

3.4.1 Priority habitats

- 3.4.1.1 Grassland Strategic Area
- 3.4.1.2 Woodland Strategic Area
- 3.4.1.3 Priority Area for Floodplain Meadow Creation
- 3.4.1.4 Priority Area for Floodplain Reconnection and Restoration
- 3.4.1.5 Priority Grassland Creation Area

3.4.2 Priority species (protected)

- 3.4.2.1 Lesser Horseshoe Bat
- 3.4.2.2 Slow-worm
- 3.4.2.3 White-letter Hairstreak Butterfly
- 3.4.2.4 Black Poplar

3.4.3 Priority species (not protected)

- 3.4.3.1 Urban birds, including swifts, house-martins and house sparrows, bats owls and hedgehogs
- 3.4.3.2 Invertebrates of calcareous grassland
- 3.4.3.3 Hedgerow invertebrates
- 3.4.3.4 Freshwater invertebrates

4. Proposed Programme

- 4.1 Under the LNAP, the Town Council will undertake town-wide commitments; for example, not using chemicals pesticides, or other harmful materials; composting and reusing materials; responding to suggestions for tree planting, wildflower planting, bird and bat boxes, hedgehog and bug hotels and working with those suggesting ideas to deliver them. See Appendix 2.
- 4.2 In addition, the Town Council will continue to support and promote local initiatives focusing on species or specific actions, (such as SAFAG and Cornmill Meadows; see Appendix 3) as well as encouraging new ones (such as developing Connecting Corridors see Appendix 4).
- 4.3 The Town Council will ensure that new developments proposed for the town conform to the specifications set out in the LNAP.

Appendix 1.

List of land and assets owned or controlled by Shipston Town Council

Cemetery

Cornmill Meadows

Shoulderways Allotments

New Street Allotments

Little Rec (Gibbon's Field)

Recreation Ground and Sports Club (under lease)

Bridge Street car park – Riverside only

Scout hut car park – Not Disabled bays (SDC)

Sensory Garden

Skate Park

Hub (under lease)

New Clark House

Pound Close

Willets Piece

Hawthorn way/Ashgrove green area and play area

Husbandman's Close green area

Furze Hill Road green area

Oldbutt Road green area

The Maldens green area

Angela's Meadow green- only play equipment – pond?

Mayo Road play area

Railway Crescent green/play area

Queen's Avenue play area

Rugby Club- Mayo Road Trust including grass area

Town Planters

Appendix 2.

Shipston Town Council's statement on increasing net biodiversity.

Shipston Town Council recognises that nature is essential to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. In response to the ongoing decline in wildlife and habitats, the Council is committed to increasing *net biodiversity* across the town and surrounding area, ensuring that nature is protected, enhanced and allowed to recover for current and future generations. **Biodiversity Policy accepted January 2025**

The Council will seek to protect existing habitats and species, particularly those of local importance, and to enhance biodiversity on land and assets that it owns or manages. This will include adopting wildlife-friendly management practices, increasing the use of native planting, improving habitat connectivity, and supporting initiatives such as wildflower meadows, tree and hedgerow planting, ponds, and community orchards.

In its role as a statutory consultee in the planning process, the Council will support development that delivers measurable biodiversity net gain and will encourage developers to exceed the statutory minimum wherever possible. Priority will be given to on-site biodiversity improvements that provide long-term, locally meaningful benefits, with off-site measures supported only where they clearly contribute to local nature recovery.

The Council will work in partnership with residents, local organisations, landowners and other public bodies to deliver community-led biodiversity projects and to raise awareness of how individuals and businesses can help nature thrive. Education, volunteering and citizen science will be encouraged as part of this collective effort.

Progress will be reviewed regularly, with actions and outcomes reported transparently to ensure accountability and continual improvement. Through these commitments, the Town Council aims to play an active role in reversing biodiversity loss and creating a greener, more resilient and nature-rich place for all.

Appendix 3.

List of established initiatives focusing on species or specific actions:

1. Cornmill Meadows: overview of project with Management Plan and photographs attached
2. SAFAG: overview of project with Management Plan and photographs attached
3. Shipston Town Council Biodiversity Policy -m adopted January 2025

Appendix 4.

List of new initiatives focusing on species or specific actions:

1. Connecting Corridors Project
2. Back Gardens and Hedgehog Highways Project
3. Buildings for Nature: promotion of nature-friendly design eg, swift and bat boxes, sedum roofs etc

4. Influencing the Planning Process: working with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, councillors and other invested or experienced parties, the Town Council regularly submits planning objections in an attempt to preserve and give priority to nature and habitats. The LNAP gives an opportunity for influencing planning departments and developers.

Date of adoption by Shipston Town Council: 12th January 2026

Date for first review: July 2026