

****DRAFT****

STC Climate and Nature Working Group

4th December 2025, 7 – 8.30 pm, Old Court House

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome

Present: Andy Harrop, Rob Miller, Gina Adams, Andy Parsons, Liz Walker, Hugh Middleton, Jacky Huson. Apologies Karen Roberts.

2. Review of Notes from previous meeting

Paper: Notes of 2nd October CAN meeting

Action: AP to send GA some minor corrections.

3. Matters Arising (not including those addressed in the agenda)

STC - NTU Liaison: After an initial meeting where mutual interest in collaborating was agreed as second follow-up meeting is planned. GA will ask for consideration of collaboration around environment research projects.

Southwell City Football Club (SCFC) proposal for 3G pitch at Brinkley site: SCFC met with STC to discuss pitches generally. For the proposed 3G pitch, they reported that the funders, the Football Foundation, want the funding application to include a trial an alternative to rubber crumb. Development of the funding application application has been delayed a year – now likely to be submitted October 2026.

Management of Squires and Cludd pond: Needs more management than currently to avoid problems. Outlet from Squires Pond is blocked and it is overtopping. Leads to poor oxygen levels. Mal Rose has previously developed a paper for Pond Management that considers their connection with PODGAG and Higgons Mead. Need to gather information on what is currently done and expertise on what should be done. Higgons Mead Management group may be able to get expertise from A-Rocha. Million Ponds initiative is another potential resource.

Action:

GA – to ask Ivan what current approach/methodology is.

GA – to explore possibility of NTU project in this area

GA – to ask Mark Speck and Chris Jackson about best practice

HM – to ask A-Rocha if they have advice/resources.

4. Briefing from November's STC Town Environment Committee (TEC) Meeting

Paper: TEC Agenda attached for reference

- GA ran through the relevant items.
Survey of Bridge resulted in 2 Tonne Weight limit. Bridge has been closed with bollards. Existing access rights supported.
- STC has received grant from Greenwood Community Forest to plant 59 trees and 590 whips, as well as wildflowers. Some proposed sites close on WMRG close to Badgers Field were vetoed for tree planting by NCC Heritage Environment Record (HER) because of sensitive archaeology.
- STC's TEC have set up a Fundraising Working Group to develop project ideas so that they are 'shovel ready' for funding opportunities.
- STC's TEC are developing a strategy for Southwell's play areas. Would welcome suggestions of best practices, resources.
 - AH – need natural materials. Need to consider environmental implications including microplastics. Veolia/VIA funded new Oxton play area 3 yrs ago. It uses rubber pieces already degrading into the environment.
 - Humberstone Road play area has an interpretive sign about nature.
 - Recommend consult with:
 - WildNG who have done some work around Maythorne
 - Local Schools, esp those that use Forest Schools (e.g. Holy Trinity), Prebend Pre-school (Methodist church)
 - Local Nurseries (Karen O'Connell at Nursery near Final Whistle, Justine Conneley at Bubble Wrap, Rachel Brown at Busy Bees).
 - RSPB Sherwood and National Trust Workhouse – these organisations have who playparks for kids.
 - Prebend Preschool (Methodist Church) use a forest school. Used to use land behind Sacrista Prebend.

Action: GA to consult with above when developing strategy

5. Updates from PODGAG, Flood Forum, Green Southwell, SMEAG

Green Southwell.

AP - Discussed idea of group of Conservation Volunteers (aka Green Gym) idea. There was enthusiasm for it. Coincidentally a landowner has come to last meeting who also has a Greenwood Community Forest tree planting grant and is looking for help with planting. More Yellow Rattle has been planted in Beryls meadow.

Minster/SMEAG.

HM – SMEAG are supporting the Minster to clarify ownership and access issues around Badgers Field.

Flood Forum.

NCC have called a meeting for next Wed with the panel engineer (needed for a reservoir) and the Flood Forum. Flood Forum are interested in exploring something effective but at a smaller scale than the much larger scheme the panel engineer is currently proposing.

PODGAG.

RM – continuing to develop closer working with the Minster regarding policies and processes, especially regarding safeguarding.

GA noted that there are also some large expenses coming up, tree work, fences etc – that may need fundraising.

6. Update on Badgers Field

The 'Save Badgers Field' campaign has planned an event on 14th December at 10am. The aim is to walk around the field on the footpaths enjoy the nature and have a cup of tea and a mince pie.

Action: All to share the event with their groups/networks

7. Planning an event with the Flood Forum to support Himalayan Balsam efforts in 2026 (STC would be very pleased to help facilitate a meeting of key landowners and others in early 2026). *Paper: Straw Man ideas for the meeting*

Event should be late February/early March.

Tim Farr and Lynn Preece did a lot of the coordinating last year. Bruce Ashworth was also very involved and is a Member of the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (IDB).

First approach should be to discuss with Tim and Bruce and help identify an appropriate chair, and then to meet with the Chair to develop the agenda.

Lynn Preece should also be involved in the planning and the event if possible. Chris Jackson from Notts BAG has a lot of experience with Himalayan Balsam and it would be good to engage him.

IDB no longer have to contract to clear the Greet.

AH suggested a planning meeting in mid January would be good - to include Chair , Lynn P.
Proposed for w/c 19th.

Action:

LW and JH - talk to Tim and Bruce about who could Chair the workshop and to explore their availability for a planning meeting w/c 19th January.

GA – engage Lynn Preece as above.

8. Nottinghamshire County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Update on recently published version, following consultation. Andy Harrop.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire>

CAN thanked AH for all his work on the LNRS over many months.

AH ran through the LNRS development process, how sites were identified to be submitted and listed the sites in Southwell that were submitted. The Draft LNRS was published in June 2025 and was disappointing. Too generic, not enough local nuance and insight. Following public consultation on the June draft, the final LNRS was published in November and was better. Importantly for Southwell, the War Memorial Recreation Ground (WMRG), Potwell Dyke and Badgers Feld have been included as 'Areas of Potential Importance for Biodiveristy' (APIB). APIBs have priority conservation 'Measures' associated with them. These include:

- Potwell Dyke:
 - Sensitive land management next to water courses
 - Improving shading and woodland
 - Good riparian management
 - Renaturalising management
- WMRG
 - Wildlife friendly management of urban and public green spaces
- Badgers Field
 - Creation of distinctive and species-rich grassland

Removal of invasive species is also a priority measure, which could mean funding for action.

The significance to Southwell and STC is that identified sites are a priority for for Biodiversity Net Gain funding. Developers get a 15% increase in the BNG credit if they fund conservation on these sites. STC should be putting forward these local sites to NSDC for the BNG bank. If a local developer is looking for BNG credit, we should be directing it towards these sites. STC Councillors, especially those on NSDC should be familiar with all the Southwell sites. NSDC already has already identified 4 Biodiversity Banks for BNG funding.

Action: AH to write up as a paper for STC's Town Environment and Planning and Highways Committees

9. Possible monthly conservation volunteers session on STC estate - coordinated with Green Southwell 'Green Gym' idea.

GA noted that several Councillors are interested in this idea. One problem is the admin. Each different activity/location would need its own risk assessment etc, and every volunteer would have to read these – as well as the volunteer policy and sign that they have understood.

There was a discussion for the general need to recruit volunteers for environmental activities around Southwell. The Flood Forum would like water course and roadside gully clearers, PODGAG is short of volunteers.

It was noted that WildNG approach is to have residents of streets 'adopt' their own street to improve nature.

For inspiring and recruiting volunteers, the 'story' is important. It is about helping to keep Southwell as lovely as it is, looking nice and good for wildlife.

Some coordinated, overarching volunteer recruitment across the groups and supported by the Town Council would be very useful.

Action: GA to bring a proposal for a volunteer recruitment effort to next CAN meeting.

10. Develop a ToR for CAN: *Papers for reference: (1) Straw Man ToR for CAN; (2) ToR for Town Environment Committee, (3) STC Environment Policy.*

Item held over until the next meeting.

11. AOB

EMCCA consultation on Transport Plan.

<https://www.eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk/mayors-transport-plan/>

Does Southwell need another environmental group, with a different format to Green Southwell?
One that is very action oriented?

Next CAN meetings: Agreed to continue to meet first Thursday of each month in between TE Committee meetings - ie. 2nd February, 5th April, 7th May.

Next TE meetings: 14th January, 11th March.