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Local Places for Nature evaluation 2021–22

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Views expressed in this report are those of the researcher and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government

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Glossary

Acronym/ Key word	Definition
Cynnal Cymru/ Sustain Wales	A sustainable development organisation in Wales, operating as a non-profit and registered charity
ENRaW	Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing Scheme
Hyperlocal groups	Hyperlocal groups are focused around a well-defined community with its primary focus directed towards the concerns of the population in that community
KWT	Keep Wales Tidy
LA	Local Authority
LERC	Local Environment Records Centres
LNP	Local Nature Partnership
LPfN	Local Places for Nature
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NLHF	National Lottery Heritage Fund
NPA	National Park Authority
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OVW	One Voice Wales – A representative and support organisation for Town and Community Councils in Wales
Precept	A charge to council tax from Town and Community Councils in Wales, used to carry out their business
Peri-urban	Zones of transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban and regional centres and the rural environment
PfG	Welsh Government's Programme for Government
Recorders	Individuals who record instances of species in locations, often part of a network and whose records are passed on to wider schemes
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

SMS	Sustainable Management Scheme
SMNR	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest – a conservation designation for habitats, species and geological features designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and under the responsibility of NRW
TCC	Town and Community Councils
TfW	Transport for Wales
WBFG	Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
WCVA	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
WIMD	Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
WWT	Welsh Wildlife Trust

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Welsh Government commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of the Local Places for Nature (LPfN) programme for the financial year 2021–22. This report builds upon the evaluation for year one of the scheme in 2020–21.

Context for LPfN

- 1.2 The environment underpins economic, social, cultural and individual wellbeing. The population depends on nature to provide food, clean water, air, energy and the raw materials for industries. Pressure on nature comes from many sources, including urbanisation, agricultural management, pollution, climate change and woodland management.
- 1.3 Biodiversity in Wales is declining and the first 'State of Natural Resources Report, 2016' (SoNaRR) published by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) identified that Wales did not meet the 2010 international and national biodiversity targets.¹ The State of Nature report in 2019 (written by a third sector partnership of nature conservation organisations) says that, of the 3,902 species for which sufficient data were available, over 600 (17 per cent) were threatened with extinction in Wales. Another 73 (2 per cent) are already extinct.² The most recent SoNaRR report, in 2020, concludes that Wales still needs to act in order to achieve the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR).³ Opportunities for action have been set out, including recognising biodiversity as an asset, effective ecosystem management and sustaining and preserving existing systems.
- 1.4 As a response to continuing biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and the growing climate change crisis, the Welsh Government has put in place some of the strongest legislation in the world, including the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG)⁴ and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.⁵ This legislation seeks to address some of the challenges faced in a more joined-up way, with duties on Ministers and public authorities in Wales. It is explained below how these pieces

¹ [Natural Resources Wales / The State of Natural Resources report 2016](#)

² [The State of Nature report 2019](#)

³ [SoNaRR2020 Executive Summary \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)

⁴ [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

of legislation feed into the rationale for the LPfN programme and other relevant policy developments in Wales that align with LPfN.

Policy and legislation

1.5 The LPfN programme was agreed in December 2019, with the aim of trialling small-scale interventions that enhance nature in the areas of highest deprivation and with the least access to nature. The programme was developed in the context of existing legislation and policy, including the WBFG Act and the Environment (Wales) Act as well as the Natural Resources Policy⁶ and Nature Recovery Action Plan.⁷ The LPfN programme presents a means of engaging and acting on the ambitions and priorities of communities and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and public sector at a local scale. It was designed to align with, and support, those key strategic priorities already set out in legislation. It continues to align with Welsh Government priorities within the Sixth Senedd term, alongside strategic programmes designed to help directly address the nature emergency in Wales. Amongst others, these include the Welsh Government/NRW Nature Networks Programme, the Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS)⁸ and Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing (ENRaW).⁹ In accordance with the WBFG and Environment Acts, all nature recovery programmes aim to support and engage with communities and provide wider benefits to them. LPfN is aimed specifically at prioritising the support and engagement with communities to create and manage nature where people live.

1.6 Some of the main legislation and policy drivers within our Welsh context which underpin the development and purpose of LPfN are highlighted below.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1.7 The WBFG Act 2015 sets a broad and innovative roadmap to integrate environmental sustainability and the protection of biodiversity into all activities and areas of the public sector's work in Wales, featuring seven wellbeing goals that

⁶ [Natural Resources Policy | GOV.WALES](#)

⁷ [Nature Recovery Action Plan | GOV.WALES](#)

⁸ [Sustainable Management Scheme | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

⁹ [Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing grants | GOV.WALES](#)

public bodies must work towards.¹⁰ This is to be achieved through the Sustainable Development Principle whereby public bodies should consider the impact that decisions could have on people living in Wales in the future. To show they have applied this Principle, public bodies must follow the five ways of working (long-term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention) to help encourage better collaborative working to tackle the long-term challenges Wales faces. When making decisions, public bodies are therefore required to give due consideration to the long-term impact of their activities upon several areas, including the environment and biodiversity. This is part of achieving 'A Resilient Wales', which is "a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse national environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change". The Act also identifies a goal for a Wales of cohesive communities with people being more active in their communities as the first step towards achieving this.¹¹

- 1.8 Underpinning the Act are a series of national wellbeing indicators which illustrate progress on the wellbeing goals. Indicator 44 is the 'status of biological diversity in Wales'. The indicator will be a combination of annual estimates of the change in priority species (see Environment Act below) into a single indicator that will show progress.¹²

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

- 1.9 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 also seeks to address the challenges faced more directly by providing an iterative framework of evidence through the four aims of the Natural Resources Policy, SoNaRR policy and place-based delivery (the area statements) to manage natural resources in a more sustainable and coordinated way.¹³ The objective of the Environment Act is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits that they provide, in line with the aims of the WBFG Act and the wellbeing goals. The Environment Act seeks to complement

¹⁰ [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)

¹¹ [A Wales of Cohesive Communities – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)

¹² [Wellbeing of Wales: national indicators | GOV.WALES](#)

¹³ [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

the ambition for a low-carbon, green economy that can adapt to the impacts of climate change.

- 1.10 Section 7 of the Environment Act requires Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which, in their opinion, are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. Ministers are then required to take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section and encourage others to take such steps. This contributes to National Wellbeing Indicator 44 on the 'status of biodiversity in Wales'.

Programme for Government 2021–26

- 1.11 The Welsh Government's Programme for Government (PfG) 2021–26¹⁴ is the document which sets out the Government's commitments that they aim to deliver during the Sixth Senedd term. Amongst the commitments within the PfG is the Welsh Government's aim of embedding a response to the climate and nature emergency in everything it does. The PfG includes a wide range of commitments, including to expand arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces.

Local Places for Nature

- 1.12 The primary focus of LPfN is 'to create nature on your doorstep at scale and pace', engaging communities to participate in the process to create and significantly enhance green spaces to support 'nature on your doorstep', and not just to be passive recipients or observers of nature.
- 1.13 The hypothesis for this approach was set out by the Welsh Government's Land, Nature and Forestry Division,¹⁵ is as follows:
- If people are able to engage with nature where they live, work and access public services they are more likely to value it.

¹⁴ [Welsh Government - Programme for Government - Update](#)

¹⁵ [Evaluation of Local Places for Nature Programme: year one \(2020 to 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#)

- If people value nature, they are more likely to support wider initiatives, and spending, to support the work to restore and enhance nature and the environment more widely, on a larger scale.
- Exposure to nature has associated wellbeing benefits.
- The public sector will lead by example and showcase the changes we want to see.

- 1.14 The LPfN programme to ‘deliver nature on your doorstep’ is intended to be a ‘bottom-up’ approach. It is not intended to be prescriptive about what communities may wish to pursue. LPfN intends to enable people to see improvements to nature ‘from their doorsteps’, including community-led activity.
- 1.15 The LPfN programme seeks to encourage and fund community groups to engage in small-scale growing in spaces within their communities, delivering a capital asset that has a costed plan for future maintenance.
- 1.16 The programme works to target urban and peri-urban areas and public spaces that lack access to nature. The programme also aims to target deprived and disadvantaged communities in particular. However, the definition of deprivation, while drawing on standardised definitions and measurements, remains relatively flexible. The definition applied seeks to consider a lack of access to nature and green spaces to be a relevant and important form of deprivation.
- 1.17 Below is a list of the ten ‘modest measures’ intended to make a local impact in communities across Wales and help deliver against the PfG commitments set out above. These have changed slightly since 2020–2021 and now include 10 measures rather than 9 (with the addition of “Sensory gardens for therapeutic purposes”).

Table 1.1. ‘The Modest Measures’

The Modest Measures

Increase wildflower planting; creating 2,000 pollinator habitat sites

Increase community food growing opportunities by creating 1,000 community food growing sites including the provision of allotments

Increase local tree planting, including street trees, orchards and small woodlands

Create 100 dense and diverse woodlands the size of a tennis court

Restore or create 200 community orchards, cultivating native fruit

Encourage wildflowers and improve biodiversity by changing mowing practices of local authorities (and other public authorities) and increasing meadow areas on sloping land

Reduce the use of pesticides

Improve public access to drinking water

50 habitat creation schemes at rail stations and transport interchanges

Sensory gardens for therapeutic purposes, delivered in partnership with health charities and the Welsh NHS

LPfN Scheme Management

1.18 This section provides a brief introduction to the three schemes which fall under the overall LPfN programme. The allocated funding for the schemes can be found in Table 1.2, below.

Table 1.2 LPfN Funding 2021–22, by scheme (capital and revenue)

Scheme	Funding
WCVA	£6.0m
KWT	£1.8m
NLHF	£0.9m
OVW (One Voice Wales)	£41k
Total	£8.741m

Source: Welsh Government

Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) – Local Nature Partnerships

- 1.19 WCVA administers the largest of the three schemes, through its role with Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) Cymru, a nature recovery network with coordinators in every local authority (LA) and national park authority (NPA) across Wales.
- 1.20 The LNP Cymru Project was a three-year project, running initially from 2019 until 2022, to build a nature recovery network across Wales, engaging people, communities, businesses and decision-makers in both practical action and strategic planning for a healthy, resilient and nature-rich Wales. Funded by the Welsh Government through ENRaW,¹⁶ and coordinated by WCVA, the partnership comprises all LAs and national parks in Wales, Wales Biodiversity Partnership, WCVA and the Local Environment Records Centres (LERC).
- 1.21 LNPs have installed a coordinator operating in each LA and NPA across Wales. Their aim is to create a network, or partnership, of people and groups who want to make a bigger difference to the environment within their local area, including environmental organisations, community groups and individuals. Examples of members of the LNPs can include the regional Wales Wildlife Trust (WWT) or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) as well as hyperlocal groups in the county.
- 1.22 LNPs are hosted within a lead partner; usually their LA or NPA and WCVA uses this LNP network, governance structure and financial systems to disburse their LPfN funding. WCVA's portion of the LPfN budget is distributed directly to LNP coordinators, enabling them to plan and deliver large projects that will have a bigger impact on the area's biodiversity. The Wales-wide network of LNPs and coordinators means that all parts of Wales can be included within the scheme.

¹⁶ ENRaW is a grant that predominantly supports projects to make improvements in and around residential areas by delivering benefits for people, businesses and their communities - [Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing Scheme | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

- 1.23 Initially, WCVA administered a non-competitive grants scheme in which LNPs made applications for funding to meet objectives relating to public sector organisations in each LNP area to provide support in restoring or enhancing nature on their estate by greening their land and/or buildings.
- 1.24 In the first year of the scheme, in 2020–2021, this included grants totalling £2.7m. In 2021–22, there was an increased allocation of £5.5m in grants to LNPs, making it the largest of the three schemes within the LPfN programme. Part of this allocation remained non-competitive grants in 2021–22, on the same basis as previously in 2020–2021. In the 2021–22 financial year there was the addition of a ‘Challenge Fund’, where LNPs can access further project funding through a competitive application process. £2.5m capital funding was allocated to non-competitive grants and £3m for the Challenge Fund. All projects are to deliver natural capital assets.

Keep Wales Tidy (KWT)

- 1.25 The KWT scheme distributes packages to community groups in order to deliver ‘nature on your doorstep’.
- 1.26 During the first two years of the LPfN scheme, KWT offered two different packages, ‘Starter’ and ‘Development’, for which any community group could apply, without requiring a constitution or bank account. Each of these prepaid packages included native plants, tools and other materials to help them create their own community garden for nature. Starter packages are small, requiring around half a day of training for volunteers provided by KWT. The larger Development packages take about 20 days to complete. KWT also provides support for the ordering and deliveries and practical support on the ground. Applications are assessed by an expert panel, and priority is given to projects in urban, peri-urban or deprived areas with little access to nature. Priority is also given to under-represented groups which want to engage with the scheme, including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, groups representing disabled people, and those from deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2021–22, £1.8m was allocated for Starter and Development packages.

National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

- 1.27 The NLHF strand of LPfN is a capital grant scheme intended to enable communities in Wales to restore and enhance nature.¹⁷ As per the rationale for LPfN, schemes are intended to enable areas of highest deprivation, peri-urban/urban communities, and/or those with least access to nature in Wales to restore and enhance nature 'on your doorstep'. They define this as being the 50 per cent most deprived areas of Wales based on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). They also support community growing projects anywhere in Wales.
- 1.28 Funding is provided through grants, with completed application forms presented to a decision-making panel which considers the merits of the application against the criteria. It is an open application process in which any organisation may submit a project proposal, although they must be properly constituted and display sufficient resource and expertise to manage public money.
- 1.29 The NLHF has substantial experience in running grant schemes in Wales; 85 per cent of the funding for this LPfN strand is provided by the Welsh Government with the NLHF providing the remaining 15 per cent of funding and in-kind administration support. In 2020–2021 the fund offered capital grants from £10,000 – £50,000 for more bespoke and tailored interventions. This range of funding has increased to £10,000 – £250,000 in 2021–2022. In 2021–22, a total of £700,000 was allocated to the NLHF Capital Fund. Thirteen projects were agreed by the panel in the 2021–22 financial year.
- 1.30 During 2021–22 a new 'Breaking Barriers' Fund was launched,¹⁸ under the management of the NLHF. The funding of this grant is for:
- Organisations working with Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities, refugee, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community groups.
 - Those working with people in the 30 per cent most deprived areas of Wales as defined by the WIMD.

¹⁷ [Local Places for Nature | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

¹⁸ [Local Places for Nature – Breaking Barriers | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

- 1.31 It is open to new applicants as well as previous recipients of LPN grants to move on to the next step of developing places for nature in their community.
- 1.32 The total funding allocated for this was £400,000, with revenue grants available for between £30,000 and £100,000. The application process for this took place in Autumn and Winter 2021, and five projects were successful in this process. However, as work on this project remained at an introductory stage during the 2021–22 financial year, this is not considered in detail in this evaluation.

Evaluation of LPfN year one (2020–21)

- 1.33 This report follows a previous evaluation of the LPfN programme in its first year of delivery (April 2020 to March 2021).¹⁹ That evaluation found that the three schemes are deliberately designed to reach different groups and appear to accomplish slightly different outcomes. There was evidence to suggest that, though different, the strands complement one another. Together they have the potential to effect change on a variety of scales, and in relation to a range of communities and individuals, as well as encouraging sustainability and prolonged engagement.
- 1.34 All schemes had been challenged by strict deadlines. While the NLHF capital grants scheme offered more flexibility to its grant holders, the other two funding branches faced an increased administrative burden and workload due to the short lifespan of the demonstrator fund and needed to produce second-year plans alongside administering a difficult year of delivery (during the COVID-19 pandemic).
- 1.35 Due to timing of delivery, the year one evaluation focused on KWT community package projects to a greater extent than NLHF and WCVA-LNP grant projects. It was widely felt that due to the delays to delivery and, as a result of the pandemic, many of the community impacts of the spaces would not be visible or measurable beyond the completion of works and the establishment of new practices, meaning that the work of the LNPs was difficult to gauge.

¹⁹ [Evaluation of Local Places for Nature Programme: Year One \(2020–2021\) \(gov.wales\)](#)

1.36 A key challenge, highlighted by the year one evaluation, was the need for LPfN to engage with wider stakeholders who appear to be sceptical of the programme. It was anticipated by the year one evaluation that exposure to the achievements and impacts of the programme, as well as the logic of its small-scale but widespread approach, would help to allay raised concerns and generate wider support and engagement with the programme and its objectives.

Current evaluation

1.37 The year one evaluation report was limited in its ability to identify the nature and biodiversity impacts of projects funded under the 2020–21 LPfN funding due to the timing of fieldwork. It is acknowledged that nature and biodiversity impacts can take time to be realised. Consequently, where possible, the current year two evaluation has sought to identify these impacts from 2020–21 projects. The remaining two research aims, set out below, look to cover projects funded in 2021–22. In particular, the evaluation of year one of the LPfN programme was less able to cover projects delivered through the NLHF and WCVA due to the timing of fieldwork not always aligning with project delivery. Thus, where appropriate, the current evaluation has aimed to gain insight into the delivery and impact of NLHF and WCVA projects across the two years of delivery. However, many of these limitations remain as a result of delays to nature project outputs and subsequent outcomes. In this context, the year two evaluation of the LPfN programme again focuses on the impact of participation upon communities and individuals who are involved and have engaged with the programme.

1.38 Where possible, this current evaluation therefore aims to build on findings already presented in the Evaluation of Local Places for Nature Programme: Year One (2020–21) report:

- To identify what impacts the LPfN programme has had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
- To identify the impacts of the LPfN programme on local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.

- To identify to what extent the three schemes and the programme as a whole are delivering the objectives of LPfN. Can improvements be made, from the perspective of project applicants, scheme managers and stakeholders?

Report structure

- 1.39 This report has the following structure. This introduction sets out the stated rationale for the LPfN programme, the policy context in which it was developed and the background of the scheme management for the programme.
- 1.40 The remaining chapters will consider the following areas of discussion as part of the evaluation. The methodology sets out the actions that have been undertaken to evaluate the scheme during 2021–22, its second year of operation. This included:
- A programme rationale workshop in which individuals with expertise and knowledge of nature and biodiversity, and/or community issues discussed what the scheme success should look like.
 - Semi-structured interviews with management and delivery staff in the three delivery bodies and supporting organisations.
 - Semi-structured interviews with representatives from sixteen (of the twenty-one) LNPs from across Wales.
 - Online Survey of KWT and NLHF successful grant applicants. The survey received 105 responses from KWT grant applicants. There were not enough responses from the NLHF to draw any reliable conclusions about NLHF projects – this is discussed further in the methodology section.
 - Interviews with six NLHF projects and grant recipients and with two LNP coordinators to inform case studies about the projects they have developed.
- 1.41 The remaining sections detail the findings from the fieldwork stages. The concluding chapter includes a series of recommendations based on the findings of the evaluation.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 A mixed methods approach was adopted for the evaluation, which involved several research strands, as set out below.
- 2.2 Interview and survey questions were developed in collaboration with Welsh Government officials. Scheme managers for KWT and NLHF were also consulted on the respective surveys for their schemes to provide feedback on the questions.
- 2.3 The below table sets out the participants in the evaluation and the method of data collection.

Table 2.1 List of evaluation participants

Participants	Method	Number of participants
LPfN Scheme Managers and Support Staff	Interview	5
Individuals with expertise in nature/biodiversity or community issues	Workshop	5
LNP Coordinators	Interview	16
LNP Coordinators	Case Study Interview ²⁰	2
KWT Groups	Survey	105
NLHF Project Coordinators	Survey	5
NLHF Project Coordinators	Case Study Interview	6

Scoping interviews with management and support staff within the three delivery bodies and supporting organisations

- 2.4 Scoping interviews were conducted with three management personnel from WCVA, KWT and NLHF, respectively, as well as interviews with two members of staff embedded within organisations supporting the delivery and impact of the programme (five in total). These staff are located at One Voice Wales (OVW), the representative body for town and community councils (TCCs) in Wales, and Cynnal Cymru ('Sustain Wales'), respectively. The aim of these interviews was to understand the running of each LPfN scheme, monitoring related to the scheme,

²⁰ These two case study interviews are a subset of the 16 interviews with LNP coordinators – they were interviewed again in relation to their specific project.

and the extent to which their scheme has met its aims in terms of nature and biodiversity and community involvement. The interviews with management personnel within the programme delivery bodies took place in January and February 2022 and with the staff members located at other organisations in April 2022.

Project rationale workshop

- 2.5 In January 2022, a workshop was convened with five participants who were invited as individuals with expertise in nature/biodiversity or community issues. These included representatives from Plantlife, WWT, NRW, the RSPB and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to provide an insight into nature and biodiversity issues and community engagement, all of which were considered to be an important part of the rationale for LPfN. In this workshop, participants discussed the aims and constraints of the programme and the means through which the programme's success can be assessed.
- 2.6 The workshop began by being general in its scope and did not require extensive prior knowledge of the LPfN scheme. The discussion considered and assessed what general outcomes of particular types of projects might look like (i.e. pollinators/wildflowers, reduced use of pesticides, etc.), before focusing more closely on LPfN and its potential outcomes.

Interviews with Local Nature Partnership coordinators

- 2.7 Interviews were conducted with the coordinators of the LNPs across Wales to better understand implementation of the scheme on the ground. Contact details were provided by WCVA for twenty-one partnerships across Wales, as some LNPs operate jointly across more than one LA/NPA. An invitation to an interview was sent to each, with three subsequent reminders at regular intervals. Those who had not responded were also sent a reminder email by the scheme manager. LNP representatives who responded but said they were unable to participate, explained that this was due to pressures of work and imminent deadlines. Sixteen interviews were conducted between February and April 2022, either with individuals or in a group setting.

- 2.8 Two interviews with LNPs also discussed delivery and impacts of specific projects to inform a case study.

Online survey of KWT project leaders

- 2.9 An online survey was developed in coordination with the Welsh Government and KWT to understand how community groups experienced the process of applying for KWT packages and managing a site, as well as the impact of participation upon their wellbeing and attitudes towards nature. The survey also looked at the extent to which community groups might engage in projects to restore nature in the future, in line with the aim of fostering further engagement with nature as a result of participation in an LPfN project.
- 2.10 The survey was hosted on the Qualtrics survey platform in April 2022 and was open for three weeks. A survey link was generated and forwarded to the contact details for all successful applicants for the KWT scheme for 2020–21 and 2021–22 (a total of 799 applicants). KWT was responsible for this, and sent a reminder notice to participants.
- 2.11 There were 105 completed responses (a response rate of 13%), although participants were not obliged to respond to each question in order to continue and complete the questionnaire.

Online survey of NLHF project leaders

- 2.12 A survey of NLHF successful applicants in 2020–21 and 2021–22 was developed as part of this evaluation. However, only a small number of responses were received to this survey, as discussed in greater detail in the limitations section below.

Interviews with NLHF projects

- 2.13 To inform the case studies, interviews were conducted with six projects that were funded through the NLHF grant in 2020–21. The interviews focused on the delivery and impact of projects. A further two projects were approached but did not respond. The choice of projects to approach for case studies was based on discussion with the NLHF management, who advised around the progress of various projects. As

these interviews were intended to inform case studies, only projects completed by early Spring 2022 were considered for participation and inclusion.

Management data

- 2.14 As part of the evaluation, documents produced by each of the schemes showing the data collected through their application process and monitoring of progress during the year have been reviewed. These include proposals submitted by LNPs, information collected by KWT on application forms and successful applications to NLHF. More information on these can be found in the respective chapters and in the Appendices.

Limitations

- 2.15 There are a number of limitations to the methods used in this evaluation that must be considered when interpreting the findings.
- 2.16 As a result of the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fieldwork phase of the evaluation in Spring 2022, most engagement was with project leaders who are part of the various strands of LPfN, rather than with the wider membership of participant groups and the wider community. It therefore remains unclear to what extent the wider community is aware of LPfN and its aims and work. Since part of the rationale for LPfN is to act as a wider influence for promoting nature, it is important in future to gather data about the extent to which people have heard of LPfN, and the impact this has had upon wider society. This will require further consideration of appropriate methodologies to engage with communities that LPfN projects deliver in and is discussed within the conclusions and recommendations section.
- 2.17 In addition, the surveys for LPfN are at risk of a self-selecting response bias because those who may have stronger feelings (either positive or negative) could be more likely to respond than the average of those who were in receipt of grants. This self-selecting bias may also be apparent in those who become group leaders and coordinators; there is a chance that they have stronger views than other members and that they undertake a leadership role.

- 2.18 There is the further potential for interview participants to deliberately highlight specific areas as part of a pre-set agenda or inflate the impact their project has had. Hence, where available, findings are triangulated with any monitoring data available.
- 2.19 Low responses are also a limitation to the evaluation methods. As a result of the low response rate amongst NLHF grant recipients (five responses) carried out over the weeks in April 2022, the survey responses could not be analysed to draw any meaningful conclusions.
- 2.20 If the number of future NLHF projects continues at the current relatively low levels in 2021–22 then quantitative methods may not be the best way of gathering information about the effectiveness of these projects. To better understand the process and management of the projects, the focus should be on the experiences of project managers. To better demonstrate outcomes, future projects should show how they will engage with the community during the development stage and with the wider community when the project is fully operational. Building in monitoring of these outcomes throughout project delivery would also be helpful to inform future evaluations.
- 2.21 The link to the survey for successful KWT and NLHF grant applicants was sent by the respective scheme managers due to UK GDPR stipulations. This means that the research team were unable to identify which organisations had participated and therefore send specific reminders to those who had not yet clicked through and completed the survey. The decision to participate may have been based on the strength or otherwise of the relationship between the scheme manager and the grant recipient and also of any access or technical problems that would not necessarily be highlighted to the research team. This may include the link becoming corrupted or requests for participation being highlighted as spam email and accordingly directed to 'junk' folders and thus less likely to be seen by the intended recipient. Future research should consider methods of data collection that retain UK GDPR compliance but facilitate participation. There may be a need to review how any survey links are shared; for instance, considering whether to host the survey link on either the contractor, the Welsh Government or scheme manager's website.

The Welsh Government may also wish to consider how involvement in the evaluation is included within grant terms and conditions and the grant privacy notice; for instance, including the sharing of contact details to any Welsh Government contracted evaluator for the purpose of evaluating.

- 2.22 In terms of engagement with the NLHF, limited responses by the 2020–21 and 2021–22 projects to the survey meant that insights of scheme delivery and impact relied on management interviews and interviews with 2020–21 projects completed at the time of the fieldwork in Spring 2022. At the time of the project fieldwork, only one project in 2021–22 had been completed. Future evaluations will need to consider the appropriate timing to gain meaningful insights about projects in light of the length of time needed for them to complete. The timing of fieldwork should be reconsidered to ensure any fieldwork is not happening near the financial year end where projects are at their busiest.

3. Findings - Programme Rationale Workshop

Introduction

- 3.1 As part of the scoping exercise for this evaluation, a workshop with relevant stakeholders with an expertise in nature and biodiversity and community engagement in Wales was undertaken. The purpose of this was to discuss the programme rationale and the aims and expectations of the project. This included discussing how success should be conceptualised in each of the areas covered within the modest measures.

Programme rationale workshop January 2022

- 3.2 On 20 January 2022, a two-hour virtual workshop was held on Microsoft Teams with a stakeholder group comprising experts in biodiversity/nature, including Plantlife, WWT, WLGA, NRW and the RSPB, alongside representatives from Wavehill and the Welsh Government.
- 3.3 Participants briefly considered the ten modest measures and worked through each in order to suggest how success could be interpreted in terms of impact on nature and communities in the short, medium and long term. It is worth noting that panel members were not able to suggest outcomes for some of the modest measures, and that the primary measures were often outputs, such as the number or amount of an item that had been created.
- 3.4 Participants warned against the presumption that all green spaces are beneficial for biodiversity, and the idea that there is an automatic correlation between the creation of a green space, and increased biodiversity within a location. They suggested that there is a lack of evidence that small green spaces necessarily enhance biodiversity, particularly if they have no wider links to other geographically nearby sites. This consideration is most relevant to the KWT scheme, where the projects focus on the creation of small community sites, but is also relevant to the other schemes. This may reflect the need for wider-scale planning to ensure the spaces for the community are also able to provide some benefits, even if small, to local biodiversity to help promote the behaviours that the LPfN programme is hoping to encourage on a larger scale.

- 3.5 It was noted by participants that some of the modest measures (e.g. increased wildflower planting, creating pollinator sites) will be more useful than others in terms of boosting biodiversity through LPfN. One concern raised was that proposals for sensory gardens for therapeutic purposes could sometimes impact negatively upon biodiversity due to the focus on plants with bright colours/strong smells, leading to an emphasis on non-native species. People would be engaging with nature, which is at the heart of LPfN, but would not be increasing biodiversity. They suggested that there should be more explicit recognition that certain modest measures are more important than others in tackling the nature emergency.
- 3.6 The workshop group raised issues relating to the outputs and outcomes of LPfN. At the time of the workshop, targets were set for outputs of the modest measures, but the journey towards outcomes was less certain. The argument was made that the number and distribution of LPfN sites (the project outputs) doesn't reflect the actual biodiversity value but instead represents the potential biodiversity value of LPfN. The potential biodiversity value of each site will be different and whether each site will reach its potential may depend, for example, on site management and wider environmental factors. Some participants noted that there is no commonly accepted single biodiversity metric for Wales, making it difficult to determine relative levels of success through comparison with a measurable and commonly agreed metric. They suggested that examples of best practice (e.g. for measuring increase in pollinator species) will need to be identified to measure the extent to which the activities implemented are aligned with best practice.
- 3.7 In contrast, other participants suggested that the short-term success of LPfN should be measured through uptake of the scheme. They suggested that the metrics on community engagement and participation, the number of schemes, and their distribution across Wales could be used to evidence the success of LPfN. This would then see the (assumed) positive gains for individuals and community groups as being an outcome for LPfN, even if the nature outcomes are less certain, or less well evidenced, and will only become clear further down the line.

- 3.8 Workshop participants agreed that it would be easier to measure success for individuals and communities than for nature and biodiversity. Further examples could include an increase in self-reported wellbeing amongst participants, and, in the medium and longer term, whether the perception of the area has improved due to adoption of the modest measures. Other indicators of community success included the community group taking on management of the space, increasing the number of volunteers and identifying additional learning and upskilling amongst the group, displaying an increase in capacity. Workshop participants also noted the potential importance of explaining the work being undertaken by LPfN enabling communities and schoolchildren to connect local work with the wider rationale about the nature emergency. This aspect of promoting nature recovery schemes within the local and wider community should be considered by LPfN as part of promotion of both the scheme itself and the wider aims.
- 3.9 Discussing the progress of LPfN so far, workshop participants recognised that, at the end of this second year of LPfN, there has been investment in inputs into LPfN through the three schemes, and outputs have been identified through the modest measures. However, it was also recognised by participants that, in many cases, particularly in the WCVA and NLHF schemes, these outputs have not yet been fully realised due to the scheduling of works or growth of nature. Workshop participants also recognised that it will take some time for the biodiversity potential of sites to be realised, particularly those larger WCVA and NLHF projects that would be anticipated to have higher potential biodiversity value than smaller-scale outputs.
- 3.10 While expressing concern about achieving nature and biodiversity outcomes to tackle the nature emergency, participants also recognised that the rationale of LPfN is that of 'nature on your doorstep'. In particular, greater visibility of nature within communities and community groups having an improved relationship with nature were also acknowledged as important parts of LPfN and therefore important success indicators for the overall programme.
- 3.11 Workshop participants agreed that it will always be difficult to precisely attribute changes in public attitudes towards nature to individual projects or schemes. They suggested that it is thus important to recognise that the primary purpose of LPfN is

to propagate connections between the community and nature and that there will not be significant biodiversity benefit as a result of any one individual project. LPfN's long-term aim is to nudge community behaviour to valuing and nurturing the small green spaces they have in order for this to create longer-term, more beneficial behavioural change and generate multiple social economic and environmental benefits. It is not possible within this evaluation to determine whether this behaviour change has occurred. Further research will consequently be required to both defining successful outcomes and monitoring them to illustrate the impact of LPfN. The views from workshop participants may form a starting point to build on to consider the journey from inputs and activities to outputs and, ultimately, outcomes.

4. Findings - Local Nature Partnerships Strand

Introduction

- 4.1 As previously noted, the LNP strand of LPfN is financially the largest of the three parts of the LPfN programme. In the first and second year of LPfN, LNPs were allocated non-competitive funding from the WCVA strand on the basis of a project delivery plan. The plan indicates how the funding will be utilised in line with the overall LPfN scheme aims and across two different themes, relating to ‘environmental growth on your doorstep’ and the ‘greening of the public estate’. The plan for 2021–22 is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 In 2021–22, a new ‘Challenge Fund’ was introduced for larger projects. This was a competitive process requiring LNPs to bid for funding which could be used within the financial year. A role embedded in Cynnal Cymru also supports LNPs with their Challenge Fund enquiries and applications.
- 4.3 As previously explained, the pan-Wales LNP network has been used to facilitate LPfN work across Wales. Table 4.1 sets out the number of LNPs in each region compared with the number of LNPs in each region who participated in an interview.

Table 4.1: LNPs who participated in research interviews

Location	LNPs in area	LNPs who participated in interviews
North Wales	7	6
Mid Wales	3	3
West Wales	2	2
South-East Wales	9	5

Source: LNP coordinator interviews, 2022

- 4.4 Interviews were usually conducted with the LNP coordinator for the LA area or NPA. In some cases, a more senior line manager was the lead source. This was typically the case when the LNP coordinator was relatively new in post, for example, with less than six months’ experience, and so unable to comment in detail on the scheme.

Role of Local Nature partnership coordinator

- 4.5 LNP coordinators are responsible for a series of relationships through their post. These include, as the name implies, their coordination of their LNP, a group of organisations in each LA or NPA area. They meet on a number of occasions each year, varying by LNP.
- 4.6 The LNP coordinator is located within a host authority, either the LA or NPA. They are usually within small departments within the wider authority. In carrying out their roles they are therefore required to also maintain relationships with other departments across the authority to ensure ‘buy-in’ and access additional funding and support in order to deliver projects that require cross-departmental working. Examples of this include securing support for appropriate planning issues or highway closure permits to allow work to be undertaken. It was noted during interviews that, across Wales, the coordinator roles were handled differently by LAs and NPAs, and that sometimes these posts were funded alongside other grant or LA roles, meaning that they worked only part-time on WCVA-LNP work.
- 4.7 The LNP coordinators also met with each other on a regular basis, organised by the scheme organiser at WCVA. These national meetings of coordinators took place virtually and provided an opportunity for those more experienced in the role to share best practice, answer questions and give advice.
- 4.8 These meetings were described as being very helpful, by both management and coordinators. The importance of the learning that was shared between postholders, and the importance of Welsh Government attendance at meetings, showing support for the scheme, was explained by a management interview participant:
- “Peer support has been valuable. During COVID, we had weekly/fortnightly meetings of the network, often with WG attending and providing updates. This showed the strength of the network and shared learning from different coordinators.” (Management interview)

LNP membership and activities

- 4.9 As earlier noted, the LNP network was funded through the ENRaW grant between 2019 and 2022. As part of this grant, WCVA has collected monitoring data on the network's progress. This data is also useful for LPfN as it shows growth and engagement of LNPs. The monitoring data shows an aim of 112 LNP meetings to be held during 2021–22, and a 30 per cent increase in new partners, with half of these being from so-called non-traditional audiences, who would not normally be expected to participate in nature recovery schemes. This target was exceeded, with 347 meetings held and a 483 per cent increase of new partners, 9 per cent of non-traditional audiences (equating to 92 non-traditional partners). This success has been attributed to the ability to hold meetings online, which are easier to organise and often have higher attendance than face-to-face meetings. Many LNPs have full partnership meetings plus steering group and task force meetings.
- 4.10 The exact membership of each LNP varies across Wales, as does the manner in which they operate. One LNP coordinator explained they met with interested groups fairly regularly and also have a specific element of the partnership aimed at community groups:
- “We meet every two months in the evening. We have recorders, volunteers, NGOs, ‘Friends Of’ groups, NRW. It is organic really, so if anyone shows an interest they are invited. We have another arm of the partnership ... which is aimed at community groups. About 40 or 50 are invited to the meetings, and we usually have about 25 at the meetings.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.11 In North-east Wales, a coordinator focused on the regional operation, across LA boundaries, explained that:
- “We’re members of Bionet, the North East Wales network. Every conservation group locally is part of it – RSPB, Wildlife Trust, AONB, Clwyd Badger Group, and also private individuals. We have six monthly meetings, also email communications, social media – there’s a focus on local events. We also work closely through the LNP coordinators network. We’ve developed survey tools and monitoring tools.” (LNP coordinators interview)

- 4.12 The varied membership and ways of engaging with the LNP networks and the wider coordinator network will likely influence how LNPs perform. Therefore, the current approach to meeting and knowledge sharing amongst LNP coordinators is of importance.
- 4.13 WCVA collects monitoring data that assesses the level of operation of each of the LNPs. There are four levels of operation within the framework: (1) No partnership but conservation activity; (2) Basic partnership; (3) Active ‘influencing’ partnership; and (4) ‘Making things happen’ partnership. A list of the types of activities is used to define each level and assess within which each of the LNPs they fit.
- 4.14 Targets within the ENRaW grant included that seven LNPs be brought back into ‘active status’ (Level 3), and 75 per cent of LNPs progressing to Level 4 (‘making things happen’) in terms of their organisational structure. While WCVA reports that the targets for active LNPs have been met, at the time of analysis only 41 per cent of LNPs had reached the Level 4 target. Reasons given for not progressing further include the pandemic and the LPfN capital grant causing priorities to change, and that many LNPs were not set up until year two of the ENRaW scheme (that is, 2020–21) due to delays in the project starting and recruitment issues. This means that there is still some work to be done for the LNP system to operate at the targeted level across Wales, and, at the time of the assessment, performance varies between LNPs.
- 4.15 This clearly has implications for LPfN; interviewees identified that supporting LNPs to further improve their capacity will have benefits in terms of their delivery of the aims of LPfN within their area and allow LNPs to operate at a higher, more structured and organised level.

Single-year payments

- 4.16 The majority of interviews with LNP management and delivery staff raised issues relating to the scheme design that means projects must be completed within a single financial year.

- 4.17 This was described as creating a series of problems, both in project design and staff retention. Participants stated that most projects required more than a year to be completed, and the timeframe could not account for additional slippage due to delays outside the project's control (e.g. supply chain issues or LA procurement or planning permission requirements) and, due to the rush to complete before the deadline, there was a consequent knock-on effect on the detailed development of the following year's plans. All of this impacted on the effectiveness of projects delivering against the wider aims of LPfN.
- 4.18 One coordinator explained the difficulties of trying to deliver projects within a single year, indicating problems including staffing time, design, consultation requirements, as well as staff and volunteer illness due to COVID-19.
- “The timeframe is a nightmare. Trying to deliver within a year is really tricky... You can't always deliver projects, as you have to allow time for design, consultation, etc. The project didn't even start until end of Feb. People get COVID and they are off and it delays everything.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.19 The single-year funding for the projects was also felt by some LNP coordinators and managers to impact upon staff recruitment and retention. Short-term funding means that LAs or NPAs, as the host employer of the coordinator, are less likely to be able to offer longer-term or permanent contracts because of the risk of the grant being withdrawn in future years. LNP coordinators identified the risk that this can have to delivery, including providing a distraction from their daily responsibilities to the project, reducing opportunities for long-term planning and leading to issues in delivery when posts are vacant due to the length of recruitment processes. In turn, some LNP coordinators reported that the provision of single-year short-term contracts means that staff are often looking for alternative employment, perhaps within the same LA department, from early in their contracts.
- 4.20 While being highly supportive of the scheme, one LNP coordinator explained that their greatest problem was with job insecurity, based around funding arrangements. In response to a question about the greatest difficulty or challenge with the role:

“Maybe WG is not confirming funding quickly; I’m currently finishing this month because we haven’t been told whether or not we are getting an extension.” (LNP coordinator interview)

- 4.21 This interview took place in February 2022, prior to the announcement of future funding for LPfN and the resolution of these issues for the start of the 2022–23 year, but highlights the concerns felt by coordinators at the time.
- 4.22 There was a general feeling from interview participants that a multi-year funding programme would allow for better planning of projects, that they would be more effective in meeting their objectives, and that the posts related to the scheme would be more attractive to staff than short-term contracts, which were at risk of not being renewed at the end of each financial year.

Challenge Fund

- 4.23 Discussing the Challenge Fund, the additional part of the scheme introduced in 2021–22, coordinators and support staff again referred to the difficulties associated with grant timeframes and the pressure to deliver to an end of financial year deadline.
- 4.24 It was also noted that some LNPs are more engaged with the Challenge Fund process than others, risking an imbalance in investment across Wales. It was implied that better organised LNPs are able to take advantage of these opportunities to apply for and receive Challenge Fund money. This may also relate to earlier issues around the capacity of individual LNPs, and illustrate further benefits of improving their operations. Discussing these issues, one management interviewee set out why they thought some LNPs were less well-prepared than others to participate in a competitive grant application system:

“Some LNPs have coordinators and some have support staff. So there are different capacity issues in different places. Timescales are also a problem. Trying for a big outcome is difficult in practical terms.” (Management interview)

Projects undertaken during 2020–21

- 4.25 As a result of the timing of the scheduled capital works (see Appendix 1) for the 2020–21 year of LPfN, the project's first full year, it was not possible to consider the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the LNP capital works within the last year's evaluation. This is therefore the first opportunity to ask LNP coordinators about the delivery and impacts of their first completed projects.
- 4.26 To test perceptions of the impact that LPfN was having in their area, interview participants were asked to rate the impact of their projects so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep'. They were asked to use a 5-point Likert scale in which 1 was 'no impact at all' and 5 was 'the strongest agreement that it had a highly positive impact'. Where projects had been completed, LNP coordinators (n=16) were positive about the work carried out and the impact as a result of the changes made in creating 'nature on your doorstep'.
- 4.27 Participants were also asked to identify the impact that their projects were having on enhancing nature and biodiversity.
- 4.28 A number of LNPs set out how they've assessed the impacts on nature and biodiversity of their projects; for instance, air monitoring techniques in project areas have been able to indicate how the project is supporting the environment, as explained by one coordinator below:

“Air monitoring has shown there is between 20 per cent and 30 per cent reduction in nitrogen dioxide, so it has had the impact we wanted. On sites which were previously tarmacked yards, we introduced some greenery and biodiversity.” (LNP coordinator interview)

- 4.29 LNP coordinators also noted the time taken for impacts to be realised. However, they also agreed that there are some impacts that can begin to be assessed via surveys, including wildflower and botanical surveys and grassland surveys. One coordinator explained, as follows;

“Buying machinery to do cut and lift [mowing] means there will be an improvement in pollinators. We're gradually bringing in more and more land – with that, the impact won't be immediate. But planting pollinator plants and seeds

are more instant than that. With the training courses we offered, some people went on to do grassland surveys for us, so it has been good in terms of monitoring. Doing something survey-based is good as it is something people can continue to do in their own time.” (LNP coordinator interview)

Community engagement

4.30 Coordinators were also asked to explain how their project had supported the community, recognising the joint aims of the project for both nature and the community.

4.31 The opportunity to provide training to volunteers was highlighted by a couple of LNP coordinators:

“There was habitat restoration, so that needed people to be trained and for people to engage; lockdown was an issue but it was good to get people outdoors, people knew it was there and they could go and see things.” (LNP coordinator interview)

“We did manage to sneak in some volunteer training last year between lockdowns, we have dry stone walling training ... and some grassland management.” (LNP coordinator interview)

4.32 However, there was also reflection on the impact of COVID-19, which had prevented some of the anticipated work with communities from taking place.

“They [the community] weren’t nearly as involved in the delivery as they were anticipated to be (due to COVID-19).” (LNP coordinator interview)

“We haven’t done any volunteering or anything.” (LNP coordinator interview)

4.33 There were also reflections upon the amount of work required to engage effectively with communities that are not currently interested in environmental issues and therefore closer to the ultimate target audience for LPfN. One coordinator said:

“It takes a long time to embed real change. Fly-tipping [around the site] has decreased. We worked together with housing associations to do door knocking and sending flyers. We’ve started community volunteer days and it has started to

be seen as a space for the community – where people go for walks. There are volunteers on site most weekends.” (LNP coordinator interview)

4.34 Another coordinator also noted the mixed response to projects from members of the community:

“For ‘Nature on your Doorstep’, with verges – people are accessing this on their daily commute, on the school run, etc. Residents are not shy on giving their feedback; we had quite a lot of complaints, but also the highest number of compliments.” (LNP coordinator interview)

Project sustainability

4.35 Coordinators were also asked to what extent their projects delivered in 2020–21 would be sustained in the future. From the answers provided, there were a range of different groups undertaking responsibility for the future maintenance of the sites, from local authorities to local volunteer groups to larger wildlife and conservation groups.

4.36 Coordinators seemed confident that their original set of projects have generally been beneficial to nature, citing monitoring results to support this where available and highlighting the mechanisms put in place to ensure continued maintenance.

4.37 One of the concerns raised by LNP coordinators was that a negative impact of a single year funded project was that the legacy may be jeopardised because the project team may not remain in place to continue the work, or it would become a lower priority for the LNP in future years.

4.38 Monitoring of the ongoing maintenance and impact of these early years’ projects should be considered in future years to provide reassurance that their impact has been as anticipated and that their continued maintenance has been secured. As a whole, LPfN should consider how best to record monitoring data on the maintenance and impact of completed sites. LPfN should consider who should undertake this work and cost implications and financial support, if required. This needs to be undertaken jointly between the Welsh Government, WCVA and LNPs to ensure buy-in and a Wales-wide adoption of best practice.

Specific points regarding grass-cutting and mowing

- 4.39 It is clear from the interviews with LNP coordinators that there is a mixed response to changes to grass-cutting regimes across Wales. From the perspective of the coordinators, they believe that it is a matter of educating people about the benefits of this new approach, as opposed to the more traditional belief that nature, and grass in particular, should be 'tidy'. One LNP coordinator explained as follows:
- “If people don't understand what we're doing they just see it as us not cutting the grass. I think, as time's gone on, more people are beginning to understand. Through this project they are starting to understand the importance of cutting, which should leave a legacy behind.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.40 Challenges in the relationship with other departments across the LA, and with local councillors, was made by approximately a third of the coordinators with whom we spoke. One LNP coordinator explained that they were developing a presentation to show to councillors and other LA staff to explain the work that was being undertaken and the rationale behind it. It was hoped that this would mitigate negative reactions stemming from a lack of awareness of a project's aims for nature.
- 4.41 In practical terms, more than one LNP coordinator explained problems emerging in LAs with regard to the introduction of new machines purchased as part of LPfN and the ability of the existing LA team to adapt processes to effectively use the machine. One LNP coordinator explained the situation in their host authority:
- “The Cut and Collect machine is big. We are very lucky that our green waste service collects it. We are still in the infancy of knowing when to cut things – a lot of training is needed. Everyone is still learning. And getting the sequence right, such as tying in street cleansers to go in first and take litter away.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.42 Here, the coordinator explains that the use of the grant to get a new machine has led to the requirement for substantial change within the local team to develop protocols for appropriate use. In some places, participants highlighted that, because of these requirements, the purchased equipment had hardly been used because it

had caused challenges for the LA team to use the equipment alongside existing services. This points to the need for the wider buy-in from LA departments with the ongoing responsibility for this work and recognition that there are challenges, both ideological and practical, to implementing new systems within traditional organisations. Otherwise, there is a risk that the grant used to purchase new equipment will go unused. Learning from any best practice across the LNP network might be a helpful starting point.

Developing proposals for 2021–22

- 4.43 Interview participants were asked to explain the projects they had put forward to LPfN in the 2021–22 financial year. From the responses provided, it is apparent that best practice and ideas are being spread across Wales, with an increasing focus around mowing practices and wildflower sites, on the one hand, as part of the creation of new sites, and towards the creation of green walls as a means of ‘greening the public estate’, on the other.
- 4.44 As previously mentioned, the timing of fieldwork meant many projects in 2021–22 had not yet completed delivery, hence outputs, outcomes and impacts could not be evaluated. However, at the time of publication these projects will have been in field for around a year.

Third-party engagement

- 4.45 In addition to discussing the impacts of their project upon nature and their local community, coordinators were also asked to explain how they had worked across different organisations to deliver their projects. These showed a range of groups, including those more traditionally associated with wildlife, such as the Wildlife Trust and West Wales Rivers Trust and, as part of the ‘greening of the public estate’, organisations that are less commonly connected with nature and the environment, such as the NHS and the Fire Service. Engagement data is collected by WCVA, showing both ‘traditional’ and ‘non-traditional groups’ as part of the LNP and in working with projects (see paragraph 4.9).

Community engagement

- 4.46 Coordinators were also asked how local community groups had participated in the projects being developed in 2021–22. Differing levels of engagement were reported.
- 4.47 4.45 One coordinator explained that they had held an open-day style event at which local people were able to give their opinion on their local LPfN proposals, saying that:
- “For the project we held a consultation day and they all met on site and we went over what we wanted. We had also had prior meetings with the housing association and hospital. And the local school has done all the artwork to welcome to the site, and we employed a South Walian artist. Everyone at the consultation was able to represent what they were fearful of and nobody said they didn’t want it. It has made a real change to the area, with paths to keep people to certain areas.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.48 Another coordinator explained they had carried out no proactive consultation, but were instead responding reactively to comments as they arose. They explained:
- “One of the drivers is feedback from people who contact the council. I have been responding to emails from individuals about grass mowing practice, and why, since I came into post in 2010. Not in big numbers, a few a year is quite significant.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.49 In cases where there seems to have been greater community involvement, local TCCs appear to have played a significant role, something which seems common across LPfN, for example, a coordinator who explained that:
- “The community was completely and utterly involved in all of the projects. It’s their land; e.g. it was their recreation ground, and the community council who meet there and it is they who have organised everything.” (LNP coordinator interview)
- 4.50 A further coordinator explained that participation had been limited by COVID-19 in their opinion, saying that:

“It’s been limited by COVID, so you couldn’t do big community consultations, but, particularly with the orchards, they are usually suggestions [from the public].”
(LNP coordinator interview)

- 4.51 When interviewees were asked about how they engaged with disadvantaged communities, a range of responses were received, based around specific groups of people within the community who are less able to engage with nature, and in specific named locations. For example, coordinators referred to working with groups who have mobility issues and so are limited in their access to nature, or with groups with mental health issues, who are perceived as benefiting from access to nature.
- 4.52 Another coordinator explained that they had been working with the probation service as part of their project, while another explained that they had been working in partnership with a housing association to access volunteers as they did not have the resources themselves. In both cases, this aligns with LPfN goals of engaging people in deprivation or with limited access to nature.
- 4.53 Some projects took a place-based approach to engagement; projects located in specific parts of Powys and Newport were chosen for their location because of their high levels of relative poverty. Barrack Hill in Newport, for example, was selected as the site of an LNP project because it is within the 10 per cent most deprived areas of the city. The aim was to claim back the green space for nature and people by stimulating behaviour change and tackling key pressures on biodiversity.
- 4.54 Further research is needed to engage with groups who are less able to engage with nature to understand what impacts these LPfN projects delivered through the LNP. This will require a sufficient amount of time to allow for identifying any relevant individuals and obtaining their feedback. It might be helpful to incorporate some level of feedback collection into project delivery, acknowledging that this will come at an extra cost and time resource for projects. An additional starting point is for future evaluations to seek to engage with the groups identified by LNP coordinators and such engagement will need to be built into the evaluation framework, timescales and budget.

Wider public engagement

- 4.55 LNP coordinators were not specifically asked about wider public engagement during these set of interviews; however, comments received showed a trend in which the wider public were perceived as being supportive of the work being undertaken, particularly when it was located within a specific area and considered part of an improvement plan for the location.
- 4.56 In contrast, there has been greater pushback from the public for allowing wildflower growth in public space that was previously maintained by LAs. Sometimes this is associated with a belief that such work represents cost-cutting by the LA, and also a belief that such spaces are intended to be kept 'tidy'. It is unclear whether this is a widespread view, or one put forward by a vocal minority. Given that LNP work is delivered through LAs and local councillors may be responsive to public complaints, it shows the importance of a communications message for the public and councillors to explain the purpose of the nature work being delivered.
- 4.57 In general, this indicates that greater work is needed with the wider public, and not just those engaged with projects, to understand their attitude towards nature. Given that impacts are expected to be felt by individuals who interact with a site regularly, that is, through living or working nearby or passing by on a commute or regular journey, it will be important to try and engage with specific people. Innovative methods may be required, which are considered further in the conclusions and recommendations section.

Impact upon engaging people in the nature emergency

- 4.58 The LNP coordinators were asked about how LPfN impacts upon the nature emergency and upon the communities which engage with the project.
- 4.59 There were generally positive responses to this question. One coordinator set out the situation as follows:

“I think it helps as it gets people thinking about nature. The gardens do benefit nature. I think the impact is on the people who are learning about nature and then going on and making changes in their lives, it's more of an impact on the people, but that's not to say people will benefit.” (LNP coordinator interview)

4.60 Some respondents, however, recognised that the projects remained relatively small scale in nature, and expressed their support for LPfN, but also set out the wider context, as below:

“Projects work best when they are highly visible, highly emotive or specific, like the park project. The modest measures are nice – it has enabled people to engage. They are enabling in that you can build your project around them. They are relatable. But there is nothing there that encourages us to engage with difficult issues. There could be a second tier which encourages people to take a bigger bite.” (LNP coordinator interview)

Comparison with year one evaluation findings

4.61 Year two evaluation findings from the LNP coordinators reiterate earlier concerns found in year one regarding tight timescales for delivery. This sustained finding in the current evaluation suggests that timescales issues go beyond the delays caused by COVID-19 and the exit from the European Union identified in year one.

4.62 LNP coordinators remain positive about their ability to sustain LPfN projects delivered via the LNP network in the first two years.

4.63 LNP coordinators also noted engagement with the community on project development and delivery in the year one evaluation report, within the constraints of COVID-19 affecting the ability to engage. However, a common challenge, as noted by LNP coordinators in year one was the ability to engage with communities in particularly deprived areas. Findings from the current evaluation suggest that there has been some success in actively engaging with particular groups with limited access to nature and in more deprived areas. This suggests that some LNPs are moving in the right direction and best practice should be shared in order to build upon the engagement they’ve already been undertaking.

Summary

4.64 This chapter has focused on the LPfN scheme administered by WCVA and uses the LNP network across Wales to deliver projects. A series of common themes arose from these interviews, including difficulties with the current single-year funding arrangements, a need for better support for some LNPs to reach their potential,

including improving working relationships within some host authorities to achieve better outcomes. LNP coordinators are beginning to assess the short-term impacts on nature through air monitoring and surveys but recognise that some impacts will take longer to be realised. The projects have engaged with communities and specific groups with limited access to nature where possible, but there have still been difficulties in year two as a result of continuing COVID-19 restrictions. There are indications that the projects are well-received; yet coordinators note mixed responses in some areas of wildflowers and changed mowing practices, where some sections of the public are critical. There is a need to consider how the longer-term impacts of projects are going to be individually and collectively monitored and ensure that the project legacy is maintained. The importance of site management to wider public awareness and buy-in seems important. Future engagement with communities and particular groups should be considered, allowing sufficient time to undertake this. Potential methodologies are drawn upon in the conclusions and recommendations.

5. Findings - Keep Wales Tidy Strand

Introduction

- 5.1 As explained earlier in the report, the KWT strand of LPfN involves the creation of small community spaces through the provision of pre-packaged support in the form of either a starter or development package. Groups submit an application form to the panel, who prioritise funding on the basis of meeting the LPfN rationale of 'nature on your doorstep', with particular reference to those in urban or peri-urban locations, and with limited access to nature.

KWT packages and distribution in the year 2021–22

- 5.2 During 2021–22, KWT approved 279 applications in total. These were for 172 starter packages and 107 development packages. This compares with 438 starter packages and 82 development packages that were distributed in 2020–21, the first year of LPfN. In the first year of the project, more than 200 packages were awarded to TCCs in 2021–2022. These applications were automatically approved and did not require processing through a selection panel (as with all other applications). In the second year, participants were required to complete the full application process.
- 5.3 The KWT annual report for 2021–22²¹ states that they received 314 applications during the year, meaning that 89 per cent of applications were approved. They report that 279 new nature gardens were created, with 2.34 hectares of land enhanced for nature. These include 117 new food growing areas created and the planting of 157 community orchards.
- 5.4 In terms of the LPfN criteria to promote nature in urban and peri-urban areas, and amongst those with limited access to nature, 66 per cent of the total packages distributed in 2021–22 were located in urban areas, 23 per cent in peri-urban and only 11 per cent in rural locations. It should be noted that food growing packages did not have to be located in urban, deprived areas.

²¹ Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature End of Year Report 2021–22

5.5 Table 5.1, below, shows the number of awarded packages by the number and percentage of successful applications who said, at application stage, that they would involve disadvantaged participants.

Table 5.1: Number and percentage of successful applications who said, at application stage, they would involve disadvantaged participants

Category²²	Number	Percentage
Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic	43	15%
Disabled	148	53%
Homeless	30	11%
Substance misuse	19	7%
Mental health condition/disorder	75	27%
Older adults	81	29%
Carers/young or single parents	48	17%
Domestic abuse	14	5%
LGBTQ+	18	7%
Offenders	16	6%
Socially economically disadvantaged	82	29%

Source: KWT Local Places for Nature End of Year Report 2021-22

5.6 The table shows that 53 per cent of successful applicants said, in their application to KWT, they would engage with disabled people, 29 per cent with the elderly or with people who are socio-economically disadvantaged and 27 per cent with people who experience mental health problems. Fifteen per cent of applicants said that they would engage with Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic groups. The evaluators are not aware of any data, following the development of the garden, which confirms that these groups were engaged as proposed. It would be helpful to develop a mechanism to confirm this engagement.

5.7 KWT states that, of the 279 packages distributed in 2021–22, 40 per cent were distributed to locations within the most deprived 30 per cent of areas within Wales, defined by the WIMD, with 24 per cent distributed to areas between 30 per cent and

²² Please note that some of the category titles in this table have been changed for appropriateness.

50 per cent most deprived, with the remaining 36 per cent distributed to areas in the least deprived half of the country.

- 5.8 KWT also published a table showing its outputs in 2021–22, when compared against some of the modest measures.

Table 5.2: Programme Outputs and Modest Measures

Modest Measure	Overall Total	Hectares
Number of pollinator habitat sites	279	2.35
Community food growing sites created	157	2.18
Increase tree planting (number of trees planted)	4,985	-
Number of community orchards created	157	2.18
Habitat creation schemes at rail stations and transport interchanges	2	0.001
Sensory gardens for therapeutic purposes, delivered in partnership with health charities and the Welsh NHS	27	0.27
Number of native bulbs/shrubs/bushes planted	142,472	-
Area created/improved for nature (sqm)	23,470	2.35
Participants involved in creating new gardens	1,930	
Hours spent by applicants in creating and managing new gardens	20,350	
Gardens installed on completely manmade surfaces	63	0.21

Source: KWT Local Places for Nature End of Year Report 2021-22

Progress of the KWT pre-packaged scheme

- 5.9 Compared to the other strands of LPfN, the KWT pre-packaged strand is well advanced in terms of the number of separate projects that have been completed and the available outputs that can be displayed for both years of the project so far.
- 5.10 Discussions with management staff focused on the role of this strand within the wider LPfN programme, the process and impact challenges that have been uncovered in the first two years, and how these can be resolved through future improvements.
- 5.11 In discussing the role of the KWT scheme within LPfN, a member of the management team described their unique position as follows:

“We work in urban locations involving people who are furthest from nature, giving them the skills, confidence and nature, within their ability. The big benefits this year have been to those furthest from nature, who don’t have the confidence to set things up. It’s easy to apply. It’s all prepared to fit the modest measures, native species, peat free, etc., so the risk to nature or Welsh Government is therefore minimal. It gives people an opportunity regardless of their background and skillset.” (Management interview)

- 5.12 In this year’s work, KWT has focused on those facing disadvantage and limited access to nature, in line with the programme’s rationale, and states that almost 90 per cent of the locations in 2021–22 have been within urban or peri-urban areas.
- 5.13 Management interviews highlighted that this was a deliberate policy this year, in line with the LPfN rationale, to target groups that might be considered disadvantaged or lacking in access to nature, noting that the first year of the project had included a number of community councils that were not necessarily in urban or peri-urban parts of Wales.

“There’s been a focused comms campaign on the types of disadvantage, e.g. disability, mental health, the homeless, black and minority ethnic communities. We’ve worked with umbrella organisations. We’ve targeted organisations and held presentations with them, did the groundwork with them.” (Management interview)

- 5.14 However, KWT management interviewees also suggested a need to ensure that organisations and groups who pledged support through letters in the application process were actual participants in later project training and maintenance. KWT expressed a desire to tighten up this process in future to ensure that pledged levels of support are provided by organisations.

Procurement issues

- 5.15 The year one evaluation report of LPfN identified criticism of procurement practices within the KWT strand, for example, that suppliers were not from Wales, or that packages involved produce that was not indigenous to the area of Wales where it was to be used. The management interviews discussed the potential for more local

sources, and confirmed that this was being investigated; but, they also pointed to the need to deliver large numbers of packages in a short period of time, and that this required robust supply chains that could deliver packages on time and to scale. They noted an aspiration that, in future, they would be able to develop a number of local suppliers reflecting different regions of Wales.

- 5.16 Another issue raised in management interviews was in the context of supply chain delays and the need to work with non-constituted groups, leading to extra administrative effort engaged in delivering projects. They also noted how the current requirement to deliver projects in a single year can make adapting to delays difficult, with the interviewee explaining that:

“There’s a lot of admin – the project office element is 10 per cent, which includes audit and procurement as well as processing applications. There are different needs here compared to a big grant project. That includes helping groups to apply. As a capital programme, we are only paid for work on the ground, so it’s difficult if people don’t turn up, or there’s delays or sickness. The long-term funding issues present other issues about the need to spend within a year, which can be a problem if delays are due to the applicant.” (Management interview)

- 5.17 This highlights that the ability to continue to deliver the scheme is dependent upon appropriate resources being available.

Survey findings from community group and project leads

- 5.18 Due to the comparative ease of installation, far more KWT packages have been completed compared with other LPfN schemes. It is generally easier to measure the KWT strand in terms of distribution of ‘nature on your doorstep’ through the monitoring data collected by KWT.
- 5.19 Although evaluation in future years should also consider the actual biodiversity impact of the KWT packages, the year two evaluation focused on the impact of participation in LPfN on community groups.
- 5.20 To achieve this, a survey was developed, in coordination with the Welsh Government and KWT, and was distributed by KWT to community group leads to complete. Therefore, it is important to emphasise that responses reflect those who

are representing the community groups involved rather than members of the community group themselves. However, leads do work closely with their group members, so their responses can give some indication of their views.

- 5.21 There were 105 completed responses, although participants were not obliged to respond to each question to continue and complete the questionnaire. Due to rounding, not all percentages will be 100 per cent. Where the number of responses to a question are less than 100, numbers are reported and percentages are not reported.
- 5.22 Due to the nature of the survey and its self-selecting participants, there may be a participation bias at work amongst those who have chosen to complete the survey, and this should be considered when reading all responses to this survey.

Overall Responses

- 5.23 Considering the responses to these questions as a whole, there is a strong cohort of respondents who clearly believe that there has been a highly positive set of results as part of their engagement with the programme. Equally, there is a small number of respondents who have provided consistently negative feedback through the survey, suggesting that not all engagement with the project has been successful and considered worthwhile.

Summary box:

- 95 per cent of respondents (100 out of 105) believe their project has positively contributed to the LPfN aim of 'nature on your doorstep'.
- 83 out of 97 respondents said participation in the project had helped their physical wellbeing, and 81 out of 97 respondents said it had helped their mental wellbeing.
- 81 per cent of respondents (81 out of 100) said they would be more likely to support spending on local nature projects after their participation in this project, and 70 out of 97 respondents said they would be more likely to support spending on national nature projects.
- 72 per cent of respondents (74 out of 104) said the package had enabled them to involve more disadvantaged or under-represented people in their garden.

- 62 per cent of respondents (65 out of 105) said they would be planning further nature work following their project. However, only a small number of these said they would do so through LPN.

Funding year

- 5.24 To identify the spread of survey respondents across the funding years, respondents were first asked which year they had received LPfN funding through the KWT scheme. There were 98 responses indicating the year in which funding was received for the project, with 51 out of 98 respondents saying they had received funding in the 2020–21 year, the first year of the project, and 47 out of 98 respondents indicating they had received funding in the 2021–22 year. This reveals a roughly equal split of respondents from both years of the programme to date. Four respondents, included within the above figures, said they had successfully received funding in both years.

Demographic information about volunteers

- 5.25 Generally, it was reported that the number of volunteers in projects had increased (38 per cent – 39 out of 104) or stayed the same (53 per cent – 55 out of 104) since the project began. Survey respondents most commonly reported an average volunteer age of 45–60, as reported by 36 per cent of projects (37 out of 104). There were fewer respondents reporting an average age of 60–75 in the current evaluation survey (18 per cent in year two compared with 26 per cent in the year one evaluation) and more reporting an average age of 31–44 (18 per cent in the year two evaluation, compared with 10 per cent in the year one evaluation).

Type of package received

- 5.26 Respondents were asked to indicate which type of package they had received. Sixty-five per cent of respondents (68 out of 104) said they had received a starter package, while the remaining 35 per cent (36 of 104) said they had received a development package. Thirteen of those receiving a development package said they had previously also received a starter package, suggesting the existence of a pipeline operating from ‘starter’ through to ‘development’. It is likely that some of these 13 respondents received their starter and development packages within the

same financial year, given that only four respondents had reported receiving a package in both 2020–21 and 2021–22.

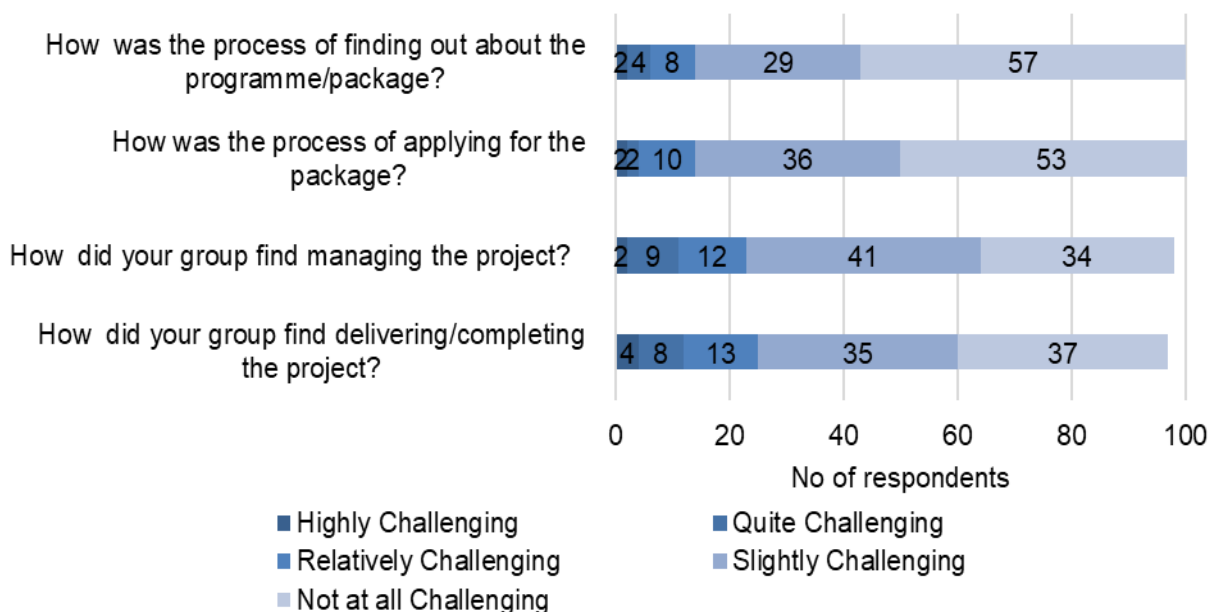
How groups found out about the Local Places for Nature programme

- 5.27 Respondents were asked to indicate how their group became aware of the LPfN programme. They were given a range of named options, and an ‘other’ section, which they could complete.
- 5.28 The majority said they’d first heard about the project through KWT. This was the answer given by 72 per cent of respondents (74 out of 103), followed by 9 per cent (9 out of 103) who’d heard about the project through OVW and 8 per cent (8 out of 103) through word of mouth. Smaller numbers of respondents said they’d heard about LPfN through social media, the Welsh Government or the other strands (WCVA or NLHF).
- 5.29 The proportion of respondents who reported hearing about the LPfN programme through KWT was greater than the proportion of respondents in the year one evaluation – 34 per cent of respondents in year one reported hearing about it through KWT. This may, in part, reflect KWT re-contacting groups in year two who had completed a package in year one, or also that many year one recipients were TCCs, which may receive additional information through other channels, rather than community groups that rely on KWT outreach work. In general, these responses show the importance of KWT’s promotional efforts for the project.

Experience of the project

- 5.30 Respondents were asked to rate how easy or challenging their group found four different processes relating to the scheme, using a five-point Likert scale, where 1 is ‘the most difficult or challenging’, and 5 is ‘the easiest and least challenging’ – see Figure 5.1.
- 5.31 The four processes were:
- the process of finding out about the programme/package
 - the process of applying for the package
 - the group’s experience of managing the project; and
 - the group’s experience of delivering/completing the project.

Figure 5.1: Group experiences of the KWT Project



Source: KWT Participants Survey, 2022. N=100,103, 98, 97

5.32 All four items here show a strongly positive response from those completing the survey. The most positive responses related to items around finding out about the project, where 86 per cent (86 out of 100) gave a positive response, and the process of applying for the package, which was again 86 per cent (86 out of 103). There were slightly lower but still very positive answers to the items about experiences of managing (75 out of 98) and completing the projects (72 out of 97). This suggests a generally positive experience of delivery, although positive responses also may partly reflect that these are successful applicants for the scheme answering these questions.

What has worked well on respondents' Local Places for Nature project (so far)

5.33 Respondents were given a free text response to explain what they think had worked well on their LPfN project (so far); 85 per cent of potential respondents (89 out of 105) replied to this question. Responses were generally brief, encompassing a sentence or two, and were generally wide ranging, but frequently focused on the support of the community and volunteers, positive relationship with KWT support staff or the nature impact of the intervention.

5.34 The below quotes represent different aspects to which they drew attention. Their own words here provide a qualitative explanation of the benefits of the project to small community groups in their locality.

“It has been lovely to see young people being able to enjoy and take part in making changes to their environment. Doing small project like these means it is not too difficult or time consuming for all involved but very beneficial and it ends with a lovely sense of achievement.”

“Mae wedi creu diddordeb ymysg y gymuned ac mae wedi harddu'r pentref. Diolch yn fawr. (It's created interest amongst the community and has made the village more attractive. Thank you very much.)”

“Despite COVID, the packages gave us a fabulous opportunity to deliver purposeful activity with small groups, which helped mental health and motivation levels.”

“Our village green has been transformed. It is now accessible and attractive. We have a new hedge, our very own orchard and a lovely display of wildflowers. For the first time in many years our village is organising community events and enjoying the space available from the doorstep.”

Issues which impacted upon the delivery of the project

5.35 Respondents were asked to identify any issues which impacted upon their ability to deliver their project. A list of potential issues were provided, based on the findings from the year one evaluation and fieldwork with the scheme manager, alongside an ‘other’ option to cover any issues not previously mentioned.

5.36 In this question, respondents were encouraged to note any issues which had impacted upon their delivery, so some gave multiple responses. In total, there were 145 answers given to the question by 105 respondents, of which 27 per cent of respondents (28 of 105) chose the response ‘we had no issues’ in delivering their project – see Figure 5.2. The figure below reports these issues.

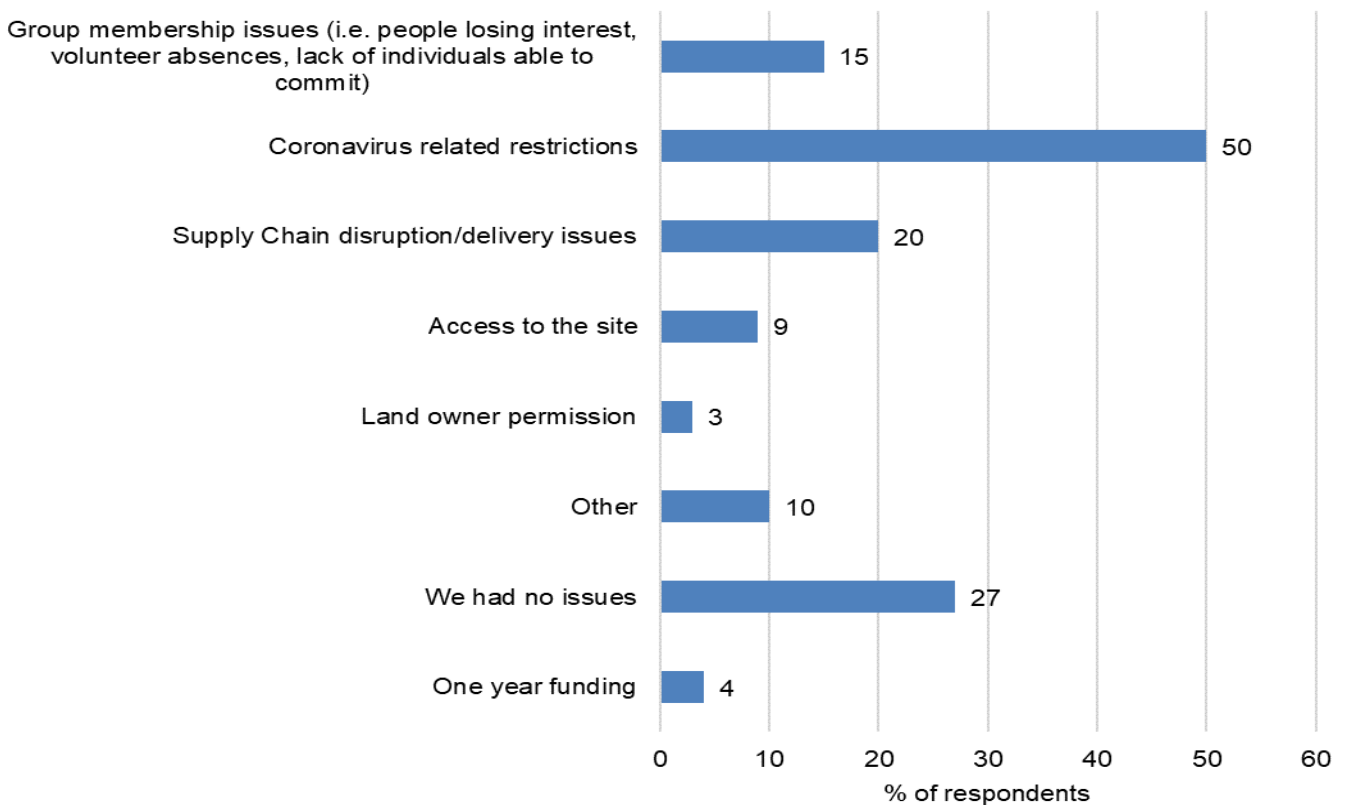
5.37 Just over half of respondents, 51 per cent (53 out of 105), said that COVID-19-related restrictions had impacted upon their ability to deliver the project. However, it

is worthwhile noting that as COVID-19 restrictions have now been removed, it is less likely these restrictions will affect LPfN in future years.

5.38 Twenty per cent of respondents (21 out of 105) said they had issues relating to supply chain delays. These may have been partly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the ongoing economic situation may also continue to impact this. Delays in receipt of products can lead to a lengthened delivery period for LPfN because implementation does not run to timetable, leading to additional costs, including staff time.

5.39 Group membership issues were also reported by 15 per cent of respondents (16 out of 105), while site access concerns were also raised by 9 per cent of respondents (9 out of 105). These possibly ongoing issues should be considered in more detail in future evaluations.

Figure 5.2: Which, if any, issues impacted upon your ability to deliver the project?

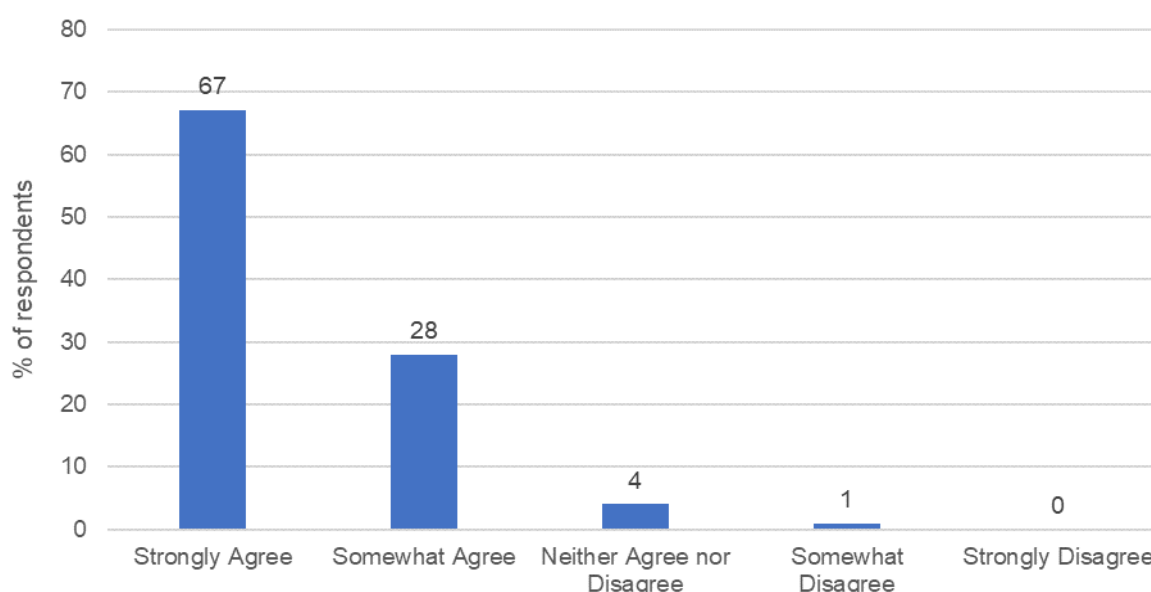


Source: KWT Participants Survey, 2022. N=105, multiple options available

The extent to which projects contributed towards 'nature on your doorstep'

- 5.40 Respondents were asked to rate to what extent they agreed that their project contributed towards nature on their doorstep; for example, new spaces to access, experience and enjoy nature locally on a scale from 'Strongly agree' to 'Strongly disagree'.
- 5.41 Figure 5.3 shows a large majority of respondents were positive about their own efforts to improve nature locally, with 67 per cent of respondents (70 out of 104) giving the strongest agreement with the statement, and a further 28 per cent (29 out of 104) also agreeing with the statement. In total, 99 respondents from 104 (95 per cent) agreed with the statement to some extent. No respondent 'strongly disagreed' with this statement.
- 5.42 This high level of support should not be a surprise given the commitment of those involved with the programme and the completion bias of the survey. Indeed, this is a very strong indication that those who have engaged with the programme and participated in the evaluation support its rationale and are confident that they are making improvements to 'nature on your doorstep' through their contributions.

Figure 5.3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the project helped create 'nature on your doorstep'?



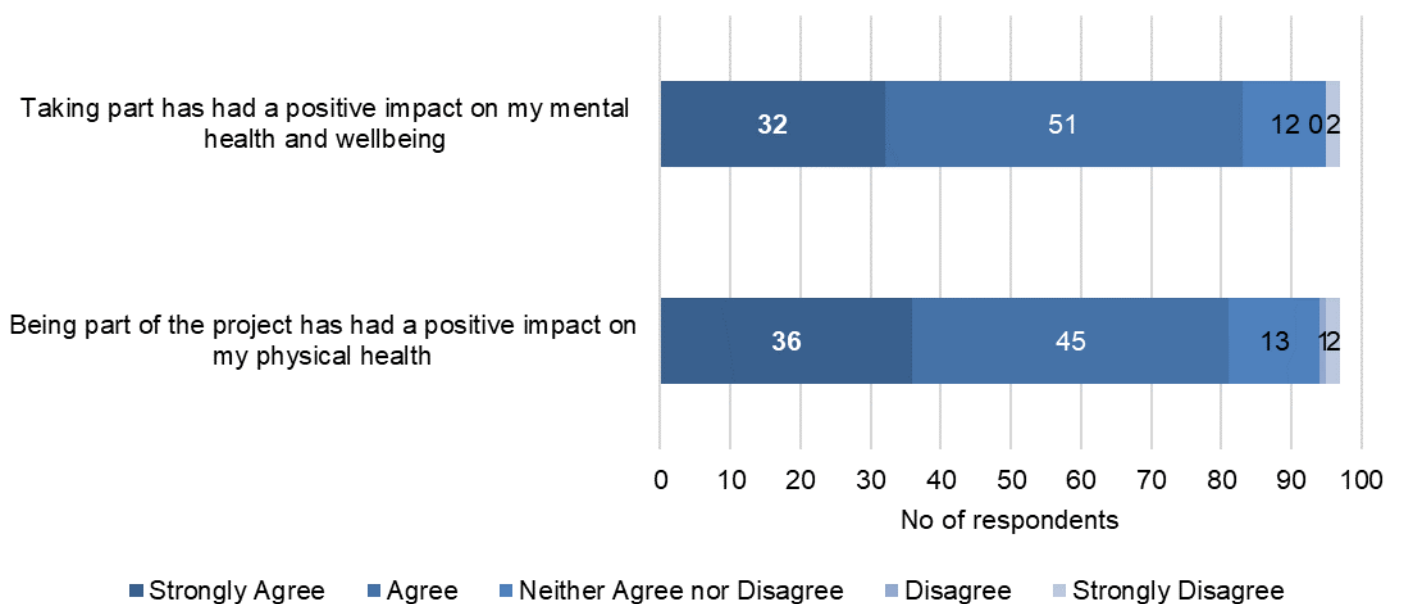
Source: KWT Participants' Survey, 2022. N=105

Impacts on the individual

5.43 Respondents were asked to respond to a series of ten statements about the impact on them personally of their participation. As before, they were asked to agree or disagree with the statements on a 5-point Likert scale where 1= 'strongly disagree' and 5 = 'strongly agree'. The statements were as follows:

- Being part of the project has had a positive impact on my physical health
- Taking part has had a positive impact on my mental health and wellbeing
- I have met new people/friends
- I feel less isolated/lonely
- Being involved has helped me during the COVID-19 pandemic
- I have learned new skills
- I value nature more than before I became involved in the project
- I am more knowledgeable about nature than before I became involved in the project
- I am now more likely to support other nature projects locally
- I am now more likely to support national projects about nature

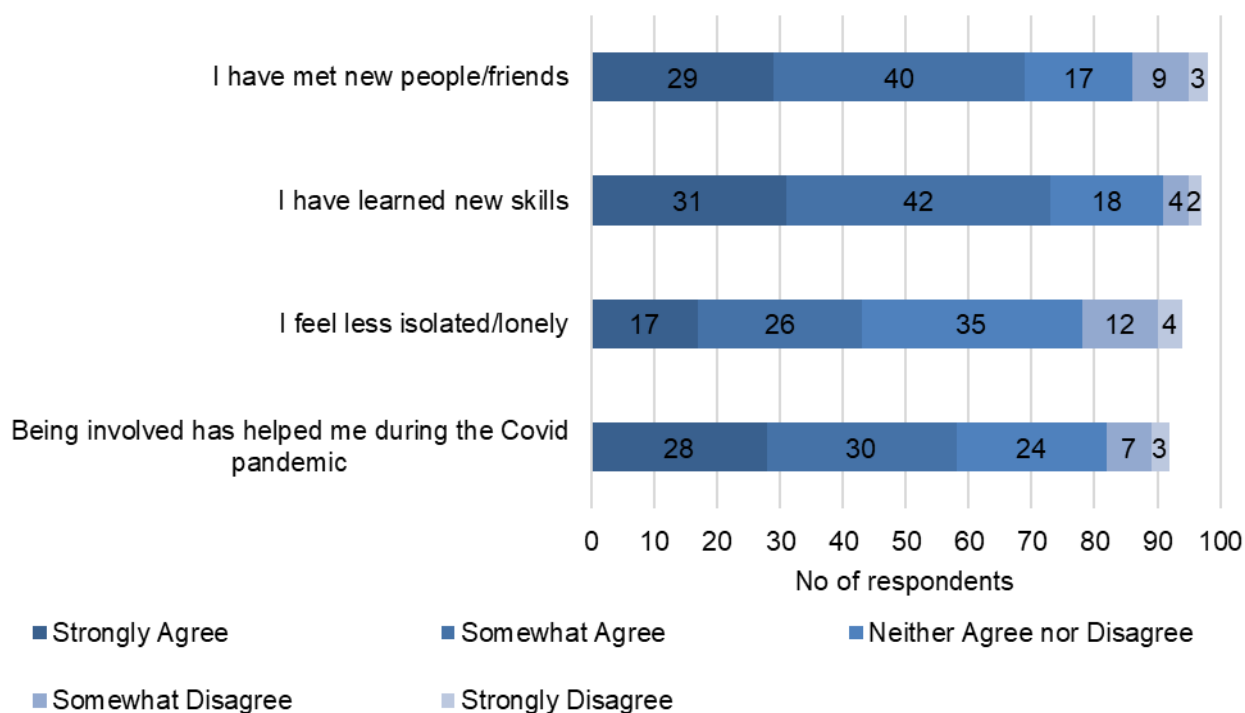
Figure 5.4: Reported impacts of participation on physical and mental wellbeing



Source: Survey of KWT participants, 2022. N=97

- 5.44 The responses to each of these statements were generally positive from the respondents. Figure 5.4 above highlights statements related to improvements in mental and physical wellbeing as a result of participation in the scheme. Around four-fifths of respondents said their physical (81 out of 97 respondents) and/or mental (83 out of 97 respondents) health and wellbeing improved from participation in the project – rating the statement a 5 or a 4, either strongly agreeing or agreeing, showing a perceived positive relationship between participation and improved physical and mental wellbeing.
- 5.45 Respondents were also asked to rate four statements concerned with their self-efficacy, shown in Figure 5.5, below. These included statements relating to making new friends, feeling less isolated or lonely, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and learning new skills.

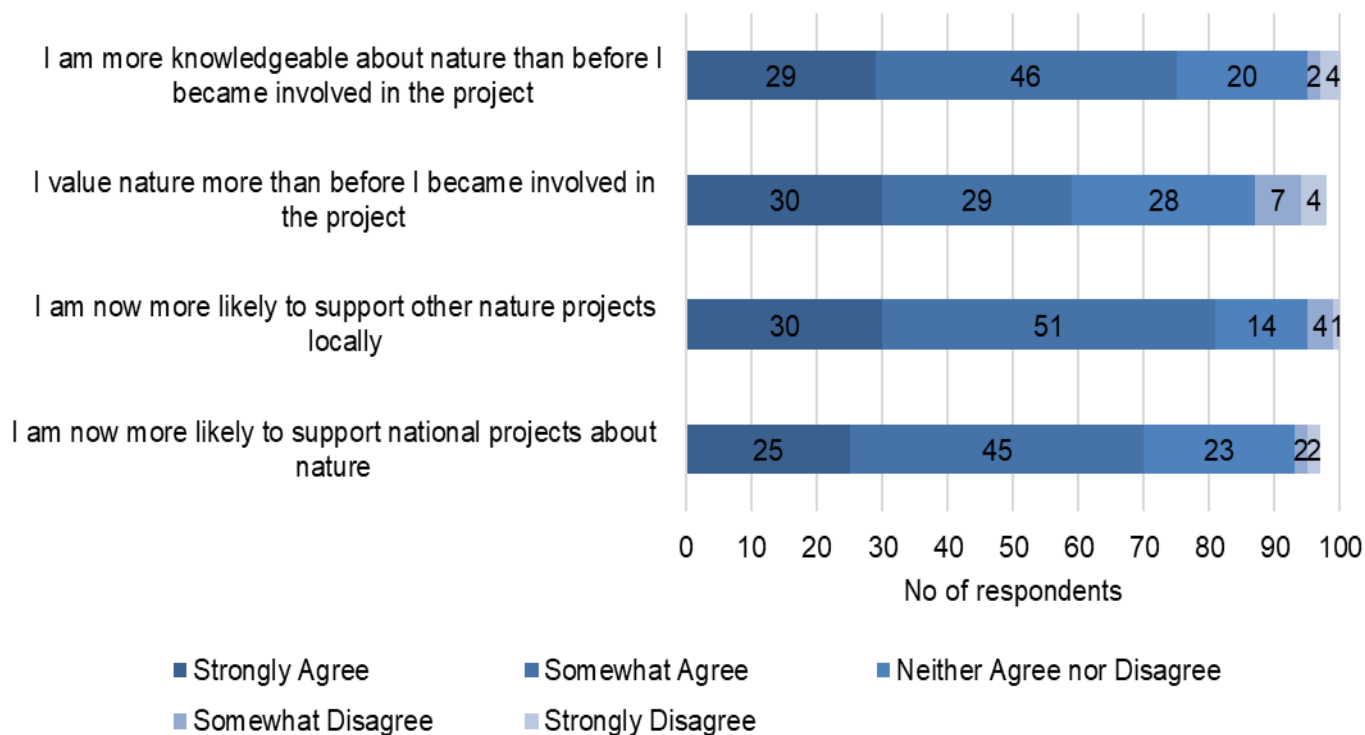
Figure 5.5: Reported impact on individuals' self-efficacy



Source: Survey of KWT participants, 2022. N=98, 97, 94, 92

- 5.46 Around two-thirds (69 out of 98) of respondents said they had met new people/friends and 74 out of 97 said they had learned new skills. Smaller numbers, (43 out of 94) said they were less isolated or lonely as a result of participation in the project, while (58 out of 92) said participation had helped them deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. These latter questions show that participation has assisted them in dealing with some of the issues around the COVID-19 pandemic; but, an assessment of whether somebody is less isolated or lonely will depend upon a baseline of how lonely or isolated they may have previously felt, or to what extent they needed help in dealing with the pandemic.
- 5.47 The remaining set of statements focused on how respondents value and respond to nature. The response to the first statement on whether respondents were more knowledgeable about nature than before project participation found 75 per cent agreement (75 out of 101), suggesting that participation improves knowledge about nature. However, the statement as to whether individuals value nature more now than before was more mixed than anticipated, with 59 out of 98 rating the statement 5 or 4 – see Figure 5.6, below. This might suggest that the project did not always lead respondents to value nature more than before or it may be that many respondents feel that they already valued nature quite highly, leading them to participate in the project, and their participation has therefore not changed their perception.
- 5.48 Respondents were also asked about their willingness to support nature projects locally and nationally following their participation. In total, 81 per cent (81 out of 100 respondents) said they would be more willing to support nature projects locally and 70 out of 97 respondents would be more willing to support projects nationally. In alignment with the aims of LPfN, this suggests that respondents would be more supportive of both activities to support local and national nature, from having participated in this project. This is even when recognising there may be an existing high level of support amongst this group prior to delivering the project. Although levels of agreement were high for both statements, the higher proportion of support for local nature projects compared with national may reflect that local projects may be perceived to have more direct benefits to the respondent.

Figure 5.6. Reported impact on individuals' support for nature



Source: KWT Participants Survey, 2022. N=101, 98,100, 97

Impact on the group

5.49 Respondents were also asked to comment on a further set of seven statements, again on a 5-point Likert scale, about the impact on their group and community. On this occasion, the scales were reversed, with 1 representing a positive position (strongly agree) and 5 representing the negative end of the continuum (strongly disagree). This helps to assure that participants have engaged with the statements and not just ticked the assumed box in order to more quickly complete the survey.

5.50 For comparison purposes with other items in this survey, these responses have been re-coded into the same 5-point Likert scale as before; hence, 1 = strongly agree and 5 = strongly disagree.

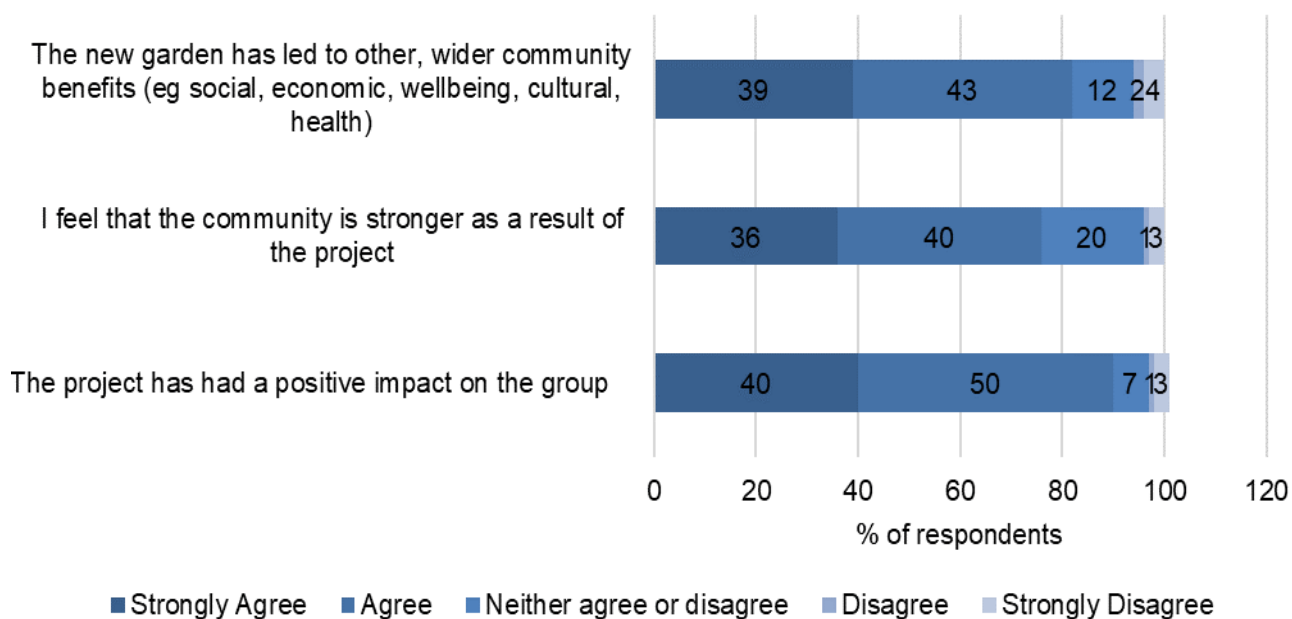
5.51 The statements were as follows:

- The project has had a positive impact on the group
- I feel that the community is stronger as a result of the project

- The new garden has led to other, wider community benefits (e.g. social, economic, wellbeing, cultural, health)
- The community has greater access to nature locally, following this project
- The package has enabled us to involve more disadvantaged/under-represented people in our garden
- The group involved will continue to work on nature projects after this project ends
- The group would like to apply for further funding/support to continue their work on local nature projects.

5.52 Although these responses are caveated as being the subjective opinions of those completing the survey, the results suggest a strong group benefit through their participation in the project, in the view of community group and project leads. In the future, an approach should be sought to understand the views of members of the community, where possible. For instance, building in time for community group leads to disseminate any surveys to their community groups might be a helpful first step.

Figure 5.7: Perceived community impact

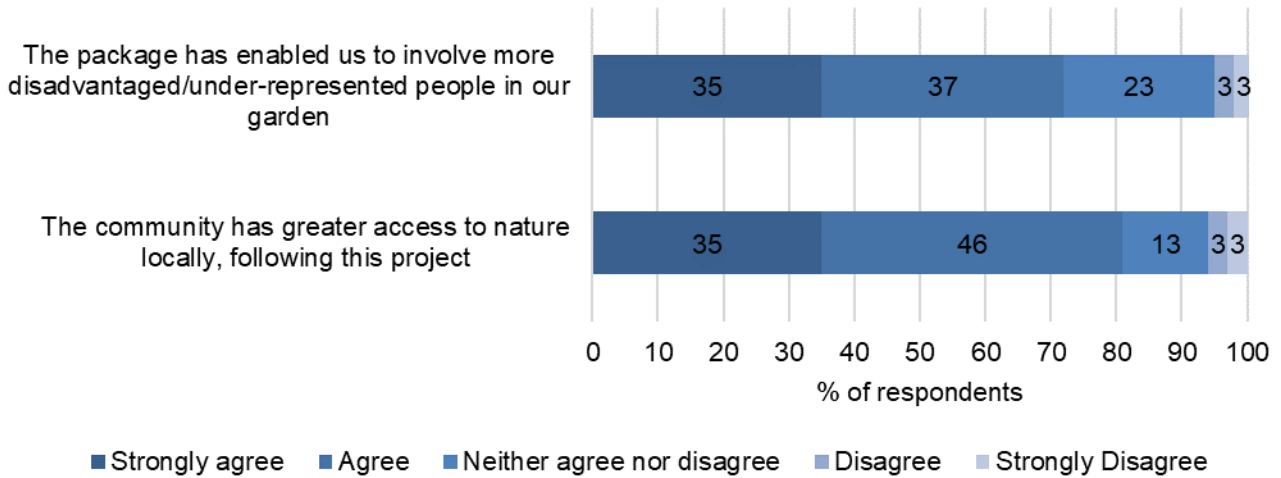


Source: KWT Participants' Survey, 2022. N=105, 104, 105

- 5.53 As shown in Figure 5.7 above, 90 per cent of respondents (94 out of 105) agreed or strongly agreed that ‘the project has had a positive impact on the group’. Seventy-six per cent of respondents (79 out of 104) agreed with the statement ‘I feel that the community is stronger as a result of the project’, and 82 per cent (86 out of 104) agreed that the new garden has led to other, wider community benefits (e.g. social, economic, wellbeing, cultural, health).
- 5.54 Figure 5.8, below, shows the results of statements on greater access to nature as a result of the project, and increased inclusivity for disadvantaged and under-represented people. Thirty-five per cent of respondents strongly agreed and 37 per cent agreed (a total of 72 per cent or 74 out of 104) with the statement ‘the package has enabled us to involve more disadvantaged/under-represented people in our garden’.²³ Overall, this provides a positive indication that community leads who responded to the survey feel they have engaged with disadvantaged or under-represented groups. So far, project applications have been required to engage with under-represented groups, yet there has been no formal mechanism to determine the success of this. Future research should consider how to engage with participants from disadvantaged groups that have been involved or engaged with projects to better understand their experiences of LPfN. Meanwhile, a substantial majority, 81 per cent (85 out of 104) either strongly agreed (35 per cent) or agreed (46 per cent) with the statement ‘the community has greater access to nature locally, following this project’. Both of these findings are in line with the aims of LPfN.

²³ Note that the graph shows 35 per cent strong agreement and 37 per cent (equals 72 per cent) due to rounding.

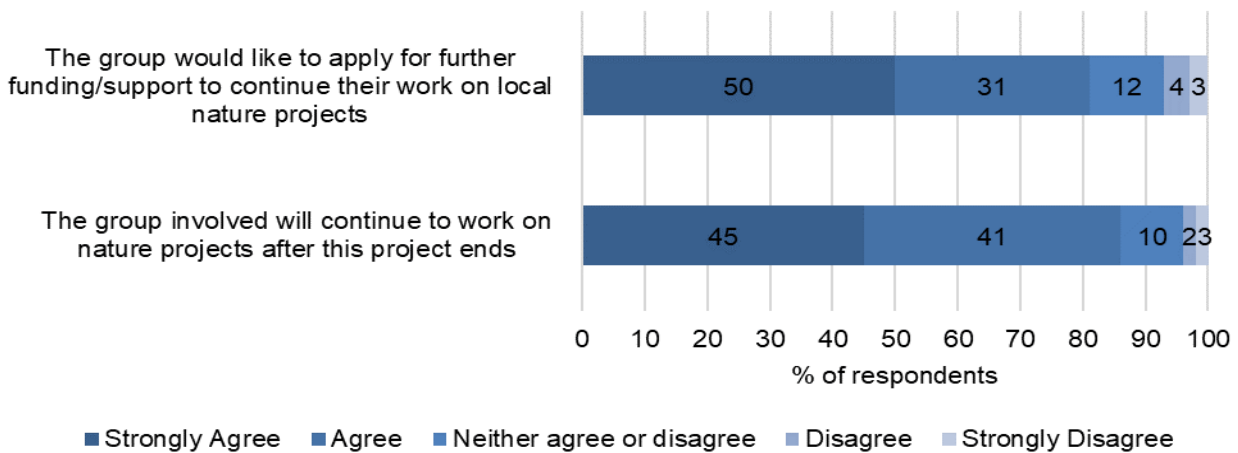
Figure 5.8: Perceived access and inclusivity of the project



Source: KWT Participants' Survey, 2022. N=104, 105

5.55 As shown below in Figure 5.9, 'Group engagement with nature', 86 per cent of respondents (90 out of 105) agreed or strongly agreed that their group would continue to work on nature projects after the current project concludes, while 81 per cent (85 out of 105) agreed or strongly agreed that their group would like to apply for further funding/support to continue their work on local nature projects. Respondents largely believe the project has positively impacted their group and they would continue to do similar work. It is, though, unclear whether this is because of their experience of delivering this KWT package through LPfN or whether they would have continued to do this work anyway through their group.

Figure 5.9: Group engagement with nature

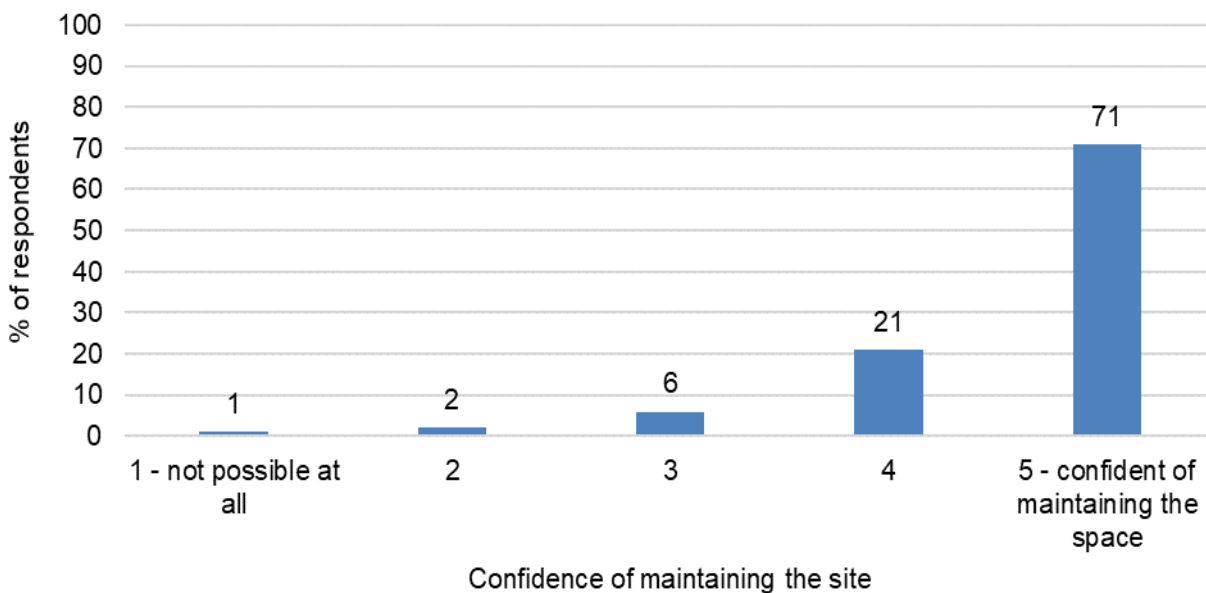


Source: KWT Participants Survey, 2022. N=105, 105.

Maintenance of the site

5.56 Using a 5-point Likert scale, respondents were asked to rate their confidence in being able to maintain the site for which they had taken responsibility, with 1 = 'not possible at all', and 5 = 'confident in maintaining the space'. Within their applications for a package, groups need to agree to maintain the site for a period of time after completing the package. The purpose of this question was to uncover whether groups retained that level of confidence so that they would be able to carry out their work. In total, 91 per cent of respondents were confident that they can maintain the site (rating the statement 4 or 5), with only a small number of responses disagreeing. This shows a continued high level of confidence reported by respondents. As the project moves into future years, the maintenance of the site by groups will need to be monitored and evidenced.

Figure 5.10: How confident are you that you will be able to maintain your nature space in future?



Source: KWT Participants Survey, 2022. N=103

5.57 Respondents were then asked to explain how they intend to maintain the site and whether they anticipate any challenges. The most common explanation was that they were anticipating their group of volunteers to retain responsibility for maintenance.

5.58 Although most comments were positive in their outlook, there were a number of concerns raised, which can provide some indication as to why groups may feel less confident in maintaining their site despite making the agreement to do so upon receiving the package. These concerns were largely around the continued availability of volunteers, for example, due to old age.

“Depending on volunteers who are all getting on a bit, to be honest.” (KWT survey respondent)

5.59 In contrast, others commented that their project would be underpinned in one way or another by either the LA or the TCC.

“Maintenance will be included in the city council's maintenance programme. We are leaving the surrounding grass uncut for wildflowers to grow. The annual cut & collect will be included in the council's maintenance.” (KWT survey respondent)

5.60 One comment related to the challenges of maintaining the land and the negative impact of this on the group. It is unclear to what extent additional support is available for groups to ensure that this situation can be resolved. They explained:

“We encountered a situation where we were overrun with a persistent weed, horsetail. It caused disagreements in our group about whether to treat it chemically or not. In the end, it was not treated and everyone is disheartened and we're struggling to make a new plan to manage the space. Our work seems to have come to very little as the weed is rampant.” (KWT survey respondent)

Future nature projects

5.61 Respondents were asked whether their group/organisation/community planned any future works, following this LPfN project. Sixty-two per cent of respondents (64 out of 104) said they were planning future works, while only 8 per cent (8 out of 104) said they were not planning anything for the future. Thirty per cent of respondents (32 out of 104) said they didn't know. This is an understandably large number as it is asking a question of future intention which they may not have previously considered. It also represents a substantial number of respondents who have not yet decided about any future actions but may be open to discussion about the next steps for their group/organisation/community. It is also possible that many groups

had only just completed their garden at the time of the survey in Spring 2022 and were not yet considering 'next steps' so soon after starting.

- 5.62 However, despite benefiting directly from the LPfN project, groups do not automatically consider LPfN as part of their continuation work. Of the 64 respondents who said they were planning to do further work with their groups, only six of the 64 said this would be through LPfN. Thirty-nine of the 64 respondents who said they planned future work, said this would not be taking place through LPfN, while 19 respondents were not sure. This may be because respondents aren't aware of other funding available to them through LPfN, either the options to move on to the KWT development package or to apply through the NLHF. Since many respondents heard about LPfN and their current project funding through KWT, it is possible that respondents are not aware of the other strands of LPfN funding available, but this has not been tested in this survey.

Summary

- 5.63 This chapter has focused on the progress of the KWT scheme Starter and Development packages for community groups across Wales. In 2021–22, this scheme distributed 279 packages in total, focusing on reaching disadvantaged community groups. Monitoring the data from KWT shows that almost 90 per cent of successful applications were in urban or peri-urban locations, with many of those applications proposing to include disadvantaged groups, in line with the criteria for LPfN. Surveys with scheme participants showed strong support for the goals of LPfN, with respondents believing they had contributed to 'nature on your doorstep', reported improvements in physical and mental wellbeing, and that survey participants were more willing to support local and national spending on nature projects after their participation in LPfN projects. Many of the community group leads said they would be planning further nature work following their project.
- 5.64 However, only a small number of these respondents said they would do so through LPfN, suggesting an opportunity for the programme to better engage with groups about further opportunities for funding through KWT packages and other LPfN-funded schemes. Limitations to these findings include the self-selection of respondents and that community group leads were asked to provide answers on the

impact of their projects on behalf of their group members. Future research on this strand may wish to consider how best to engage with group members other than the project lead, and how to engage with members of under-represented groups. This could include focus groups and site visits to meet with members, something that was not considered possible at the outset of this evaluation due to COVID-19 restrictions. This would allow for qualitatively richer data about engagement with the schemes. Working with groups and KWT, it would be useful to consider innovative approaches to access the wider public who live and work near these projects to better understand whether, and how, LPfN affects their understanding of nature.

6. Findings - National Lottery Heritage Fund Strand

Introduction

- 6.1 As previously explained, the NLHF scheme in LPfN includes the management of a grant approval process for projects with a value of between £10,000 and £250,000. Applications are put before a panel where a decision is taken whether or not to award a grant, dependent upon the application meeting the criteria for LPfN. Eighty-five percent of funding for this LPfN scheme is provided through the Welsh Government, with the remaining 15 per cent from NLHF.
- 6.2 There is a scheme manager, based within NLHF, and, in 2021–22, a dedicated officer embedded within OVW, Wales' body for TCCs. This member of staff engages with Wales' 731 TCCs about LPfN schemes, noting the opportunities available to them through the NLHF scheme in particular.

Progress of projects

- 6.3 During 2020–21, there were 28 successful NLHF applications and 13 successful applications in 2021–22. A list of these can be found in Appendix 2. During the second year of the grant's operation there were fewer applications than in the opening year.
- 6.4 Available information shows that most projects that were agreed during the first year of the NLHF grant application process have been completed by the end of the second year, or were due for completion shortly afterwards. Understandably, more recently approved projects, successful at panel during the 2021–22 year, had not yet been completed at the time of the fieldwork taking place.

Management Interviews

- 6.5 In management interviews, it was noted that the majority of grants brought to the NLHF panel were approved. They highlighted positive engagement with potential applicants as a means of ensuring the quality of the final application. On the other hand, it was also noted that some applicants had not engaged with the process prior to submission, and it was felt that making pre-application engagement mandatory would improve application quality and waste less time for both the NLHF team and

the applicant. A Management team interviewee explained the benefits of this approach:

“Having the resource to do engagement with applicants means that applications are of a quality to be fundable. Very little isn’t, of those who engage with us. If applicants had to engage with us, they would all be fundable but currently that’s not mandatory... Sometimes there’s not all the paperwork completed – people fail to draw links between their activity and the grant criteria.” (Management interview)

6.6 In management interviews, they also repeated concerns that were highlighted in the year one evaluation that the lack of full cost-recovery was off-putting for third sector organisations because there is no revenue support for projects. This means that organisations have to pay for their staff time working on projects or rely on volunteers, and it is felt that this acts a barrier to them making applications for projects. It was explained that:

“The weakness is the lack of revenue funding from the Welsh Government. This means that larger third sector organisations don’t participate because there’s no full cost recovery for them.” (Management interview)

6.7 Some projects have been delayed due to COVID-19 and other issues, but around half of projects agreed from 2020–21 (15 out of 28) had reached completion point by February 2022. Where appropriate, these are included in the report as case studies.

6.8 There had been fewer applications in the first part of the 2021–22 year compared to the previous year; however, several larger schemes, including two sponsored by KWT, were agreed in the final quarter of the 2021–22 financial year.

6.9 NLHF was also responsible for managing the application for the Breaking Barriers Fund. This application process was conducted in late Autumn and Winter 2021 and, as it is only newly introduced, is not being considered more broadly within this evaluation. Nevertheless, there were comments made on the process:

“There’s a progress report coming in June [2022]. Hopefully that will influence round two, showing what is starting to be learned. There was £290k across five grants. There were 12 applications, and 6 of them were fundable. It was a bit of

work this year. There was a short timescale. People could make enquiries but they didn't have to. It would be better if they did. One application missed the point but we had to go through the whole process anyway. Would love to run it in a similar way but with a longer timescale. It was difficult to get people's heads around it. Would be nice to be less rushed in getting responses out. We normally say eight weeks [for an application process], but this time the time was less.”
(Management interview)

6.10 The suggestion is once again made here that applicants should be required to engage with grant support staff before making their submission since that would avoid fundamental misunderstandings and errors in the application process.

6.11 A similar challenge, particularly regarding submitting the correct paperwork, was made by KWT and is being resolved through a new web portal that requires applicants to confirm they have submitted paperwork before continuing with their submission. Perhaps a similar approach may work for NLHF by requiring a mandatory advice session for grant applicants.

6.12 Management interviewees set out how they work to promote TCC engagement with LPfN, and with the NLHF scheme in particular. It was explained that:

“We directly target TCCs that fit the criteria regarding urban deprivation. I analysed the data around deprivation in more depth and identifying which areas would qualify for funding. If this wasn't a part of LPfN then TCCs maybe wouldn't think about it.” (Management interview)

6.13 In making applications for funds from the NLHF, TCCs are considered to have an advantage in that they are already formally constituted and have greater project management experience as well as some access to their own funding through the precept. This finding was also noted within the year one evaluation. However, management interviews also pointed to ongoing issues regarding COVID-19 and the supply chain, as previously highlighted across LPfN:

“Some councils have been meeting virtually for the last two years. It's been difficult to get quotes from suppliers because they're jammed. These have slowed things down and delayed some progress. Also still experiencing lower

volunteer participation. Then there's the speed of decision making and the procurement and completion of works. Hopefully this'll all get quicker in the new [financial] year." (Management interview)

- 6.14 One of the disadvantages for TCCs is that they are largely found across rural and relatively affluent parts of Wales. Management interviews explained that the focus was primarily on supporting those TCCs which were eligible for NLHF grant funding due to their status as urban, peri-urban or an area of wider deprivation. Those TCCs which did not meet the criteria were supported with LPfN community food growing projects, which were available to all areas, irrespective of WIMD status.
- 6.15 Within the NLHF strand, scheme managers and support staff located in other organisations paint a similar picture of progress within the schemes but note that there have been continuing challenges relating to external factors of COVID-19 and supply chain issues. They are broadly satisfied with the progress of the programme, but have identified improvements within their scheme related to the application process and delivery of projects. A number of the identified points are included within our recommendations at the end of this evaluation.

Interviews with project coordinators

- 6.16 Originally, the intention had been to engage with as large a number of NLHF participants as possible through a survey of NLHF successful applicants in 2020–21 and 2021–22 as part of this evaluation. However, due to the low response rate amongst NLHF grant recipients (five responses), the survey responses could not be analysed. Nevertheless, indicative insights into NLHF project delivery and impact can be gained from interviews with project coordinators on their projects. As these interviews had intended to inform case studies, only projects which had completed were considered. Further advice on projects to approach was sought from a member of the management team in NLHF.
- 6.17 A caveat of this is that only projects in 2020–21 have been engaged with via an interview to inform case studies as only one project in 2021–22 had completed at the time of fieldwork. Eight projects were approached for interview, of which six responded.

6.18 Interviews with project coordinators (six) who had engaged with NLHF grants showed a series of common themes, relating to aims for the community and local environment, and aligned with LPfN goals of ‘nature on your doorstep’. The coordinators who were interviewed focused on how volunteers from the community could work together to develop sustainable local improvement of green spaces and increased biodiversity. Their projects were largely located within urban spaces in the centre of their town or village, sometimes focusing on groups within society who are less able to take advantage of nature, including older people or in receipt of learning support. While volunteer participation during the COVID-19 pandemic was raised as a challenge, it was anticipated that this would be less of a problem in future with the removal of social distancing regulations.

Wider community impact

6.19 The NLHF projects which we have considered in detail have usually been focused on the renewal of a piece of land to create new green space. Volunteers within the community have often been engaged in the development of this land, which is now open to wider public use and enjoyment. Reports from project coordinators note engagement from local schools, as well as visitors to the site. This generally suggests positive engagement with ‘nature on your doorstep’ through these site-specific regeneration projects, in alignment with the goals of LPfN.

6.20 Further engagement with a greater number of completed NLHF projects in the future could explore the extent to which the NLHF stream of LPfN has supported nature and the achievement of community-related benefits and engagement, something which many felt confident would take place once the project was delivered.

NLHF case studies

6.21 Brief case studies of NLHF projects can be found in the Appendices. Below we share some of the themes and features of NLHF projects that align with the overall aims of LPfN.

Community engagement

- 6.22 Projects reported various ways in which they have engaged with the community and specific groups. For instance, two case study projects reported organising engagement events to bring people to the areas and promote outdoor activities in Cae Crwn, a community allotment and butterfly project in Criccieth, and the Big Butterfly Count in Tywi Gateway – a project to improve a recognised Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 6.23 In terms of engaging with specific groups, Llwybrau Llesiant Arfon community garden project with the support of Gwynedd Council’s Learning Disability Service also reported supporting particular disadvantaged groups with their wellbeing and exploring their surroundings.
- 6.24 Projects have also set out how they have been engaging members of the community in nature and the potential community benefits they have been able to provide. The Cae Crwn community allotment project noted how children were able to gain knowledge and skills through the project. Volunteers of this project have also reported that many Criccieth residents have experienced mental health and wellbeing benefits, saying they see Cae Crwn as a place to relax and an important means to get in touch with nature. Meanwhile, the Llwybrau Lesiant Arfon community garden has been noted by project leads as an area to socialise.

Delivering nature impacts

- 6.25 Some projects also set out how they’ve observed changes in nature and biodiversity in their project. There has been anecdotal evidence of an increase in species, such as more bat activity, increase in the number of bees and in birds nesting in the Llandrindod Wells Pollinator and Sensory garden. Similarly, there is anecdotal evidence of hedgehogs and bees being seen on site in the Mold Clubhouse Committee, while the work in the Tywi Gateway has helped to improve an SSSI.

Improving the local area

- 6.26 Another theme that came from interviews with the case study projects was how they have improved local areas, aiming to deliver 'nature on the doorstep'. The TfW (Transport for Wales) Green Routes project engages people with nature in their everyday lives while travelling and on their commute to work through the introduction of green features to 22 stations. Thus, the community engagement meets LPfN aims, while the promotion of railway stations as a location for 'nature on your doorstep' aligns with the concept of engagement with people's daily lives as they travel the network. The project has created hubs for community events and activities as is the case in other projects like Cae Crwn and Tywi Gateway (although Green Routes requires more active engagement from the community). The extent to which this has been noticed by the community is unknown and this might be a useful site to do follow-up engagement with the community members in future work.
- 6.27 In Llandrindod Wells, a previously 'unloved' town centre space has now been repurposed into a rose garden. This space is likely to be passed by many people daily as part of potential commutes via the town centre or general trips into the town centre. Positive outcomes have also been reported in terms of community engagement and participation at this site.

Summary

- 6.28 Fewer projects were being delivered via the NLHF strand of LPfN in 2021–22, compared with 2020–21. Many projects have taken time to complete so the ability to start to assess the impacts of these spaces is only recently starting to develop. Through engagement with a number of NLHF projects, it appears that engagement with the community has been successful in the view of project leads. These leads have received positive feedback from volunteers on the ground about community involvement, and it will be important to try and engage with communities close to projects in the future to understand the nature of any impacts. This will be of particular interest in locations that are likely passed through by a large number of people regularly as part of daily life and commutes.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 This chapter sets out the conclusions and recommendations for future actions by the Welsh Government and the LPfN schemes.

Participation and outcomes to date

7.2 This evaluation of year two of LPfN shows that the programme has built upon the work which took place in its first year. The three strands of LPfN continue to act in a complementary manner, based around the capacity of organisations to carry out the different interventions. These range from small-scale groups that participate in the KWT scheme to constituted organisations that access NLHF grants and, finally, the LNPs located within LAs and NPAs.

7.3 It has, once again, been easier to identify beneficial impacts on groups and participants in the schemes through the process of organising and developing a project than to see the nature outcomes of those same projects. This is to be expected because of the length of time it takes to deliver nature outcomes, while some of the community objectives of LPfN can be met and achieved relatively quickly.

7.4 Year two has seen improved levels of engagement with groups which are furthest from nature. The KWT scheme has made a concerted effort to engage with disadvantaged or under-represented groups at the application stage, but needs to ensure that their participation can be evidenced later. Almost 90 per cent of packages went to locations in urban and peri-urban areas. Meanwhile, LNPs are increasingly engaging better with 'non-traditional' organisations that are not usually involved in nature recovery schemes. These findings suggest that LPfN is developing a role in engaging with those who would not normally be part of environmental and nature-based schemes.

7.5 There is, though, some tension between the aims of the project to create 'nature on your doorstep' in areas of deprivation and urban or peri-urban areas, and the disbursement mechanisms for the project, which are Wales-wide. There are clear benefits to this funding being utilised in all parts of the country, illustrating the fund's relevance across Wales. However, it is recognised that this creates challenges in

meeting the criteria in more rural parts of the country and that there will be decreasing opportunities in some areas, for example, 'greening the public estate', as the programme continues.

- 7.6 All three strands of LPfN are broadly confident that the community elements are being met through the work that is currently being undertaken, and are positive about the early outputs of engagement with the new nature locations currently being developed, although this remains anecdotal and will require more robust testing in future years to be confident that this is taking place.
- 7.7 Stakeholders with expertise in community engagement and/or nature suggested measuring increases in wellbeing amongst participants, improvements in the perception of an area as well as expansion of community group activity to support sites in project areas as suitable metrics. Those experts also noted that biodiversity impacts may be small where project sites do not link geographically to other sites. It is important to note that LPfN's main aim is to increase community engagement with nature sites. However, stakeholders suggested wider planning to connect sites could provide some benefits to biodiversity at the same time.
- 7.8 The survey of LPfN project participants shows strongly positive attitudes towards nature, although this vanguard group is not necessarily reflective of the wider public and their position. Research on LPfN to date has, though, focused upon participants and those engaging directly with the programme. As part of the rationale for LPfN is that the impact of 'nature on the doorstep' will be to increase positive attitudes towards nature, it is important that future research better understands the awareness of LPfN and whether it is changing attitudes to nature.
- 7.9 A starting point may be to look to engage with other members of community groups and volunteers who support the delivery of projects, as well as particular groups that project leads report they engage with. Further research could incorporate time to try and facilitate engagement with such individuals via project leads to acquire their views. Engaging with the community more widely may be more complicated and require more innovative methods. Future research may wish to try and target particular areas within proximity to sites or try and put researchers in the field to connect with people who are engaging with or passing through particular sites.

Although it can be difficult to attribute cause and effect on a population-wide basis to any specific scheme, the Welsh Government does need to understand whether population-wide attitudes to nature are changing, and consideration should be given to which mechanisms can be used for realising this.

- 7.10 **Recommendation 1:** Consideration should be given as to the best means of collecting data to show whether LPfN is changing attitudes towards nature across Wales. Further research should include those from communities who are already engaged with LPfN, particularly those from disadvantaged or under-represented groups, and those who live and work in nearby areas.
- 7.11 As larger projects reach completion, LPfN will need to illustrate the success through greater monitoring of outputs and outcomes rather than inputs. This will change focus from space creation to demonstrating the increased biodiversity value of the projects. It is recognised that this will take some time to conclusively demonstrate, but baseline surveys and community engagement are key to showing this growth over a period of time. Success should be considered in the context of challenges faced as part of the nature emergency. The nature experts consulted did however highlight that there are tensions which exist between the small-scale practices of LPfN, and the potential biodiversity value which it represents, and the amount of work required to tackle the nature emergency.
- 7.12 **Recommendation 2:** As the programme continues, LPfN will need to focus on outcomes, rather than inputs, and needs to develop greater mechanisms for monitoring and illustrating the outcomes to demonstrate that the potential biodiversity value of sites has been achieved. This includes onward monitoring of early demonstrator projects from LPfN's opening years to illustrate their success, or learn any relevant lessons, as nature beneficial outcomes may take time.

Management and delivery issues

Unanticipated costs

- 7.13 The KWT strand is performing well against its aims and rationale. Identified improvements are underway relating to ensuring that all supporting organisations are playing their role in the gardens under development, that sufficient training is provided and that there is greater procurement of more local produce. However, discussions with those managing the KWT scheme delivery show that substantial time and effort goes into supporting community groups in applying for and delivering the packages. This includes application support and monitoring, in addition to delivery of training. Participants said that supply chain issues, in which not all project elements are available on the day of the training, also leads to delays and additional costs. These are potentially substantial and unanticipated costs that are being absorbed by the KWT strand and affecting its delivery. This is an issue that needs to be monitored by the Welsh Government.

Funding and delivery timescales

- 7.14 There are common concerns about delivery across the three schemes. In particular, within the LNP strand about the timetable for project delivery, within the financial year, which could often be disrupted by supply chain issues or the need to agree consent or deal with multiple organisations. Projects in the KWT and NLHF strand are also impacted by supply chain delays. Some of this was thought to be associated with COVID-19 and the UK's exit from the European Union. The project's third year will demonstrate whether these issues are temporary.
- 7.15 The second year of LPfN has again been impacted by COVID-19, but to a lesser extent than the initial year. With the removal of COVID-19 restrictions, the impact of the pandemic is anticipated to lessen in future years. The end of restrictions will also allow for improved evaluation of LPfN in future.
- 7.16 The issue of single-year funding was raised by a range of interviewees including those managing the scheme and LNP coordinators. Primarily, those issues related to the ability to properly plan and project manage because of the need to meet single-year funding deadlines and complete by the end of the financial year in March. The lack of confirmed funding also appears to lead to recruitment and

retention issues amongst staff as it is not possible to offer longer term contracts to existing or potential employees. It is also argued that a multi-year commitment of funding would assist with longer-term projects and outcomes, as well as staff recruitment and retention through ensuring security of contract and demonstrating longer-term commitment to tackling the nature emergency.

- 7.17 **Recommendation 3:** Where possible the Welsh Government should seek to make multi-year funding available for LPfN in order to support the implementation of long-term thinking about the programme and nature in general.

Local Authority and Local Nature Partnership operation

- 7.18 A number of LNP coordinators raised issues about their relationship with the host authority, including objections to projects from elected councillors or difficulties in engaging with other departments to ensure smooth project management.
- 7.19 LAs should consider how to raise awareness of the purpose of LPfN amongst councillors and the best way of ensuring ‘buy-in’ from other departments within the authority. The aim of this would be to promote the work being undertaken, defuse any negative narratives and promote integration with other activities within the authority.
- 7.20 **Recommendation 4:** LNP coordinators should consider how to best develop and maintain relationships within their host authority, supported by best practice developed and shared across the network.
- 7.21 LNPs have a range of structures and members. It is not always clear that the wider partnership contributes towards the development of projects in this strand. The relationships between LNPs differ across Wales, with different memberships and routines in terms of meetings and consultations on proposed forthcoming projects. There are varying levels of engagement within LNPs, particularly with regard to different ways of delivering LPfN-funded projects. It is clear that some LNPs are better organised and have access to a wider support network of partners. WCVA monitoring data recognises there has been growth across the LNP network, but that this remains variable, and that there are a number of Partnerships which could benefit from improvements.

- 7.22 Additional support should be provided to those LNPs that have not yet met the appropriate criteria. Raising standards will mean higher quality engagement amongst partners, and hopefully support the improvement of projects being brought forward and delivered as a result.
- 7.23 **Recommendation 5:** Further support should be provided to those LNPs which WCVA monitoring data show not to be operating and delivering at the optimal level, using established best practice and identifying opportunities for improvements.

Project pipeline and progression

- 7.24 Responses to the KWT survey revealed that many participant community groups are looking to further develop their engagement with nature, but not necessarily through LPfN. This suggests there is an opportunity to engage with these groups to promote the other schemes and funding available through LPfN.
- 7.25 The NLHF strand seems to be successful in ensuring that proposals are brought to panel and agreed. However, there were smaller numbers of applicants in the second year than in LPfN's first year. There needs to be demonstration that there is sufficient call for this strand. In the short term, this can be achieved through a continued focus on the pipeline through TCCs and organisations that have already accessed KWT funding and plan additional work in future.
- 7.26 TCCs remain a trusted partner in the LPfN scheme because they have local knowledge and project management capacity to a greater scale than community groups. The recent elections, with a large number of new town and community councillors, are an opportunity for further engagement with councils at this level to create a pipeline of projects, particularly relevant to the NLHF strand.
- 7.27 **Recommendation 6:** A clear project pipeline for the NLHF strand is required to ensure that sufficient applications are developed. The Welsh Government should support LPfN by developing a communications plan to highlight how groups that have already accessed other strands of LPfN can further develop, particularly through the NLHF strand.

Appendix 1: LNP Plans for 2021-22

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Anglesey	Nature on your Doorstep	£42,170	Increasing native trees, hedgerows and orchards. Set-up of native tree nurseries woodland management, hedgerow planting, including bird boxes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Gardens and Native tree trails • Native tree orchard and hedgerow planting • Native tree nursery 	Pollinators Mowing Local tree planting
Anglesey	Bring back the Natives	£41,077	Habitat creation at Oriel Mon. Increased native flora throughout: Native bluebell planting, creation of meadow areas, native wildflowers, native fruit tree planting and creation of a wildlife pond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pond with seating area • Dipping platform Habitat improvements in woodland, pond and meadows • Meadow creation • Native fruit tree planting 	Pollinators Local tree planting
Anglesey	Clegir mawr	£230,736	Clegir mawr landfill habitat mosaic restoration. To restore and enhance 133 ha habitat of the capped landfill site at Clegir Mawr, Anglesey.	133 acres green public space on previous manmade surface. 10 acres changed mowing. 10 acres mosaic woodland habitat 5,000 trees and shrubs. 25 native fruit trees, 2 x barn owl boxes, 50 bat boxes and bird boxes.	Wildflower Pollinators Mowing Local tree planting
Blaenau Gwent	Trees on your Doorstep	£25,000	Native tree planting and edible hedge creation. 10 project sites throughout Blaenau Gwent.	Tree planting on 10 project sites including native trees as well as edible hedges. Areas of deprivation; Tredegar, Abertillery, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale.	local tree planting community food growing
Blaenau Gwent	Wildflowers	£52,500	Convert areas of amenity grasslands in public parks, additional verges and cemeteries into wildflower meadows.	mowing equipment Grassland managed for Wildflowers in 15 sites across BG	Pollinators Mowing Local tree planting

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Bridgend	Tree Planting	£106,250	Local tree planting on Council owned land around Bridgend county borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting in most deprived areas of county borough 	local tree planting
Caerphilly	The Long Meadow and Long Wood Project	£79,143.90	Biodiversity enhancement works on a range of publicly owned buildings. Restoring and managing wildflower strip meadows along cycle ways, at gateways to strategic sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change mowing practices • Linear Habitat Management • Woodland and/or hedgerow Management • Urban Green Spaces for Wildlife Working with the public, community groups, community councils 	Pollinators Mowing Local tree planting
Caerphilly	Greening Caerphilly's Public Estate	£42,356	Enhance strategic Green Infrastructure across Caerphilly County Borough by targeting a plethora of improvements within Country Parks, Cycleways and other land managed by the local authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heathland Verge Management • River Corridor Enhancement • Pond and Wetland Habitat Creation and Restoration • Community Hedgerow Creation and Restoration 	Pollinators Mowing Local tree planting
Cardiff	Cardiff Pollinator project	£115,590	Cardiff Pollinator project; grassland management, purchase of machinery, pollinator-friendly planting, volunteer survey equipment, wetland/pond creation and restoration.	Large Profi-hopper and tractor attachments Trailer for excavator Survey equipment, pond dipping facilities, interpretation boards Pollinator-friendly plants, seeds, and trees. Wetland/pond creation and restoration	Pollinators Mowing Local tree planting
Cardiff	Cardiff Green Walls project	£59,841	Green walls will be installed at 2 public buildings in areas of poor air quality and little or no green space.	Green walls on 2 public buildings with containers to reduce watering needs Green walls in urban areas	Pollinators

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Carmarthenshire	Places for Pollinators	£76,294	Grounds Maintenance to change mowing practices in a number of grassland sites to begin to enhance the sites for biodiversity, including pollinators.	Wiedenmann Super 600 Flail collector and a Grillo FD2200TS 4WD cut and collect mower Changing mowing practices in a number of grassland sites for biodiversity	Pollinators Mowing
Ceredigion	Improving Vegetation Management for Biodiversity	£80,000	Grounds maintenance team to change their management of areas of amenity grassland and to bring unmanaged scrubbed over areas into management.	Remote controlled multipurpose all-terrain tracked machine with accessories. Battery powered strimmer plus accessories Changes in mowing practice to benefit to wildflowers and pollinators including on steep land	Pollinators Mowing
Ceredigion	North Road Park	£215,205	Transform a manmade site of 'next to no biodiversity value' into a publicly accessible, DDA compliant, biodiverse green space. Changes to mowing and management regimes to benefit pollinators, small mammals and reptiles.	Conversion of manmade site into publicly accessible biodiverse green space Wildlife habitats – pond, dense shrubbery, flower meadow, deadwood.	pollinators pesticides mowing drinking water food growing.
Conwy	Conwy Urban Tree Planting Scheme	£97,500	Urban street tree planting. Bay of Colwyn, Kinmel Bay, Towyn and Llandudno which have a paucity of existing tree canopy cover and a proximity to areas of social housing (Llandudno, Kinmel Bay have c 50% of the national average urban tree canopy cover).	Tree planting in urban deprived areas in Conwy County	local tree planting
Conwy	Green Networks	£173,735	Work with a variety of partners including a town council, 2 housing associations, a church and various community groups to develop capital assets based on identified need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact Tractor, Tools and equipment • Bird boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog houses, raised beds. • Interpretation Restoration of aquatic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree and edible hedgerow planting • Habitats for local flora and fauna 	pollinators mowing local tree planting

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Conwy	Urban trees	£511,900.00	Install a “diversity of pollution-tolerant broadleaved and conifer species” in 10 urban locations including a park, rugby club grounds and shopping and residential streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting project in 10 urban locations • Contractor costs • Interpretation 	<p>pollinators mowing tree planting community food growing</p>
Denbighshire	Local Places for Nature	£87,500.00	<p>Create and manage an additional 10 wildflower meadows in the public realm of Denbighshire where people live and work in addition to those created with 2020-21 LPfN funding.</p> <p>We will also create facilities to process local provenance wildflower seed including drying, storage, and growing wildflower plug plants.</p>	<p>Facilities and equipment to collect and process local provenance wildflower seed Cut and collect mowers and associated trailers 10 wildflower meadows</p>	<p>pollinators mowing</p>
Flintshire	Colour our country	£112,437	<p>Modest measures introduced in coastal communities and creating a network of natural assets across our County. The project has 5 elements. Colour Our Coast, Roadshow, Fruit routes, More meadows and Equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment for natural assets (10 Colour our Coast Sites), • Introduce high impact wildflowers along our transport network (15 Roadshow sites) • Plant fruit trees and shrubs along our active travel routes (10 Fruit routes) • Create 5 meadows. 	<p>pollinators mowing local tree planting</p>
Flintshire	Townscape trees	£100,000	Re-introduce nature in urban centres where there is minimal or no access to nature through tree planting in selected towns and along transport corridors.	Tree planting across Flintshire Mold, Buckley, Connahs Quay, Holywell, Greenfield, Flint, Saltney and Shotton are areas of higher deprivation within Flintshire.	local tree planting

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Flintshire	Nature's Stepping Stones - Quay	£65,450	Create a habitat mosaic of orchards, wildflowers, grasslands with reduced mowing and nature-friendly growing spaces, allow nature 'to move and thrive' in densely populated Connah's Quay area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community growing space • Wildflower areas • Hedge plants and trees • Pond creation 	<p>pollinators mowing local tree planting community food growing</p>
Flintshire	Nature's Stepping Stones - Ponds, plants and pollinators	£121,123	Enhance and develop new nature habitats on the doorstep of some of the most deprived communities in Flintshire, focusing on the planting and regeneration of hedgerows and creating new and enhancing existing ponds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Digger Pond creation • Hedge works 	<p>pollinators local tree planting</p>
Gwynedd	Greening Post-Industrial Gwynedd	£100,000	"Greening post-industrial Gwynedd". The projects will include: Invasives removal and native planting, planning a nature garden, Tree Nursery, wildlife meadow creation Pwllheli Street Trees, nature of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasives removal and native planting • Bridging the generation gap allotment/nature garden • North Wales Wildlife Trust Tree Nursery • Wildlife meadows • Street Trees • Nature of the Community 	<p>pollinators pesticides mowing local tree planting community food growing</p>
Gwynedd	Ffridd Rasus and Llwyn Isaf	£400,000	Landfill Wildflower and High Forest Creation Project. To restore and enhance two capped landfill sites in Gwynedd plus surrounding improved grassland of 140 acres with creation of a biodiverse meadow and woodland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of Seed harvester, Flail and Harrow for meadow management • 60 acres of wildflower planting • 20 acres of meadow area on sloping land • 60 acres tree planting and woodland creation • Changed mowing practices across 80 acres • 140 acres of improved habitat on previous manmade surfaces 	<p>pollinators mowing local tree planting</p>

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Merthyr	Troedyrhiw Park Mind & Body Garden	£44,520	Create a new space on the site of the former tennis court in Troedyrhiw Park. Reclaiming the land to display a wide variety of plants of differing uses, growing in a nutrient poor substrate prepared from the existing material beneath the old tennis court surface.	Wellbeing garden that provides: forest food, medicinal plants, culinary plants, native plants	pollinators pesticides local tree planting community food growing
Merthyr	Wellbeing and Wildlife Webs, Part II	£27,651	Improved grassland management throughout Merthyr County Borough. Small, but publicly visible/ accessible areas of grassland throughout the County Borough currently intensively managed by the Parks Department of MTCBC. biodiversity. Wellbeing Wildflower Webs .	Cut and collect machines to produce species-rich grasslands that will improve. Small rotavator (Fleming UL42) . Small tractor. • Cut & collect machine (Rytec M1200CH (Hightop). Educational signage to explain the reasons to residents. Rugged phones for use on the ground – for use in survey work and recording of progress utilising GIS	mowing pollinators pesticides mowing
Merthyr	The Marsh Field	£154,119	Redesign a Priority Open Space at the rear of the Prince Charles Hospital, to provide natural green space and community growing areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing floral diversity; increase in pollinator-friendly aquatic and marginal species; creation of community food growing areas and local provenance orchard. Improved nature conservation management techniques Woodland restoration improved flight lines 	pollinators pesticides mowing local tree planting community food growing
Monmouthshire	Community Nature Spaces	£87,500	Community Nature Spaces Community food growing; local provenance tree nurseries / tiny forests; re-wilded areas; pollinator planting for re-provisioned play areas and retained neighbourhood play areas.	Community food growing (which could include fruit trees / mini allotments / veg beds). Local provenance tree nurseries / tiny forests. Re-wilded areas (mini-meadows) which could also be used for wild play e.g. flower rich mounds and slopes. Pollinator planting for re-provisioned play areas (up to 9) and retained neighbourhood play areas (4).	TBC

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Newport	Newport Pollinator Project Phase 2	£108,750	Purchase of two large pieces of machinery to the value to take a more flexible approach when carrying out grass cutting in a number of different locations and increase our capacity to manage a larger number of sites for the benefit of pollinators. First year of control of Invasive Non Native Species.	Amazonia Profihopper. Sit-on cut and collect mower. Numerous wildflower areas and meadows that will be created across Newport and maintained in the future years. As a minimum these will be: Barrack hill phase 2, Harlequin Drive, Pilton Vale, Gaer Fort, Tredegar park Roundabout, Junction 28 interchange, High Cross Open Space, St Woolos Cemetery phase 2	pollinators mowing
Neath Port Talbot	Bee Friendly Communities	£10,000	Work with local housing associations to support communities to create 'Bee Friendly Streets'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Bee friendly streets" and "Bee friendly communities" throughout NPT, potential WG Bee Friendly Status for certain communities. Improved pollinator connectivity 	pollinators community food growing
Neath Port Talbot	Stepping Stone Nature Reserves	£90,396	Three 'Stepping Stone Nature Reserves' in urban areas. Increased connectivity for wildlife	"Stepping stone nature reserves" in urban areas. Small pockets of publically accessible habitat which will act as 'stepping stones' between larger areas of habitat for wildlife, while also creating a local space for the community to access nature. These will be created on 'grey space'.	pollinators
Pembrokeshire	Pembroke and Haverfordwest GI	£83,000	The LA in partnership with Pembroke Town Council; the Castle Pond to create a local place for nature. Haverfordwest; three distinct locations will host works making a complimentary suite of natural assets.	Removal of wooden structures and INNS to create biodiverse area with public access Fleming Crescent Woods: gate to accommodate better mowing of Orchard to create meadow. Interpretation panels, Compost bin, wildlife boxes, poly tunnels	pollinators mowing community food growing

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Pembrokeshire	Haverfordwest Public Spaces	£22,000	Extend two existing assets with new planting. Enhancing the existing green wall and green infrastructure in Haverfordwest along the river. This was a flagship GI project in the most public area of the main shopping area of town. Extending the installation of wildflower planters on County Hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend green infrastructure along river in Haverfordwest • Enhancing existing green wall • Wildflower planters on county hall and skate park 	pollinators
Pembrokeshire	Connecting the commons	£125,014.49	This project aims to reconnect and restore fragments of meadow habitat in what it describes as an otherwise intensively-farmed peri-urban landscape through active conservation, principally grazing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment for land management • Livestock management equipment • Fencing Meadows managed and grazed for biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased habitat connectivity 	pesticides local tree planting pollinators mowing
Powys	Knighton Community Garden	£27,639	Develop a community wildlife and sensory garden in the previously neglected garden area surrounding Knighton & District Community Centre (K&DCC).	Community Wildlife and Sensory Garden Pollinator habitat Wildflower areas, Fruit trees and shrubs, Small pond Community food growing spaces	pollinators community food growing
Powys	Powys' Wild Road Verges	£57,100	Powys County Council's Highways team, working to improve biodiversity on verges by reducing cutting frequency.	Amazone Profihopper and scarifying blades Increased biodiversity on verges by reducing soil fertility allowing wildflowers to thrive	pollinators mowing
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Let Nature Grow	£81,000	YWMP Community Garden: Create a community growing area within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP). Meadows on my Doorstep: Purchase of cut and collect machine to expand the wildflower verge scheme even further.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community growing area within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP) • Cut and collect machine Community Growing area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of wildflower verge scheme 	pollinators mowing community food growing

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Green Roof Classrooms	£54,000	Deliver up to 8 green roof outdoor classrooms of timber construction on school sites with little or no access to nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 green roof outdoor classrooms of timber construction on school sites with little or no access to nature Green roofs 	pollinators
Swansea	Swansea Nature Network (deferred)	£136,234	A number of initiatives will create a Nature Network in and around urban Swansea to restore and enhance wildlife habitats, build ecosystem resilience and create multifunctional community greenspaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community growing areas • GI assets • Increased wildflowers and pollinator species populations • Improved flood defences and improved air quality 	<p>pollinators</p> <p>mowing practices</p> <p>local tree planting</p> <p>community food growing</p>
Swansea	Penllegare Trust	£121,082	Create a substantial area of new native broadleaved woodland at the heart of the Penllegare Estate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native tree planting • INNS removal in areas of impoverished habitat where remnant ancient woodland species are currently overrun by invasive non-native rhododendron beneath mature larch plantation 	<p>pesticides</p> <p>local tree planting</p>
Swansea	City Nature	£137,500	Provide practical examples of how to bring nature into the city through a number of biodiversity and green infrastructure interventions on publicly owned or publicly accessible land, both vertical and horizontal, at ground level and on roof tops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green roof • Mature trees • Raised beds • Planters • Pop-up park 	<p>pollinators</p> <p>pesticides</p> <p>local tree planting</p> <p>community food growing</p>
Torfaen	Trees on your doorstep	£25,000	Urban street trees, small woodlands and hedgerows, including fruit and nut trees. There will be 10 project sites across Torfaen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting at 10 project sites across Torfaen including edible hedges 	<p>local tree planting</p> <p>community food growing</p>

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Torfaen	Wildflowers	£60,000	Convert areas of amenity grasslands in public parks, additional verges and cemeteries into wildflower meadows. There will be 15 project sites across.	Cut and collect mowing equipment Signage, grassland managed for Wildflowers in 15 sites across BG	pollinators mowing
Vale of Glamorgan	Back to Nature	£74,415	Meadow creation at Cosmeston Lakes and Porthkerry Country Parks by introducing conservation grazing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay-making equipment • Seed Harvester 	pollinators mowing
Vale of Glamorgan	community growing project	£26,835	Development of community orchards and allotment/growing areas in schools, public areas and on sheltered housing land. It has 3 parts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Spaces Kits for different projects • Allotment plots and tools to support a new community growing space 	pollinators pesticides community food growing
Vale of Glamorgan	Pipeline - Meadow Makers	£50,000	The introduction of grazing and hay cutting. Community growing kits for use at Gwenog Court, a sheltered housing complex, and All Saints Primary School.	Stock Handling Unit at Cosmeston Mini Baler Soil Aeration. Hedgerow establishment at Porthkerry Increased biodiversity in areas with high deprivation	pollinators mowing practices local tree planting community food growing
Wrexham	Wrexham's Green Connections Project	£99,276	Improve the natural connectivity through the urban environment and also improve the connectivity that people who live and work in the town centre feel with nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A natural network of biodiverse areas throughout the town centre 	pollinators mowing local tree planting food growing opportunities
Brecon Beacons NPA	Local Nature Recovery Sites	£50,000	Creation of a network of Local Nature Recovery Sites whose aim is to work with the Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership to create and enhance sites for nature recovery against the specific objectives of the Brecon Beacons Nature Recovery Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC Wildflower areas/semi natural grassland/Trees • TBC Pond areas • TBC Hedgerow • TBC areas cleared of INNS 	pollinators pesticides mowing practices local tree planting

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Brecon Beacons NPA	Amman Valley Nature Recovery	£107,828	A series of measures and infrastructure which will be required to aid and monitor the nature recovery process	1 new orchard consisting of 40 fruit trees. 800+ bird/bat boxes installed across 8 farm sites. 5ha marshy grassland habitat restored for marsh fritillary butterfly. 1 new orchard consisting of 40 fruit trees. 300 rarer trees such as disease resistant elm. 1 hedgerow restored	pollinators local tree planting
Pembs Coast NPA	Pembrokeshire Coast Nature on your Doorstep	£27,500.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Non-Native Species work • Forces for Nature – mini grant scheme • Meadows Creation • Community growing and grassland restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INNS clearance in two communities • Conservation in numerous communities through small grants • Wildflower meadow 9.3ha • Community growing/grassland restoration site 	pollinators mowing local tree planting food growing opportunities
Pembs Coast NPA		£22,500	Project funding reallocated to Pembrokeshire LNP		
Snowdonia NPA	Swift boxes and planting	£17,522	Increasing populations of swifts, swallows and house martins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 100 swift boxes • 20 swift call sound systems Swift habitats • Increased planting for pollinators 	pollinators
Snowdonia NPA	Living Churchyards	£16,311.11	Improve biodiversity in 8 churchyards across the Snowdonia National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bat and bird boxes, reptile mats, bug hotels, butterfly houses, hedgehog houses and reptile and invertebrate mounds • Hay meadows 	pollinators mowing local tree planting

LNP	Project Name	Value	Summary of project (~50 words)	Natural capital assets to be created	Modest measures
Snowdonia NPA	Eryri Biodiversity/ Gateways Greening Capel Curig	£96,167	Creating 'biodiversity hubs' or local spaces for nature at SNPA owned sites. Increase Biodiversity Richness of the site by laying 'Grasscrete'	Planting + SUDS • Planting + bird/bat boxes • Tree hedge planting creation of small scale SUDS and accompanying wetland Installation of grasscrete to create habitat	pollinators local tree planting

Appendix 2: NLHF Agreed proposals 2020-21 & 2021-22

Successful applications for NLHF grants in 2020-21 and current project status

Panel Date	Grant Recipient	Grant Value
28/07/2020	Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council	£50,000
28/07/2020	Torfaen CBC	£47,500
03/09/2020	Bedlinog and Trelewis Comm Council	£50,000
03/09/2020	Vale of Clwyd MIND	£22,700
03/09/2020	Llanelli Town Council	£20,000
03/09/2020	Dolwen Field Committee	£17,600
03/09/2020	Monmouthshire County Council	£94,000
01/10/2020	Ray Ceredigion	£35,200
01/10/2020	Mold Clubhouse Committee	£29,400
01/10/2020	Rogerstone Community Council	£21,300
29/10/2020	Tywi Gateway	£22,900
29/10/2020	Abergavenny Town Council Nature Grow Env	£15,200
29/10/2020	Johnstown Crassula	£49,900
29/10/2020	Pwllheli Town Council	£15,000
29/10/2020	Bryn Bach Park	£11,000
29/10/2020	Cricieth Town Council	£20,800
26/11/2020	Mumbles Community Council	£39,900
26/11/2020	Transport for Wales	£100,000
26/11/2020	Amman Valley Trotting Club	£13,400
26/11/2020	Green Fingers Ty Hafan	£72,400
17/12/2020	Temple Gardens, Llandrindod Town Council	£16,400
17/12/2020	Margam Park Orchard	£35,800
17/12/2020	Bryn Conservation Grazing	£31,200
17/12/2020	Llanedi Comm Council Ty Croes Growing Together	£48,900
21/01/2021	Byw'n Iach	£33,300
18/02/2021	Cwmaman Comm Council Enhanced Grasslands	£76,700
18/02/2021	Cwmaman Community Council Conservation	£19,600
18/03/2021	Haverfordwest Town Council Cleddau Community Garden	£49,700

Source: NLHF Monitoring Data, May 2022.

Successful applications for NLHF grants in 2021-22 and current project status

Panel Date	Grant Recipient	Grant Value
21/04/2021	Pontardawe Arena	£18,000
21/05/2021	Russell House, Pobl	£68,400
18/06/2021	Holywell Town Council, Pen Y Maes	£22,000
15/07/2021	Gilfach Goch Community Association	£10,500
18/08/2021	Caru Amlwch	£22,948
16/09/2021	Deeside Community Trust	£231,370
21/10/2021	Cefn Community Council	£38,092
20/01/2022	Stephens and George Centenary Charitable Trust	£22,931
20/01/2022	Betws Community Council	£86,750
20/01/2022	Pontypridd Town Council Meadow St NM-21-00532	£91,611
18/02/2022	Keep Wales Tidy (South)	£250,000
18/02/2022	Pembs County Council	£170,000
17/03/2022	Keep Wales Tidy (North)	£250,000

Source: NLHF Monitoring Data, May 2022.

Appendix 3: Invitation to participate in LPfN Workshop



Dear

Invitation to participate in Local Places for Nature Workshop

Wavehill have been commissioned by Welsh Government to conduct an independent evaluation of the Local Places for Nature programme.

As part of the evaluation we are keen to facilitate a discussion to improve our understanding of how to determine scheme success. We are keen to have a panel of individuals with a range of expertise in nature, biodiversity or community engagement who are not directly a part of the LPfN programme. *** has identified you as being an appropriate person to invite to this panel.

We would be very grateful if you could attend our panel discussion next week to share your thoughts.

The discussion will be held in English.

Please find attached a brief overview of the LPfN programme to review in advance of the workshop. As previously stated, you do not need a particular level of knowledge of the LPfN itself to take part in this workshop.

Also attached is the panel workshop privacy notice which explains what Wavehill and the Welsh Government do with your data.

If you have any queries then please contact myself, Dr Ian Johnson, from Wavehill, or *** (Aimee Marks) at Welsh Government.

Thank you very much for your time and co-operation.

Best wishes
Dr Ian Johnson

Appendix 4: Scoping Interview questions



Evaluation of Local Places for Nature Discussion Guide – *Scoping Interviews*

This document

First of all, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed.

This is a guide for the discussion that we would like to undertake with you as part of the above evaluation. We would be grateful if you can find a few minutes to read it in advance of the discussion. It includes some background information about the evaluation and also a list of questions that we would like to discuss with you. This discussion guide is however exactly that - a *guide* to the issues that we would like to discuss during the meeting. We would, of course, be happy to discuss any other issues which you feel are relevant.

Some background

The evaluation is being undertaken by Wavehill and will examine the impact and benefits of the Local Places for Nature schemes being undertaken.

We are interested in the impacts that the Local Places for Nature programme had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, and also the impacts of the Local Places for Nature Programme upon local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.

We also want to understand what improvements can be made to the scheme so that it better delivers on its objectives from the perspective of projects applicants, scheme managers and stakeholders.

This interview forms part of the scoping phase for the evaluation and provides the opportunity to explore the rationale and progress of the schemes so far, as well as to discuss the priorities for the research and what key information may be available to aid the evaluation.

Any comments that you make will be confidential and the information you provide will only be used for the purposes of this evaluation. Comments that you make will not be attributed to you unless we have your explicit permission to do so. It is also important to note that the team undertaking the evaluation *do not* work for the Welsh Government or any of the organisations that are involved in the delivery or funding of this Programme. This is an *independent* evaluation.

Thank you in advance again for your time and contribution.

Questions for discussion

1. Could you please tell me a little bit about the scheme that you manage, and your role within that (including how long you've been in post)?
2. How would you describe Local Places for Nature to somebody who is unfamiliar with the programme? What is the purpose and the objectives of the programme?
3. Based on your experience of delivering the scheme, what do you consider to have been the strengths and weaknesses so far?
4. What has been your main learning so far from delivering the scheme?
5. How would you describe the results and impact of the first year of the programme? E.g. outputs and outcomes from 2020-21.
6. Have there been any unintended impacts from the scheme (either positive or negative)?
7. To what extent do you think Local Places for Nature has been able to meet its aims in respect of (a) nature and (b) community involvement/engagement so far?
8. Overall, are the current arrangements for managing the scheme working well?
9. What opportunities do you think exist for the scheme to improve in future?
10. How has the scheme engaged with diverse communities (e.g. communities with participation by those from protected groups; in particular those from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups and disabled people)? How can this be improved?
11. What external factors (such as Covid) have had a negative impact upon the scheme?
12. What would be useful for you for the evaluation to consider?
13. How have you monitored the scheme so far? Do you have data and information which you think could be useful for our evaluation, e.g. databases, feedback forms etc.? Are there any other projects from 2020/21 that you think will make useful case studies (that you don't have yet)? Are there any 2021/22 projects that have begun work that you think will make useful case studies?
14. Is there anything else that you think would be useful for us to know at this stage?

Thanks for your time!

Appendix 5: LNP Coordinator Interview questions



Local Places for Nature – LNP Coordinator Interview

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of Local Places for Nature 2021/22.

The Local Places for Nature Programme:

The programme seeks to create 'nature on your doorstep', restoring and enhancing nature where people live work and access public services. It intends to expand the programme at scale and pace in particular to deliver 'modest measures' that make an impact locally.

The programme aims to be 'bottom up' in its approach, allowing community practitioners to come forward with their ideas on how to reach those with little or no access to nature. A range of grants are awarded by LNP; Keep Wales Tidy; and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The programme will target interventions at;

- Areas of high deprivation
- Urban and peri-urban areas
- Communities with little or no access to nature

As part of this evaluation, Wavehill will be gathering information with individual or group interviews with scheme managers, programme officers and Local Nature Partnership leads. The aims of this evaluation are:

- To identify what impacts the Local Places for Nature programme has had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
- To identify the impacts of the Local Places for Nature Programme on local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.
- To identify to what extent the three schemes and the programme as a whole are delivering the objectives of LPfN and whether any improvements can be made.

The Welsh Government is the data controller for the research. The Welsh Government will receive a copy of the data collected by Wavehill. The information collected during the project will be included in a report published on the Welsh Government website.

Your Participation in this research is completely voluntary. However your views and experiences are important in order to help inform Welsh Government policies.

The contact for this research at Wavehill is Dr Ian Johnson

E-mail address: ian.johnson@wavehill.com

It is also important to note that the team undertaking the evaluation do not work for Welsh Government or any of the organisations that are involved in the delivery or funding of this project. This is an *independent* evaluation

Please note you can withdraw your consent at any time during the interview.

Introduction

1. Could you please tell me a little about yourself, including your role as a Local Nature Partnership (LNP) co-ordinator, the length of time in post etc.
2. Could you tell me a little about your LNP, e.g. which organisations are members, how often do you meet?

2020/21

3. Thinking about 2020/21, which Local Places for Nature projects did you and your LNP deliver?
4. What were the impacts of your project upon:
 - a. nature,
 - b. the local community, and
 - c. other organisations involved in your partnership (e.g. landscape management and delivery operations of public sector organisations)?
5. Thinking of the three categories above, are these impacts likely to be sustained?
 - a. If so, how?
 - b. If not, why not?
6. Have there been any unintended or unanticipated impacts that you've identified, both positive and negative, e.g. what is the community reaction to your projects?
7. On a scale of one to five, how successful do you think these projects were in creating 'nature on your doorstep'? Why do you say that?

2021/22

8. Thinking about the current year, 2021/22, which Local Places for Nature projects are you and your LNP delivering?
9. What is the rationale behind these projects?
 - a. What will they contribute to the modest measures?
 - b. How was the community involved in their design?
10. What stakeholders have you worked with this year?
 - a. How have you engaged with under-served groups in your community?
11. How have these projects progressed?
 - a. Have there been any barriers or challenges?

The Local Nature Partnership Scheme

12. How is the LPfN funding within your LNP distributed? i.e. what proportion of the funding does the local authority/national park [delete as applicable] retain to spend on LPfN projects and what is allocated to other organisations to spend on LPfN projects?
13. Overall, what would you say are the strengths and weaknesses of the Local Nature Partnership scheme within Local Places for Nature, e.g. what has been working well and what has provided a challenge?
14. Thinking about the last two years, how have partner organisations from the LNP engaged in the scheme? What benefits can be identified? What lessons can be learned?
15. Again, thinking about the last two years, how sustainable is the engagement of the community and LNP partner organisations with local nature?
 - a. What would help the community and partners maintain their activities?
 - b. What factors discourage their engagement?
 - c. Are there any issues relating to capacity or needs that you've identified?
16. Has the scheme had any other impact that you've identified (either positive or negative)?

Local Places for Nature

17. To what extent has Local Places for Nature made a contribution to
 - a. tackling the nature emergency
 - b. engaging communities in recognising and taking action to address this emergency?
18. What lessons can be learned from Local Places for Nature?
 - a. How well do the three scheme elements within LPfN work together?
 - b. What are the benefits and tensions? Is there a common purpose?
 - c. With regard to Covid-19, is there learning that should be considered in future practice?
19. Is there a need to extend, expand or continue the support offered through Local Places for Nature (and if so, what changes would you make)?

Close

20. Is there anything that hasn't been covered in the interview that you think is important for us to take into account at this stage of the evaluation?

Appendix 6: KWT Survey questions

Online Survey with Keep Wales Tidy package applicants (Local Places for Nature).

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of the Local Places for Nature programme.

The primary aim of the Local Places for Nature programme is to engage communities to participate in the process of creating places for nature. This research will help Welsh Government to learn lessons regarding how effectively the programme is working, including identifying areas for improvement. As part of this research, a survey will be conducted with those involved in the programme.

The Welsh Government is the data controller for the research. However, Wavehill will delete any personal data provided before it is shared with the Welsh Government.

The information collected during the project will be included in a report published on the Welsh Government website once the research is complete.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. However your views and experiences are important in order to help inform Welsh Government's evaluation of this programme.

A detailed Privacy Notice is available here. The contact for this research at Wavehill is Ian Johnson: ian.johnson@wavehill.com

Q1 Are you happy to continue with the survey? *Please note you can stop completing the questionnaire at any time if you decide you do not want to continue.*

- Yes
- No

Q2 **Thank you for your time. To exit this survey, you can close this tab in your browser.**

Q3 In which year did you successfully apply for funding? [use both years, if applicable]

1 April 2020 – 31 March 21

1 April 2021 – 31 March 22

Q4 How many volunteers are part of your project?

Q5 Since you started the project, has the number of volunteers

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Reduced
- Don't know

Q6 What would you say is the average age of your volunteers?

- 18 or under
- 19 to 30
- 31 to 44
- 45 to 60
- 61 to 75
- Over 75
- Prefer not to say

Q7 Where is your project located? [drop down list of local authorities]

- Blaenau Gwent
- Bridgend
- Caerphilly
- Carmarthenshire
- Ceredigion
- Cardiff
- Conwy
- Denbighshire
- Flintshire
- Gwynedd
- Isle of Anglesey
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Monmouthshire
- Neath Port Talbot
- Newport
- Pembrokeshire
- Powys
- Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Swansea
- Torfaen
- Vale of Glamorgan
- Wrexham

Q8 Before your project, how easy was it to access and enjoy nature where you live?

- 1 - Not possible at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Plenty of nature to access and enjoy

Q9 Which package did your group apply for?

- Starter
- Development

[If Development, ask did you previously get a Starter Package?]

Q10 How did your group find out about the Local Places for Nature programme?

- Word of Mouth
- Keep Wales Tidy
- One Voice Wales
- Social Media
- Welsh Government
- WVCA
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Other
- Don't know/can't remember

Display This Question:

If How did your group find out about the Local Places for Nature programme? = Other/Social media

Q11 How did you find out about the Local Places for Nature programme? If it was from social media, can you remember where you saw it promoted?

Q12 On a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being very challenging and 5 being not challenging at all), please respond to the following questions. If your project is still underway and you are unable to answer, then please choose the N/A option

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
How was the process of finding out about the programme/package?						
How was the process of applying for the package?						
How did your group find managing the project?						
How did your group find delivering/completing the project?						

Q 13. What do you think has worked well on your Local Places for Nature project (so far)? What aspects have been most beneficial, in helping you to deliver?

[Free text]

Q14 Which, if any, of the following issues impacted upon your ability to deliver/complete the project? [Include as many as are relevant]

- Group membership issues (i.e. people losing interest, volunteer absences, lack of individuals able to commit)
- Coronavirus related absence (i.e. illness, self-isolation or shielding for members of the group)
- Coronavirus related restrictions

- Supply Chain disruption/delivery issues
- Access to the site
- Land owner permission
- One year funding
- Other
- We have had no issues

Display This Question:

If Which, if any, of the following issues impacted upon your ability to deliver/complete the project? = Other

Q15 Please specify what other issues impacted upon your ability to deliver or complete the project.

Q16 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the project helped create 'nature on your doorstep' e.g new spaces to access, experience and enjoy nature locally?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q17 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how the project has impacted you personally?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/ N/A
Being part of the project has had a positive impact on my physical health						
Taking part has had a positive impact on my mental health and wellbeing						
I value nature more than before I became involved in the project						
I am more knowledgeable about nature than before I became involved in the project						
I am now more likely to support other nature projects locally						
I am now more likely to support national projects about nature						
I have met new people/friends						
I feel less isolated/lonely						
Being involved has helped me during the Covid pandemic						
I have learned new skills						

Q18 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how the project has impacted your community/group?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know N/A
The project has had a positive impact on the group						
The group involved will continue to work on nature projects after this project ends						
The group would like to apply for further funding/support to continue their work on local nature projects						
I feel that the community is stronger as a result of the project						
The community has greater access to nature locally, following this project						
The package has enabled us to involve more disadvantaged/under-represented people in our garden						
The new garden has led to other, wider community benefits (eg social, economic, wellbeing, cultural, health)						

Q19 On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'Not possible at all' and 5 is 'confident of maintaining the space'), how confident are you that you will be able to maintain your nature space in future?

- 1 - Not possible at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - confident of maintaining the space

Q20 What arrangements do you have in place for maintenance of the project you have started? Do you anticipate any challenges in achieving this? [free text]

Q21 Are your group / organisation / community planning further work following this Local Places for Nature project?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

If so, what are you planning on doing next? Is this planned through Local Places for Nature?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Please click the 'submit' button to record your responses.

Appendix 7: NLHF Survey questions

Online Survey with National Lottery Heritage Fund package applicants (Local Places for Nature).

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of the Local Places for Nature programme.

The primary aim of the Local Places for Nature programme is to engage communities to participate in the process of creating places for nature. This research will help Welsh Government to learn lessons regarding how effectively the programme is working, including identifying areas for improvement. As part of this research, a survey will be conducted with those involved in the programme.

The Welsh Government is the data controller for the research. However, Wavehill will delete any personal data provided before it is shared with the Welsh Government.

The information collected during the project will be included in a report published on the Welsh Government website once the research is complete.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. However your views and experiences are important in order to help inform Welsh Government's evaluation of this programme.

A detailed Privacy Notice is available here. The contact for this research at Wavehill is Ian Johnson: ian.johnson@wavehill.com

Q1 Are you happy to continue with the survey? *Please note you can stop completing the questionnaire at any time if you decide you do not want to continue.*

- Yes
- No

Q2 Thank you for your time. To exit this survey, you can close this tab in your browser.

Q3 In which year did you successfully apply for funding?

- 2020/21
- 2021/22

Q4 How many volunteers are part of your project?

Q5 Since you started the project, has the number of your volunteers

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Reduced
- Don't know/ Not relevant

Q6 What would you say is the average age of your volunteers?

- 18 or under
- 19 to 30
- 31 to 44
- 45 to 60
- 61 to 75
- Over 75
- Prefer not to say

Q7 Where is your project located? [drop down list of local authorities]

- Blaenau Gwent
- Bridgend
- Caerphilly
- Carmarthenshire
- Ceredigion
- Cardiff
- Conwy
- Denbighshire
- Flintshire
- Gwynedd
- Isle of Anglesey
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Monmouthshire
- Neath Port Talbot
- Newport
- Pembrokeshire
- Powys
- Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Swansea
- Torfaen
- Vale of Glamorgan
- Wrexham

Q8 Before your project, how easy was it to access and enjoy nature where you live?

- 1 - Not possible at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Plenty of nature to access and enjoy

Q9 How did your group find out about the Local Places for Nature programme?

- Word of Mouth
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- One Voice Wales
- Social Media
- Other
- Don't know/can't remember

Display This Question:

If How did your group find out about the Local Places for Nature programme? = Other/Social media

Q10 How did you find out about the Local Places for Nature programme? If it was from social media, can you remember where you saw it promoted?

Q11. At what stage is your project?

Completed

Underway

Not yet started on site

Q12 On a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being very challenging and 5 being not challenging at all), please respond to the following questions. If your project is still underway and you are unable to answer, then please choose the N/A option

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
How was the process of finding out about the programme/package?						
How was the process of applying for the funding?						
How did your group find managing the project?						
How did your group find delivering/completing the project?						

Q13. Thinking about the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant awarding process, what did you need to do to get your first payment?

[Free text]

Q 14 What do you think has worked well on your Local Places for Nature programme (so far)? What has helped you to deliver?

[Free text]

Q15 Which, if any, of the following issues impacted upon your ability to deliver/complete the project? [Include as many as are relevant]

- Group membership issues (i.e. people losing interest, volunteer absences, lack of individuals able to commit)
- Coronavirus related absence (i.e. illness, self-isolation or shielding for members of the group)
- Coronavirus related restrictions
- Supply Chain disruption
- Access to the site,
- Land owner permission.
- One year funding
- Issues with National Heritage Lottery Fund
- Other
- We have had no issues

Display This Question:

If Which, if any, of the following issues impacted upon your ability to deliver/complete the project? = , Issues with National Heritage Lottery Fund, Other

Q16 Please specify what other issues impacted upon your ability to deliver or complete the project.

Q17 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the project is helping create 'nature on your doorstep' e.g new spaces to access, experience and enjoy nature locally?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q18 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how the project has impacted you personally?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/ N/A
Being part of the project has had a positive impact on my physical health						
Taking part has had a positive impact on my mental health and wellbeing						
I value nature more than before I became involved in the project						
I am more knowledgeable about nature than before I became involved in the project						
I am now more likely to support other nature projects locally						
I am now more likely to support national projects about nature						
I have met new people/friends						
I feel less isolated/lonely						
Being involved has helped me during the Covid pandemic						
I have learned new skills						

Q19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how the project has impacted your community/group?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know N/A
The project has had a positive impact on the group						
The group involved will continue to work on nature projects after this project ends						
The group would like to apply for further funding/support to continue their work on local nature projects						
I feel that the community is stronger as a result of the project						
The community has greater access to nature locally, following this project						

Q20 On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'Not possible at all' and 5 is 'confident of maintaining the space'), how confident are that you will be able to maintain your nature space in future?

- 1 - Not possible at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - confident of maintaining the space

Q21 What arrangements do you have in place for maintenance of the project you have started? Do you anticipate any challenges in achieving this? [free text]

Q22 Are your group / organisation / community planning further work following this Local Places for Nature project?

Yes

No

Don't Know

If so, what are you planning on doing next? Is this planned through Local Places for Nature?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Please click the 'submit' button to record your responses.

Appendix 8: Case Studies

Mold Clubhouse

The project is situated at a community hall that 19 years ago was adopted as a community asset from the council by a group of volunteers. As part of this asset transfer, a community garden was developed behind the garden.

The rationale behind the development has been to create a good quality green space that is publicly accessible and that also has the potential to continually expand over time while also providing growing spaces in an area that was identified as having very few available for the public.

What the project has done is that it has looked to develop the space between the garden and the hall to establish an area that is attractive for the local community and supports biodiversity. This development has involved the establishment of an orchard, the creation of a wildflower meadow and the setting up of specific growing areas.

By providing a diverse range of installations to increase biodiversity it is hoped that it can contribute in a variety of ways. The impacts of this are being seen already with the orchard and meadow taking shape and wildlife such as hedgehogs and bees being seen on site.

The idea of the project is that it is ongoing and that as time goes by more users and groups will come and use the space, and in turn take pride in it and responsibility for it. This creation of a safe space in a nice environment for people to use is seen as the project's key strength, and those running the project feel that at this stage the connections to the wider community and groups are successfully taking place.

Engagement with the community was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent social distancing restrictions. These restrictions mean that links to organisations and groups in particular, the community centre could not go ahead as planned, and therefore engagement with the public about the project was limited to contact with people who were visiting the area and came over to see what was going on. Furthermore, the pandemic impacted the availability of volunteers to assist in the project because many were older or particularly vulnerable and were advised not to leave their homes.

Word of mouth has been really important in spreading awareness of the project following the disruption caused to the planned awareness raising, and this is something that project staff feel is finally gathering momentum.

Without the support of LPfN and the LNP Coordinator it is unlikely that the project would have gone ahead. The support has provided funding for facilities and individuals with experience of developing projects such as this, which has helped the garden to be as successful as it has been.

The next steps for the garden include the possible addition of a garden coordinator, although this is reliant on further funding for the project being secure or new ways to generate income being developed. There are also plans to install polytunnels to provide the opportunity for the garden to grow year-round.

“It's inclusive of you. You don't have to come and garden a whole plot. If that's not your bag, you know that's, I mean, that's the other beauty in the way. Where we've created a garden which is open access to anyone.” (Kate Surry, Coordinator)

Transport for Wales Green Routes

The project, delivered by Transport for Wales (TfW), has two elements: 1) to introduce green features to 22 stations (including green walls and roofs; planters; hanging baskets; water butts; bee and bug hotels; bird and hedgehog houses; bat boxes), and 2) to support local biodiversity projects in collaboration with five community partners within one mile of its railway stations. All the community projects are completed, but the station element is still underway, having been extended to July 2022. Green features and biodiversity enhancement have been installed at 14 of the 22 stations so far.

The five community projects each had a grant of £2,000–£3,000 to enhance underutilised green spaces (e.g. with planters, rainwater harvesting, community growing facilities, plants for a sensory garden). They have made a significant difference to groups, their volunteers and the green spaces. The projects have led to schools getting involved, the growing and utilising of garden produce and the recruitment of new volunteers (e.g. a new gardening group for a sensory garden,). TfW has supported the groups with biodiversity training and organising events, including volunteer recruitment, open days and activities for people using the new facilities.

This is the first time TfW has undertaken a grant-funded project of this kind and each of the 22 stations is being treated as a mini-project with its own needs and challenges. Green infrastructure in a rail environment is a new concept for the organisation, is not yet well understood and does not always sit easily within current management processes. Features such as wildlife boxes and planters have been introduced at 14 stations and are cared for by community volunteers under TfW's existing station adopter programme (adopters look after the station, reporting to TfW's Community Rail Team on a monthly basis). Their remit now includes the green features and they have been upskilled with biodiversity training to undertake long-term monitoring and evaluation. Some elements (e.g. hanging baskets, water butts and bee hotels), however, did not achieve clearance at the risk assessment stage – a long and protracted process that has slowed delivery. The team has not yet been able to instigate any fixed features (e.g. green roofs or walls) and it is accepted that this element may not be deliverable within the timeframe. Metro works at some of the stations, and the unsuitability of other stations on the core Valley Lines has necessitated

collaboration with another rail operator to identify suitable stations outside the TfW network. This has further delayed delivery.

The project is viewed as a pilot that is generating in-depth understanding of what will work and showcasing what can be done in a rail environment. The incorporation of a range of stations has highlighted that each site is unique. The project has pushed TfW's green agenda and is sparking significant changes to internal processes and ways of thinking (e.g. for all new projects, sustainability is now part of gateway stage checks: "It is a huge change to be able to intercede at design stage to say, *Why can't a green roof be put there?*"). Installation of the features received lots of positive interest from rail users, with the team able to explain about the grant funding and what they aim to achieve in the station areas. Station adopters have benefitted from training provided by TfW's ecologist and opportunities to attend specialist talks. This has increased their awareness of biodiversity and enabled them to begin monitoring it, which in turn will provide TfW with an evidence base from which to understand what is working, what is not and what can be replicated at other stations.

Barrack Hill, Newport

The project is focused on a community green space called Barrack Hill, which is within the top 10 per cent of Newport's most deprived areas. The space, surrounded by two large social housing estates, is bordered by a multi-use games court and BMX track. A steeply embanked stream is a problem area for fly-tipping. The site was uninviting and a known meeting point for drug dealers. The aim was to claim back the green space for nature and people by stimulating behaviour change and tackling key pressures on biodiversity.

Local residents were engaged through door knocking and flyer distribution and a multi-agency action group of key stakeholders was set up. This included a residents' group, the two housing associations, the council's Countryside, Active Travel and Waste Enforcement teams, NRW's Fly-tipping Team and neighbourhood policing. The focus was on clearing fly-tipping, removing invasive species and clearing bracken encroachment to create pollinator-friendly wildflower areas and an access path and steps to facilitate use of the site. Bird and bat boxes were installed and tree planting was undertaken.

Challenges included COVID, which slowed the process of engagement, and breaking down barriers with an initially wary community. The latter was aided by involving key members of the community from the start, with confidence building as residents came to realise that agencies would be involved for the long term. During lockdown, the residents' association and housing association created packs to give out to the local community, including seeds and ID guides provided as part of the project. This led to a volunteer conservation group being formed. Volunteer clear-up days and corporate volunteer sessions (e.g. with a local bank) also facilitated community buy-in. Although wider community participation is still a challenge, a litter picking group has been established and around 20 volunteers have turned up for litter picks. Community wildlife walks are also a regular occurrence and the conservation group is now monitoring and recording the biodiversity.

The conservation group has so far recorded in excess of 400 species and the consensus is that there has been an increase in biodiversity. The original issues are ongoing as it takes time to embed real change; but, the project has initiated that change and acted as a catalyst for other projects. Buglife has instigated a follow-on project, part of which is to monitor the site formally. A wellbeing walk held recently as part of the Buglife project resulted in the identification of a rare slug at the site. On areas with bracken clearance there are noticeably

more wild flowers coming through and one of the conservation group is regularly out recording bee species. Adjacent to the site is a former barracks that houses colonies of house martins and swifts and it is hoped to link in with the barracks to conduct a bird box survey.

The LA is still involved at this point and the multi-agency action group will provide ongoing sustainability. Fly-tipping has decreased, community volunteer days are taking place and the site is beginning to be seen as a space for the community, with people going for walks there and volunteers on site most weekends. Because people are using the site in a different way, by default it is no longer being used as a regular drugs drop-off point. In facilitating a wider understanding of local issues, the project highlighted that one of these is a lack of lighting at the site. This has resulted in it being earmarked as an area needing active travel investment, and the relevant team is now looking at resurfacing and lighting.

Bishop's Park, Abergwilli

The Tywi Gateway Trust has undertaken work at the Bishop's Park in Abergwilli to make both the palace and park more accessible for local people and visitors to explore and enjoy following years of neglect and deterioration. There were three priorities for the Tywi Gateway Trust when taking over this work, those being history, horticulture and wildlife. The trust has used the funding available through LPfN to develop two garden areas in the park: the entrance garden and a woodland garden.

The funding was used to improve Tywi Gateway Trust's management for the site, including its management of an ox-bow lake fish pond, the Bishop's Pond, which is a recognised SSSI, and the floodplain meadow that lies on the south side of the formal gardens. The funding was also used to develop a walled garden using native Welsh fauna to attract wildlife and the introduction of plants in the entrance garden that have been specifically chosen to attract pollinators.

These were ideas that the Tywi Gateway Trust had considered before but did not have the resources to do all in one go; it was envisioned that these were things that could possibly be done in the future. However, through the LPfN funding, the trust was able to undertake these projects at a much earlier stage.

Volunteering has also been considered as part of all the developments of the area; it was envisioned at its inception that it would be beneficial to bring in young people to plant and attend to the garden as an opportunity for them to learn about the process. Yet, these plans were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but, eventually, in March 2022, young people were able to come and be involved.

Further community engagement has been an ongoing priority for the project and the Tywi Gateway Trust has run a series of activities and community engagement events to bring people into the garden including a Big Butterfly Count that was particularly successful. In addition, social media has been used to update people on the work's progress and has amassed over 1,000 followers.

During the project, the number of people visiting the park is increasingly significant, with people often spending longer in the park than previously, with the seating areas in the garden being frequently utilised by park visitors.

The next steps for the project are to continue to reach and attract more people while continuing to develop the park. Priorities for this include the introduction of more fruit trees, restoring the glasshouses and improving access to the garden.

“We were supported in trying to help us to get the most out of the resources that we had, and the Grant they had given us. We’ve been working with lots of different grants and grant bodies, and it makes a difference when you’ve got supportive people who are running it.”
(Tywi Gateway Trust Management)

Nurture Our Nature Pollinator & Sensory Garden, Llandrindod Wells

Delivered by Llandrindod Wells Town Council, the project's aim was to transform a run-down rose garden in the town centre into a pollinator and sensory garden. The ambition was to create an accessible sensory garden to enhance the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the local community (flats in the vicinity house older people with decreased mobility; Mind is located opposite the site; the town has a very active Dementia Matters group and a number of nursing homes), which would support nature using native plants and wildlife habitats. Some of the existing roses were retained, while others were replanted elsewhere.

The garden is semi-enclosed by planting and a wall, with an iron entrance arch supporting trailing plants such as honeysuckle, which lends to the fact you are entering a defined space and encourages people into the garden. Within the garden, accessible pathways surround a central seating area and raised bed. Smell and touch were important factors, and edibles such as herbs and wild garlic were incorporated – the idea being for people to help themselves. Within the wider space, bird, bat and bug boxes and wood piles have been placed to support wildlife.

Design, planting and maintenance were undertaken by town council members (one of whom led on the wildlife aspect while another supervised and built the raised bed and seating) and volunteers from the local community. Local businesses were used to make the benches and arch and to lay the path. Work on the site generated much interest from passers-by, some of whom then volunteered. Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, The Bracken Trust and the local Incredible Edible group was also involved. The only challenge was in terms of budget (composite gravel for the path was needed to aid accessibility, and, because of the amount of information included, an extra display board was needed rather than a single, bilingual board). The funders were flexible and accommodated the extra spend.

It is reportedly the most successful project the town council has implemented in terms of community feedback and positivity. There is also significant interest from visitors: 'We get people saying "*We haven't got anything like this where we live*". Through the good weather, each bench was reportedly full. A questionnaire, shared via the local newspaper, town council website and Facebook page, and on the display boards, has so far generated

80 or 90 responses, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. There is reportedly evidence of more bat activity, an increase in bee numbers and in birds nesting in the area.

The town council will now budget for maintenance of the garden. Volunteers will play an active part, and there is already a noticeable sense of community ownership, which the town council hopes to build on (people have been in there pottering about and taking cuttings from plants, and schools and a local palaeontologist have been in there with groups of children with magnifying glasses and taking bark and leaf rubbings). Primary schools are looking at doing spring and summer projects in the garden, and the plan is for them to have a section of the central bed. The project is part of a wider drive to promote sustainability in the town, and its success has inspired the town council to work in partnership with community groups on land elsewhere.

Green Walls, Cardiff

The Green Walls project was derived from a project plan drawn up previously by the LA's Green Infrastructure Team, who had identified a number of primary schools with poor air quality and poor biodiversity. LPfN provided an opportunity to take the idea forward. The next step was to identify suitable council-owned buildings around the city, with both poor air quality and suitable outdoor spaces to site the green walls. A community centre in Ely and a primary school in Canton were selected due to site suitability and because they were interested in the project and keen to maintain the green walls into the future. Both sites are on busy roads and had lots of hard surface with very little green space. The green walls consist of rectangular containers with a mesh screen through which to train ivy and other pollinator-friendly climbers like honeysuckle and clematis. The school and community group were consulted on how much of the frontage they wanted covered and decided on the final locations of the screens.

Once erected, the green walls require minimal maintenance. The local Wildlife Trust ran sessions to increase awareness on green infrastructure and biodiversity and has continued to work with the groups through other Wildlife Trust projects. Pupils and teachers have incorporated the green walls into classroom activities (looking for insects, adding to the planters, etc.), and the community group members have painted the planters, planted spring bulbs and installed bug boxes. It is hoped that these activities will spark a wider interest in nature. In terms of biodiversity, targeting areas with very little green space has arguably had more of an impact than if they had been installed at sites with plenty of existing green space around them. The new walls provide for pollinators and act as housing for insects, which in turn has resulted in an increase in visiting birds. In addition, air quality at the sites was monitored for 12 months, and results showed a marked improvement: a 30 per cent reduction in nitrogen oxide at the community centre and a 20 per cent reduction at the primary school. Both sites also reported unforeseen positive benefits in the form of increased privacy and reduced noise pollution.

The installation of the green walls has reportedly generated much interest from passers-by, and interpretation panels will continue to disseminate information to the wider public. When the work was publicised, other schools got in touch to say they would be interested in installing green walls. Although they might not necessarily fit the criteria for a Green Walls

project, they may be suited to other, smaller-scale pollinator-focused projects. The team plans to install three more green walls in 2021–22. Beyond that, there are plans to deliver a greater variety of green infrastructure and examine the possibility of doing something with buildings that don't fit this style of green wall.

Cae Crwn, Criccieth

Criccieth Town Council, in partnership with the community and partners, has developed a community allotment and butterfly garden. This is on wild scrubland adjacent to the Nature Garden (conservation site) in the town centre, where people can easily see it while conducting their daily lives.

Improved access to the amenity was of prime concern, as were a number of objectives, including environmental enhancement by building access structures and planting and clearing overgrown areas, education and skill acquisition. Outcomes included improved wellbeing and mental health and opportunities for intergenerational activities.

The main thrust of the project was to enhance the natural environment and to encourage wildlife to re-establish at Cae Crwn, for example, the newly created Butterfly Garden. The allotments used by local people are an integral part of the amenity that have benefitted from the project.

Improved access to all, including people with disabilities, was another aim of the project, as is the provision of information through bilingual boards and provision of opportunities for people to have enhanced skills, knowledge and wellbeing.

Criccieth Town Council developed the project in partnership with the local primary school, youth services, community volunteers, Gwynedd Council (Nature Partnership) and many voluntary groups.

The project's main benefits from the work undertaken are educational and environmental.

Educational:

The project identified educating people in the community and providing skills and knowledge as an aim.

Local schools (Ysgol Trefferthyr, the town's primary school, and Ysgol Eifionydd, the local secondary school) have been involved in the project by assisting with the construction of the site, getting involved with the planting and learning about wildlife and growing food.

There has been an opportunity to discuss the environmental and wildlife aspects of the project with the young people, such as restoring habitats and increasing biodiversity, food production and recycling. With other people working on the site, there have been opportunities for intergenerational experiences and the creation of pride in their own community through establishing an asset that has a long-term impact on people's lives.

Environmental:

A positive environmental impact is demonstrated by the increased habitats for insects through the bug hotels and the newly planted butterfly garden, which attracts many species to Cae Crwn. The planting of native flowers and shrubs will also make the amenity more attractive to a range of wildlife, be that birds or small mammals.

The project has attracted approximately 50 volunteers and the amount of volunteer time has been significant. A further 100 primary school children have been involved, and another 25–30 from secondary schools and local colleges. The project has helped leverage additional funding for the capital works.

The project has promoted outdoor educational activities and created interest relating to the environment and nature, including an award from Cymen for the local primary school. Volunteers have reported that many people in Criccieth have said that they see Cae Crwn as an important means of relaxing and getting in touch with nature and supporting improvements in better mental health and wellbeing, while others report an increase in intergenerational activities, with school-age children and older members of the community participating in events together.

The project is also thought to provide an improved experience of Criccieth to visiting tourists as well as increasing capacity locally to develop and manage such projects.

Llwybrau Llesiant Community Garden, Arfon

Llwybrau Llesiant is a wellbeing service developed by Gwynedd Council's Learning Disability Service. The team work to promote the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of adults with learning disabilities using a range of methods including, but not limited to, group work, one to one interventions and online provision.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns had a profoundly negative impact on the wellbeing of many adults with learning disabilities in Gwynedd. Many individuals' social skills, which were accumulated over a number of years, deteriorated as they were asked to isolate and, in many cases, stop attending day opportunities. It became essential that the service explored new ways to bring people together to socialise safely within their communities. As restrictions eased, the service was able to resume with groups and activities in person: "We were very eager to get our individuals back outdoors and reintroduce them to the group setting as soon and as cautiously as possible".

Working closely with Byw'n Iach, the community garden supports the wellbeing needs of adults with learning disabilities in Arfon, and has been a great place to reintroduce individuals with anxieties about crowds and social mixing in the outdoors.

The introduction of the community garden has therefore operated as a way of introducing nature to the group and dealing practically with some of the restrictions that occurred as a result of the pandemic.

As part of the project, the Llwybrau Llesiant team were responsible for preparing, planting and maintaining two large, raised beds. Plus, the team were also on hand to plant and prepare the borders in the sensory garden. Most of the activities occurred during the gardening group's weekly sessions. However, the project also developed new opportunities for some of their individuals elsewhere; one example being the fact that the timber work for the picnic benches and raised beds was completed in one of the Learning Disability Service's training hubs, Melin Glanrafon.

In the early days of the garden, activities were limited due to the shielding requirements of many of the target audience due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regular activities include:

- Llwybrau Llesiant Gardening Club – Weekly Sessions
- Pebble Painting Sessions
- Friendship Bench Sessions
- Ad-hoc visits to enjoy the garden/sensory path

Looking to the future, Llwybrau Llesiant hopes to continue with the gardening club in the spring and will ensure that the Learning Disability Service has a presence in the garden during the winter months. This project has sparked an interest in gardening within many of its individuals, and, where possible, it is hoped to arrange relevant training and opportunities in this area for individuals to continue their new hobbies.

The project aligns with the LPfN aims of supporting disadvantaged or under-represented groups, in this case, adults with a learning disability, to engage with nature, in this case within an urban setting (Caernarfon) in a primarily rural LA area (Gwynedd).

Appendix 9: Privacy Notices



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Local Places for Nature Evaluation 2021/22 Workshop with nature, biodiversity and community engagement experts

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of Local Places for Nature 2021/22. As part of this evaluation, Wavehill will be gathering information through a workshop with individuals with expertise in nature and biodiversity and/or community engagement. The aims of this evaluation are:

- To identify what impacts the Local Places for Nature programme has had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
- To identify the impacts of the Local Places for Nature Programme on local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.
- To identify to what extent the three schemes and the programme as a whole are delivering the objectives of LPfN and whether any improvements can be made.

The Welsh Government is the data controller for the research. The Welsh Government will receive a copy of the data collected by Wavehill.

The information collected during the project will be included in a report published on the Welsh Government website.

Your Participation in this research is completely voluntary. However your views and experiences are important in order to help inform Welsh Government policies.

The contact for this research at Wavehill is Ian Johnson

E-mail address: ian.johnson@wavehill.com

PRIVACY NOTICE

What personal data do we hold and where do we get this information?

Personal data is defined under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) as 'any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified by reference to an identifier'.

You have been contacted for this research as the Welsh Government has identified you as having expertise in nature and biodiversity and/or community engagement. Your details have only been passed on to Wavehill where you have agreed to this and Wavehill will only use your personal data for the purposes of this research project.

Your participation is voluntary and if you do not wish to take part or be sent reminders then please reply to the invitation email and you will no longer be contacted for this research. Wavehill will only use email address and telephone number for the purposes of this evaluation.

As part of this research, we will not be collecting any additional personal information other than your image if you agree to the workshop being video recorded.

We may need to record the workshop for operational reasons. If this is the case, we will make this clear to you before the workshop begins, and you will have the opportunity to tell us if you are not happy for the discussion to be recorded. The workshop will only be recorded if all members of the group are happy for this to happen. If the workshop is recorded, personal data will be removed during the process of transcribing. Recordings will be deleted once this process is complete. If discussions are not recorded, personal data will not be included in written notes prepared during or following the interviews.

The workshop will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and the retention period for any comments made within the chat bar will be 7 days. Therefore, any responses provided through the chat bar function will be deleted 7 days following the workshop and will be included in any written notes in an anonymous format with personal details removed.

What is the lawful basis for using your data?

The lawful basis for processing information in this data collection exercise is our public task; that is, exercising our official authority to undertake the core role and functions of the Welsh Government.

Participation is completely voluntary. Research studies such as this are important for the Welsh Government to collect information and actionable evidence about its ability to deliver government priorities. The information collected in this research, for example, might be used to improve the running of the Local Places for Nature programme in future.

How secure is your personal data?

Personal information provided to Wavehill is always stored on a secure server. The data can only be accessed by a limited number of researchers working on this project. Wavehill will only use this data for research purposes. Wavehill has cyber essentials certification.

Wavehill has procedures to deal with any suspected data security breaches. If a suspected breach occurs, Wavehill will report this to the Welsh Government who will notify you and any applicable regulator where we are legally required to do so.

Wavehill will use the information gathered to produce a report that will be published on the Welsh Government website. This report will not include any information that could be used to identify individual participants.

How long do we keep your personal data?

Wavehill will hold personal data during the contract period, and any personal data not already removed during data collection will be deleted by Wavehill three months after the end of the contract. This includes your contact details.

Wavehill will provide Welsh Government with an anonymised version of the data which will not include information that could identify you.

Individual rights

Under UK GDPR, you have the following rights in relation to the personal information you provide as part of this [project], you have the right:

- To access a copy of your own data;
- For us to rectify inaccuracies in that data;
- To object to or restrict processing (in certain circumstances);
- For your data to be 'erased' (in certain circumstances); and
- To lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Phone: 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113. Website: www.ico.org.uk

Further Information

If you have any further questions about how the data provided as part of this study will be used by the Welsh Government or wish to exercise your rights using the UK General Data Protection Regulation, please contact:

Name: Aimee Marks

E-mail address: climateandenvironmentresearch@gov.wales

Telephone number: 03000 259321

The Welsh Government's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:

Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ, Email:

DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales.

Local Places for Nature Evaluation 2021/22 Interviews with scheme managers, programme officers and Local Nature Partnership leads

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of Local Places for Nature 2021/22. As part of this evaluation, Wavehill will be gathering information with individual or group interviews with scheme managers, programme officers and Local Nature Partnership leads. The aims of this evaluation are:

- To identify what impacts the Local Places for Nature programme has had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
- To identify the impacts of the Local Places for Nature Programme on local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.
- To identify to what extent the three schemes and the programme as a whole are delivering the objectives of LPfN and whether any improvements can be made.

The Welsh Government is the data controller for the research. The Welsh Government will receive a copy of the data collected by Wavehill.

The information collected during the project will be included in a report published on the Welsh Government website.

Your Participation in this research is completely voluntary. However your views and experiences are important in order to help inform Welsh Government policies.

The contact for this research at Wavehill is Ian Johnson

E-mail address: ian.johnson@wavehill.co.uk

PRIVACY NOTICE

What personal data do we hold and where do we get this information?

Personal data is defined under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) as 'any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified by reference to an identifier'.

You have been contacted due to your knowledge and/or involvement in the Local Places for Nature programme.

- Other than if you are a Local Nature Partnership lead, your name and contact details have been passed on to Wavehill by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government hold your contact details because of your involvement in the Local Places for Nature Programme.
- If you are a Local Nature Partnership lead then Welsh Government do not hold your details and so you will have received an email from the scheme manager asking whether you are happy to have your details passed on to Wavehill in order for them to contact you to arrange an interview. Your details have only been passed on to Wavehill where you have agreed.

Your participation is voluntary and if you do not wish to take part or be sent reminders then please reply to the invitation email and you will no longer be contacted for this research. Wavehill will only use email address and telephone number for the purposes of this evaluation.

As part of this research, we will not be collecting any additional personal information other than your image if you agree to an interview being video recorded.

We may need to record the individual or group interview for operational reasons. If this is the case, we will make this clear to you before the individual or group interview begins, and you will have the opportunity to tell us if you are not happy for the discussion being recorded. In the case of group interviews, they will only be recorded if all members of the group are happy for this to happen. If the individual or group interview is recorded, personal data will be removed during the process of transcribing. Recordings will be deleted once this process is completed. If discussions are not recorded, personal data will not be included in written notes prepared during or following the individual or group interview.

Individual or group interviews will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. The retention period for any comments made within the chat bar will be 7 days. Therefore, any responses provided through the chat bar function will be deleted 7 days following the interview and will be included in any written notes in an anonymous format with personal details removed.

If you raise a query or complaint and provide personal data requesting a response, the researcher will forward the request only to the relevant official and subsequently delete it from the research data.

What is the lawful basis for using your data?

The lawful basis for processing information in this data collection exercise is our public task; that is, exercising our official authority to undertake the core role and functions of the Welsh Government.

Participation is completely voluntary. Research studies such as this are important for the Welsh Government to collect information and actionable evidence about its ability to deliver government priorities. The information collected in this research, for example, might be used to improve the running of the Local Places for Nature programme in future.

How secure is your personal data?

Personal information provided to Wavehill is always stored on a secure server. The data can only be accessed by a limited number of researchers working on this project. Wavehill will only use this data for research purposes. Wavehill has cyber essentials certification.

Wavehill has procedures to deal with any suspected data security breaches. If a suspected breach occurs, Wavehill will report this to the Welsh Government who will notify you and any applicable regulator where we are legally required to do so.

Wavehill will use the information gathered to produce a report that will be published on the Welsh Government website. This report will not include any information that could be used to identify individual participants.

How long do we keep your personal data?

Wavehill will hold personal data during the contract period, and any personal data not already removed during data collection will be deleted by Wavehill three months after the end of the contract. This includes your contact details.

Wavehill will provide Welsh Government with an anonymised version of the data which will not include information that could identify you.

Individual rights

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- To access a copy of your own data
- For us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- To object to or restrict processing (in certain circumstances)
- For your data to be 'erased' (in certain circumstances); and

- To lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Phone: 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113. Website: www.ico.org.uk

Further Information

If you have any further questions about how the data provided as part of this study will be used by the Welsh Government or wish to exercise your rights using the UK General Data Protection Regulation, please contact:

Name: Aimee Marks

E-mail address: climateandenvironmentresearch@gov.wales

Telephone number: 03000 259321

The Welsh Government's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:

Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ, Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales.

Local Places for Nature Evaluation 2021/22 Surveys of funded projects

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of Local Places for Nature 2021/22. As part of this evaluation, Wavehill will be gathering information from projects that have received LPfN funding through a survey. The aims of this evaluation are:

- To identify what impacts the Local Places for Nature programme has had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
- To identify the impacts of the Local Places for Nature Programme on local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.
- To identify to what extent the three schemes and the programme as a whole are delivering the objectives of LPfN and whether any improvements can be made.

The Welsh Government is the data controller for the research. The Welsh Government will receive an anonymised copy of the data collected by Wavehill.

The information collected during the project will be included in a report published on the Welsh Government website.

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You have delivered or are delivering a project through one of the following LPfN schemes:

- Local Nature Partnerships (coordinated by the Welsh Centre for Voluntary Action)
- National Lottery Heritage fund (NLHF)
- Keep Wales Tidy (KWT)

Your Local Nature Partnership, the National Lottery Heritage Fund or Keep Wales Tidy, as delivery partners for the Local Places for Nature programme hold your contact details because of your involvement in the programme. Wavehill provided links to the survey to the Welsh Centre for Voluntary Action (who shared these with the Local Nature Partnerships), National Lottery Heritage Fund and Keep Wales Tidy who emailed you using the personal information they hold. Your participation is voluntary.

There is no requirement to provide any personal data in response to the survey. Completing the survey does not capture your email address or IP address and so the responses will be anonymous. If you choose to provide additional personal data in open text questions we will try not to identify you from, or link your identity to, the responses you provide.

What is the lawful basis for using your data?

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When conducting surveys, Wavehill use a survey software programme called Qualtrics and we have ensured that Qualtrics is UK GDPR compliant (all data remains within the EEA).

Wavehill has procedures to deal with any suspected data security breaches. If a suspected breach occurs, Wavehill will report this to the Welsh Government who will notify you and any applicable regulator where we are legally required to do so.

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E-mail address: climateandenvironmentresearch@gov.wales

Telephone number: 0300 025 9321

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DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales.

Local Places for Nature Evaluation 2021/22

case studies of funded projects

The Welsh Government has commissioned Wavehill to undertake an evaluation of Local Places for Nature 2021/22. As part of this evaluation, Wavehill will be gathering information from LPfN projects through interviews to inform case studies. The aims of this evaluation are:

- To identify what impacts the Local Places for Nature programme has had so far on creating 'nature on your doorstep' and in creating, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
- To identify the impacts of the Local Places for Nature Programme on local communities and the individuals involved in the projects.
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- National Lottery Heritage fund (NLHF)
- Keep Wales Tidy (KWT)

Your Local Nature Partnership, the National Lottery Heritage Fund or Keep Wales Tidy, as delivery partners for the Local Places for Nature programme hold your contact details because of your involvement in the programme. Wavehill have identified a project that you have worked on as one that would benefit from exploring further to inform a case study. The delivery partner that your project has received LPfN funding through has approached you to ask your permission for your contact details (name and email address) to be shared with Wavehill so they can contact you to arrange an interview. This interview will inform a case study about your project. Your contact details will only be shared with Wavehill where you give permission to do so.

Wavehill will only use your contact information for the purposes of this research.

Your participation is voluntary and if you do not wish to take part or be sent reminders then please reply to the invitation email and your details will be removed.

As part of this research, we will not be collecting any additional personal information other than your image if you agree to an interview being video recorded. We may need to record the interview for operational reasons. If this is the case, we will make this clear to you before the interview begins, and you will have the opportunity to tell us if you are not happy for the discussion being recorded. If the interview is recorded, personal data will be removed during the process of transcribing. Recordings will be deleted once this process is completed. If discussions are not recorded, personal data will not be included in written notes prepared during or following the interview.

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Wavehill has procedures to deal with any suspected data security breaches. If a suspected breach occurs, Wavehill will report this to the Welsh Government who will notify you and any applicable regulator where we are legally required to do so.

All data gathered through this research will be reported in an anonymised format. Wavehill will use the information gathered to produce a report that will be published on the Welsh Government website. This report will not include any information that could be used to identify individual participants.

How long do we keep your personal data?

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