

## PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING

**Summary:** To review the progress of the Projects and Fundraising Working Group, and associated activity

**Recommendation:** That the Executive Committee notes the report

**Report by:** James Webb, Partnerships and Fundraising Lead

### BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTED ON THE GROUP

- Brendan Costelloe (Chair)
- John Swanton
- Phil Chapman
- Ben Dent
- Ellie Fujioka (joined Dec 22)

### RECORD OF MEETINGS

Working Group meetings this FY:

- 21 April 2023
- 14 July 2023 (to be held in the Community Shelter at Westonbirt Arboretum)

Relevant meetings this FY:

- 7 Feb 2023 – Proposal writing (online training) - James Webb
- 2 March 2023 – Better Impact Reporting (online training) – James Webb
- 14 March 2023 – Access to Nature; six sessions in 2023 - James Webb

### OTHER ACTIVITY

#### 1. New to Nature

Nina Stubbington joined the team in April as our new Grants and Outreach Officer. The role is one of 70 created nationally as part of the 'New to Nature' scheme led by Groundwork UK. The scheme aims to increase the diversity of young people (18-25) entering the environmental sector.

Nina is based at Robinswood Hill and during her time with us she will co-lead Caring for the Cotswolds, organise and deliver outreach initiatives and gain valuable skills and experience by working with our conservation and education teams.

In her first four weeks, Nina has organised a review of Caring for the Cotswolds, worked on website updates, completed a site visit to a National Trust reserve and will soon pitch a social media competition idea to our charity partners, Cotswold Way Association.

#### 2. Everyone's Evenlode

The 'Everyone's Evenlode' project enables children, young people and local communities to access, explore and enjoy their local river. The project is delivered through the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) and funded by Thames Water, as part of their Smarter Water Catchments initiative.

#### Year-end statistics 2022/23:

- Education: the team have delivered river sessions to 934 children + 67 young people, giving a total of 1,001.
- Community: the team organised and/or took part in 22 events engaging a total of 1,411 children and adults with the work of the Evenlode Catchment Partnership.
- Activity between the two aspects of the project complimented each other well.

Income and expenditure

- Project income includes a 15% hosting fee that supports core costs.
- An additional unbudgeted figure of £10,800 was approved in March 2023 to support JW's salary for the 2022/23 FY and a further £5,000 in the 2023-24 FY.

**3. Rural Skills Outreach**

Using external funding from several sources, we offer outdoor learning sessions to children and young people. For younger audiences, we've adopted a forest school style approach. For the older children and young people, sessions incorporate rural skills like woodland management and dry-stone walling.

Year-end statistics 2022/23:

- Through various partners, we have delivered outdoor learning sessions to 218 children + 40 young people (16-25), giving a total of 258.
- We have also supported two large events that reached a total of 175 people (families).
- Highlights included: delivering a nature-based session to 20 Year 10 students at the Al Ashraf school, in Gloucester, enabling 16 young people attend the Emergent Generation Conference at FarmED and providing two Royal Agricultural University students a 30-day work placement.

Income and expenditure

- The work was supported by several grants from Wates Foundation, Summerfield Trust and Renishaw Charity Committee, which were all spent in the 2022/23 FY.
- The balance of funds from the Thames Water Community Fund will support ongoing work in 2023/24 in the eastern side of the Cotswolds.
- The balance of funds from the Kingfisher Trail is being used to support the New to Nature post.

**4. Caring for the Cotswolds**

Caring for the Cotswolds is a grant scheme for the Cotswolds. It is supported by businesses who wish to keep the Cotswolds a special place to live, work and visit.

In 2022-23 a record number of projects completed and claimed their grants, totalling £20,845 paid to 13 organisations across the Cotswolds. Income in the year came to £8,000 (15% of which supports core costs). The available balance for new grants in 2023-24 is £32,000.

Nina Stubbington, Grants and Outreach Officer, is currently conducting a review of the scheme, including surveying previous applicants and researching other grant schemes to see how we could improve. We will open in July for new applications.

**5. Funding bids**

<b>Date Applied</b>	<b>Funder</b>	<b>Project</b>
04/10/2022	ECP Steering Group	<b>Approved:</b> £47,915 towards an additional year of the Education Officer role (2024-25) Everyone's Evenlode
15/09/2022	National Lottery Community Fund	<b>Declined:</b> £8,000 bid to support our core costs for outreach delivery
05/09/2022	New to Nature (Heritage Fund & Groundwork UK)	<b>Approved:</b> £19,188 towards a New to Nature trainee join the CNL team for a year.
02/09/2022	National Highways	<b>Withdrawn:</b> £550,228 towards a dry-stone walling grant scheme, including employee costs.
24/08/2022	ECP Steering Group	<b>Approved:</b> £8,000 towards an extra day of the Community Outreach role (2024-25) Everyone's Evenlode

12/08/2022	Renishaw Charities Committee	<b>Approved:</b> £500 towards core costs for outreach delivery.
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#### 6. Partnerships

- May 2023 – year end data complete for the local authority value-add report.
- May 2023 (and ongoing) – next quarterly meeting with the Cotswold Way Association to pitch a joint social media competition idea.
- Throughout 2023-24 – support Caring for the Cotswolds members with social media and blog content.

#### DECISIONS REQUIRED

- None.

#### NEXT STEPS

- Present the value-add report to local authority Board Members.
- Finalise the forward plan for Nina Stubbington; a combination of on-the-job learning, experiences and training over the course of 2023-24.
- Work with the Chief Executive on funding bids.
- Plan and co-ordinate outreach activity using the Thames Water grant.

#### SUPPORTING PAPERS

- None

MAY 2023