

## 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

### INTRODUCTION

James Webb will provide a verbal update on the role and how it has transitioned since it was created in April 2020.

### 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:

- 10 June 2022
- 9 September 2022
- 25 November 2022
- 3 February 2023

Relevant meetings this FY:

- 17 May 2022 - Brendan Costelloe attended the NT's Boundary Court Walk
- 20 May 2022 - Gloucestershire Rural Community Council meeting
- 21 June 2022 – Everyone's Evenlode Board Presentation
- 13 July 2022 - Equal Access to Nature training attended by James Webb
- 12 September 2022 – Fundraising Training attended by James Webb
- 29 September 2022 – Jamie's Farm visit with Wellbeing & Inclusion WG
- 10 October 2022 – Sherbourne Estate Introduction & tour
- 17 October 2022 - Equal Access to Nature follow-up attended by James Webb
- 2 March 2023 – Better Impact Reporting (online training) – James Webb

### OTHER ACTIVITY

#### 1. New to Nature

We have been successful in our application to 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, specifically those from ethnic minority backgrounds and people with disabilities. A trainee will join us for a year from April 2023, with the grant paying 90% of salary and NI. The balance will be paid using the remaining Kingfisher funds. The trainee will be based at GWT Robinswood Hill, which will offer greater opportunities for those without transport from Gloucester and surrounding areas.

The role - Grants and Outreach Officer - will be advertised from w/c 16 January. The successful candidate will co-lead Caring for the Cotswolds, work on improving access for communities inside and outside the Cotswolds and gain valuable skills and experience by working with our conservation and education teams.

**Timescales**

16 January – 17 February 2023	Vacancies open for EOIs from young people
February/ March 2023	Interviews and appointments (James Webb & Becky Jones)
Early-April 2023	Young Person undertake pre-employment course
17th April 2023	Young Person starts in role
April 2023	Induction and onboarding
End March 2024	Placement complete

**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.

**Key milestones**

- Delivery of a full education and community outreach programme.
- The project milestones set with the ECP and funder have been achieved and evidenced.
- Community Outreach Officer role increased from two days to three days from October 2022, with additional funding secured in final year of delivery: April 2024 – March 2025.
- Jennifer Lanham joined the team as the Community Outreach Officer in October 2022, replacing Ruth Rudwick.
- Education Officer role increased for an extra year to March 2025, in line with the Community Outreach Officer role. Extra funding secured for the final year of delivery: April 2024 – March 2025.

**Income and expenditure**

- Income: £90,643 including £8,644 for hosting @15% of total employee costs.
- Expenditure: £38,905.32 to 30 September 2022.

**3. Outreach/ Outdoor learning**

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.

**Key milestones**

- 255 session places delivered to children and young people up to 31 December 2022.
- A mixture of one-off sessions and multi-sessions offered.
- Reached students in five schools across the Cotswolds.
- Highlights include: 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 this summer.

**Income and expenditure**

- Kingfisher Trail: £16,453 carry forward from 2021/22 – £3,249 allocated by March 23 on salary costs for James Webb
- Wates Foundation: £1,962.50 carry forward from 2021/22 – allocated by August 22 on salary costs for Ed Bonn and James Webb

- Renishaw Charity Committee: £500 received and allocated in October 22 on salary costs for James Webb
- Thames Water: £9,738 carry forward from 2021/22 – £3,320 allocated by December 22 on session costs
- Summerfield Trust: £1,650 carry forward from 2021/22 – allocated by June 22 on session costs

#### 4. **Caring for the Cotswolds**

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

##### Grants paid in year

Organisation	Project name	Grant amount
Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum	Community Shelter	£7,200.00
Wotton Area Climate Action Network	Wildflower plants & interpretation	£703.00
Friendship Café - Wardens	Equipment, clothing & maps to facilitate walking groups	£874.00
100 Acer Wood Conservation Trust	Hedgerow/ orchard planting & tools for management	£758.62
Cotswolds National Landscape	Boundary Stones (new signage)	£941.33
Box Parish Council	Lovar Valley walk improvements	£2,010.00
Leaffield Parish Council	Restoration of the Lynch Gate	£2,313.00
The Campden Society	Management & restoration of a traditional orchard	£1,430.00
Yatton Keynell Parish Council	Village pond improvements	£293.68
<b>Total</b>		<b>£16,523.63</b>

##### Activity

- Five projects visited, including the wildflower verge project put forward by Long Newnton Parish Council (just outside Tetbury) that featured on BBC Points West.
- Website updated with membership benefits and the full list of funded projects.

##### Income and expenditure

- Income: £800 (although more expected in Q4)

#### 5. **Funding bids**

Date Applied	Funder	Project
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.

#### 6. **Partnerships**

- December – presentation to LA partners on the value-add of CNL work.
- November – presentation to LA partners on LEADER and FiPL to help them deliver the Rural England Prosperity Fund.
- September and October – meetings with Kier to share quarry contacts for A417 mitigation works.
- Ongoing – Cotswold Way Association. Quarterly meetings to share updates and seek collaborative projects.

#### **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

- None

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- Support the local authority Board Member meetings, by providing evidence of the Board's value-add work.
- Plan Everyone's Evenlode objectives and funding out to July 2025.
- Plan and prepare for the recruitment and onboarding of the New to Nature trainee.
- Plan and coordinate outreach activity using the Thames Water grant.
- Support the office move in 2023.

#### **SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- None

JANUARY 2023