

NATURE RECOVERY – TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS**Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) & Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)****Conference 6th December 2024****Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/ecology-and-biodiversity/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/>

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Shropshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy is one of 48 strategies being developed across England.

- The LNRS statutory strategy - a legal requirement of the Environment Act 2021
- Public bodies, including Town & Parish Councils, now have an enhanced Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

The commencement of section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 which came into force on 1 January 2023 and provides for a new extended biodiversity duty for public authorities. Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 (the EA) amends section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERCA) to replace the 'duty to conserve biodiversity' with a duty 'to conserve and **enhance** biodiversity'. The new extended duty requires public authorities to include the enhancement of biodiversity alongside conservation by way of creating 'the general biodiversity objective'

Links to more information here:

<https://www.anthonycollins.com/insights/ebriefings/the-new-extended-public-authority-biodiversity-duty/>

<https://www.freeths.co.uk/insights-events/legal-articles/2023/extended-biodiversity-duty-for-public-authorities-now-in-force-what-does-it-mean/>

- Contribute towards international and national targets such as in Environmental Improvement Plan e.g. Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030 and increase abundance by more than 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042
- Reverse current trends of fragmented habitats and faltering ecosystem functions

Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

SALC is membership organisation representing the parish and town councils of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. It provides information about the operation and powers of parish and town councils, and parish meetings. It works to enhance communication with everyone within the Parish Council network, ranging from the National Association (NALC), through our Association at county level, to all those parish councils, town councils and parish meetings who form the grass roots tier of local government.

Local Councils form the most local level of government in England.

Membership consists of 153 Town & Parish Councils in Shropshire and 27 in Telford and Wrekin

Conference

Chaired by Katrina Baker MBE President of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils

The conference was designed to bring together town and parish representatives from across the county and supporting organisations and delegates heard from national and county speakers.

Baroness Bennett – Vice Chair National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Dr Jack Reed – Exeter University and Chris Borg, NALC policy lead and county speakers Lynn Parker LNRS lead and Mandy Thorn Shropshire Community Foundation about the wider picture in the morning and the afternoon session showcased some of the many initiatives already underway from across the county.

“Shropshire’s ambition to have a bespoke nature recovery plan in every town and parish council is positioning Shropshire as a national leader on this agenda”

Mary Creagh MP & minister for nature was unable to make the date of the conference – however this link will take you to her speech on **Mission Possible: a new vision for energy and nature to the Green Alliance UK** Mary spoke about the importance of robust and ambitious action to protect nature and the drive for a circular economy to meet climate and nature goals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ojaeREAaxQ>

Feedback from conference:

- Lots of positive comments and a wish from delegates for more conferences & events.
- 94 people attended with representatives from 58 town and Parish councils.
- Baroness Natalie Bennett very supportive and promised to champion Shropshire’s nature recovery initiatives in the House of Lords.

Slides will be made available as PDFs online on the SALC website in due course.

Follow up LNRS events planned

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are new statutory strategies for nature and environmental improvement, the development of which is led by Local Authorities. Shropshire Council is the responsible authority for the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LNRS and they are working closely with supporting authorities Telford & Wrekin Council and Natural England. There are many other partner organisations guiding the strategy development to ensure the strategy is fit for purpose.

We have arranged three workshops to make sure that the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LNRS reflects local priorities and benefits from local knowledge, and we would be delighted if you would attend one of these.

The workshops:

1. Community Centre, Craven Arms. SY7 9PS.

Wednesday, 15th January 2025 - 9.45am for 10.00am start, finishing at 3pm

Please register on [Event Brite](#) to attend.

2. Meeting Point House, Telford. TF3 4HS

Friday, 17th January 2025 - 9.45am for 10.00am start, finishing at 3pm

Please register on [Event Brite](#) to attend.

3. Shropshire Wildlife Trust HQ, Shrewsbury. SY2 6AH

Saturday, 18th January 2025 - 9.45am for 10.00am start, finishing at 3pm

Please register on [Event Brite](#) to attend.

Please book online through the appropriate Eventbrite link. Lunch and hot drinks will be provided.

Thank you to everyone who came to the conference and helped to make it a success.



David Attenborough explains a Nature Recovery Network

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wZro6-4p94>



(Photo early purple Orchids – Minsterley Meadows)

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>