

**Uttoxeter Town Council**

# ***Building a Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network***

**Uttoxeter Biodiversity Plan 2020-2023**

*Revised 3 July 2020*

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## Preface

This document is Uttoxeter Town Council's three-year plan for promoting biodiversity in the Uttoxeter area. It has been developed by representatives of the Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network (UNRN), which has been established by the Town Council to coordinate work to promote biodiversity. The document is being widely circulated to local organisations and individuals to inform them of UNRN's proposals, to seek their support for the actions outlined, and to invite them to contribute to the development of the detailed implementation plan which will deliver the action plans set out in this document.

UNRN would therefore welcome comments on the document from interested parties. This feedback will be used in two ways:

1. To identify potential partners who can help deliver the action plans set out in the two Appendices
2. To help the Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network build more detail into its implementation plan so that it can be delivered effectively, and to enable UNRN and the Council to monitor progress by identifying specific milestones.

The intention is to develop the implementation plan in the light of feedback and seek formal approval for the plan from Uttoxeter Town Council at its meeting in October 2020.

The Town Council would welcome any comments or ideas which will support the development and implementation of this plan. Please forward any comments to: [info@uttoxetc.org.uk](mailto:info@uttoxetc.org.uk)

Councillor Carolyn Green

**Chair**

**Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network**

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This plan is Uttoxeter Town Council's first three-year plan aimed at developing and encouraging biodiversity in the Uttoxeter area. The plan is supported by a set of action plans which will be updated annually (Appendices 1 and 2). The whole plan will be reviewed every three years and updated where necessary in accordance with National and Local guidance.

1.2 The Town Council is publishing this plan as part of an initiative to improve biodiversity in the Uttoxeter area. Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you will find in one area, from micro-organisms to mammals. It includes all fungi, plants and animals that work together in ecosystems, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that people need to survive - food, breathable air, clean water, medicine, and shelter.

1.3 The plan refers to biodiversity as 'wildlife': this includes mammals, plants, invertebrates, amphibians, birds, lichens, and fungi. The places where wildlife lives, such as woods, rivers, lakes, parks and buildings, are what are called 'habitats'. Uttoxeter lies in one of the Central Farmland areas of Staffordshire. Wildlife in this area is declining because climate change, urban development, industrialisation and intensive agriculture has led to a loss of places where wildlife can live ('habitats').<sup>1</sup> Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has developed and maintains the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, and in promoting biodiversity in the Uttoxeter area UNRN will work to support the implementation of that plan.

1.4 The geographical focus of the plan is the urban area administered by Uttoxeter Town Council. UNRN will give highest priority to activities within the town boundary and will not engage in direct activities beyond a five-kilometer circle around the town boundary. However, it will seek to develop partnerships with any organisations who can assist in achieving its objectives, whatever their geographical focus.

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<sup>1</sup> Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan: [http://www.sbap.org.uk/actionplan/eap/index.php?eap=CFM#1\\_1](http://www.sbap.org.uk/actionplan/eap/index.php?eap=CFM#1_1)

## 2. Why Help Wildlife in Uttoxeter?

2.1 Across the world wildlife is in decline because of human activities, pressure on living space (habitats) and climate change. In the United Kingdom 41% of the 700 species surveyed show a decline in numbers between 1970 and 2019. 15% of these species are threatened with extinction.<sup>2</sup> These trends are being driven by:

- Intensification of agriculture.
- Global warming
- Urban and industrial development

2.2 Uttoxeter is no exception to these trends. All councils have a duty to support nature<sup>3</sup> and Uttoxeter Town Council is working to reverse the loss of wildlife in the town (to “enhance biodiversity”). To do this it has set up a Biodiversity Committee. The Committee is developing a partnership with local organisations, residents and other stakeholders called the “Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network” (UNRN) which will work to:

- Protect our plants, birds, and animals (“our wildlife”)
- Make the area wildlife friendly
- Help threatened species

2.3 Helping nature recover is important because:

- Wildlife has a right to exist and thrive
- Other species make a major contribution to human prosperity
- A green environment promotes human health and well being

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/state-of-nature-2019-report-uk.pdf> p.6

<sup>3</sup> Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

### 3. Aims and Objectives of UNRN

3.1 UNRN will work with residents, councils, and other stakeholders to help wildlife survive and flourish. UNRN will help link individuals and organisations together so they can deliver maximum benefits to wildlife. It will seek to engage the whole community and support the activities of organisations which will help improve biodiversity. UNRN's initial focus will be on developing partnerships with local councils, utilities, industry, local organisations, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders. It will identify opportunities for projects to be developed in partnership with these stakeholders and help identify potential sources of grant funding for relevant projects.

3.2 UNRN will help Nature by:

- Obtaining better information about the state of nature in Uttoxeter, so that UNRN can identify the best ways to help wildlife
- Making sure that everybody is aware of the natural world, can enjoy it and can help it thrive
- Building the Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network by establishing partnerships with groups and individuals who can help create a wildlife friendly Uttoxeter, including
  - Farmers, who can develop wildlife friendly farming practices
  - Other Councils including ESBC and the County Council, who can use their planning and other powers to make development wildlife friendly
  - Local landowners, gardeners, and managers of open spaces, who can make homes for wildlife
  - Businesses, to encourage wildlife friendly practices
  - Organisations dedicated to helping wildlife, such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- Creating and implementing action plans to make a difference to wildlife by helping to:
  - Reduce the breakup of natural habitats in the town and wider countryside
  - Manage the impact of the growth of the town on habitats
  - Engage the community in efforts to preserve wildlife

3.3 UNRN will target specific, manageable areas of activity which can be delivered locally. The impact of each activity may be small, but each will contribute to other initiatives, and together these will make significant improvements to our environment and to wildlife.

## 4. Action Areas

4.1 UNRN has consulted widely with residents and other interested parties in developing this plan. Consultation took place between 2 March and 30 March 2020, and included publishing a consultation document, publishing an electronic questionnaire, and holding a public meeting. Over 30 people attended the meeting and 139 people completed the e-questionnaire. More than 250 written comments were received, all but four via the e-consultation.

99% of comments strongly supported the aims of the plan, and many made helpful suggestions. Analysis of the suggestions identified eight action areas for the plan. The action areas fall into two types:

1. Developing the infrastructure needed to deliver our plans effectively (“Building Capacity”)
2. Action areas which will help wildlife directly (“Benefitting Wildlife”)

### 4.2 *Building Capacity:*

Three of the areas identified are aimed at ensuring that UNRN has the capacity to deliver its plans to benefit wildlife. These are:

1. *Communication:* promoting awareness of our plans and encouraging people to support them
2. *Management Information:* Building our knowledge of wildlife in the area and collecting data about activities within the area that promote biodiversity
3. *Partnerships:* developing constructive relationships with stakeholders

**Appendix 1** sets out how UNRN will address these issues in the first year of the plan.

### 4.3 *Benefits for Wildlife.*

The other five focus areas identified through the consultation look outward towards the impact UNRN wants to make - creating a greener and more beautiful town, and helping wildlife thrive. These are referred to as our “Impact Areas”:

1. Making the town greener
2. Developing an insect friendly Uttoxeter
3. Engaging young people
4. Expanding habitats for wildlife
5. Supporting endangered species

4.4 Our plans for these areas are attached as **Appendix 2** of this plan. In developing these plans, the Council has considered the different elements of our landscape which affect

wildlife, because UNRN will need to protect these elements to preserve habitats for different species. It has also considered how the action plans will address the need to build partnerships, management information and communication. Each action plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

## 5. Conclusion

This plan sets out our aims for the next three years. The action plans (Appendices 1 and 2) are focused on the first year of activity. This document will be supported by an implementation plan which will incorporate feedback from potential partners. The implementation plan will be considered by Uttoxeter Town Council in October 2020. Progress on implementation of action plans will be reviewed by the Town Council annually on or around the anniversary of the submission of the implementation plan.

The Town Council welcomes any comments or ideas which will support the development and implementation of this plan. Please forward any comments to: [info@uttoxtc.org.uk](mailto:info@uttoxtc.org.uk)

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# **Appendix 1**

## **Building Capacity**

**1. Communication**

**2. Developing Management Information**

**3. Building Partnerships**

This appendix sets out our overall approach to developing UNRNs capacity to communicate effectively with the community and other partners, develop the management information required to target activities appropriately and to build partnerships to deliver its plans. The communication section is the most developed as this will be a key priority in Year 1.

## **1. Communication**

### **1.1. What does UNRN want to achieve?**

This plan covers the first year of a three-year programme to develop communication systems which will:

- I. Ensure that the wider community is aware of the biodiversity initiative, understands its aims and objectives and is encouraged to contribute to the initiative when this is appropriate.
- II. Enable members of the community to feed back their views and contribute their expertise to the initiative.
- III. Use on-line communication systems wherever possible to maximise efficiency and cost-effectiveness

### **1.2. Who are the target audiences?**

The key audiences are:

- I. Uttoxeter residents of all ages
- II. Local businesses
- III. Local community organisations including schools, churches, voluntary organisations, and environmental action groups
- IV. Other Councils, county wide organisations and major employers who can contribute to our goals.

### **1.3. The Challenges**

The main challenges to an effective communication strategy are

- I. The complexity of the audience and the different information needs of each segment
- II. The committee's limited resources
- III. The amount of time members of the committee can devote to communication,
- IV. The need to develop the necessary skills

UNRNs approach will be to do what it can within the resources available. It will use the experience to develop its skills but will also call on external expertise when this is available.

#### **d. Year 1 Objectives**

In year one UNRN has agreed the communication objectives set out in the table below:

| <b>Objective</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Timescale</b> | <b>Success Measure</b>   |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| 1. To develop a logo and communication style for the project so that UNRNs communications embody a clear project identity and promote recognition of the project and its aims. | UNRN                  | 3 months         | Logo and communication style agreed and launched   |
| 2. To develop a Project Newsletter and use the contact list of supporters as the basis for a circulation list.   | UNRN                  | 3 months         | Newsletter launched and produced bimonthly   |
| 3. To use local media (newspapers, magazines, radio) to get UNRNs message into every home and business in Uttoxeter.   | UNRN                  | 12 months        | Number of stories published/interviews given   |
| 4. To establish a Facebook page and a Web Page and ensure that these are linked to and from Town Council and other community webpages.   | UNRN                  | 6 months         | Facebook and web page running; links established; number of visits likes indicates community engagement. |
| 5. Agree a programme of talks to schools and other organisations to engage residents and young people in Biodiversity  | UNRN                  | 6 months         | Number of presentations given; range of organisations engaged.   |
| 6. Examine and pursue funding opportunities so that communication can be further developed in years 2 and 3.   | UNRN                  | 12 months        | Funding opportunities reviewed; applications made.   |
| 7. Detailed plans for years 2 and 3 agreed by UNRN   | UNRN                  | 12 months        | Plans agreed.  |

## 2. Developing Management Information

2.1 UNRN needs to ensure that it has baseline information about the well-being of species in Uttoxeter, so it can target its activities where they are most needed and can tell whether its action plans are making a difference. This is a difficult problem to address. Establishing its' own data base would be costly and it would be unlikely to be given accurate information unless there were many trained individuals contributing data.

2.2 However, there is an established county wide database to which it can contribute and from which it will be able to extract relevant information. This is the Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER), which is managed by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.<sup>4</sup> It will also use the national Hedgehog Street website as a means of recording local information about hedgehog sightings.

2.3 Each detailed action plan will consider the information required for implementation and monitoring outcomes and identify how this information will be gathered, recorded, and used. In compiling and analysing information, UNRN will ensure that General Data Protection Regulations are adhered to, wherever the regulations are relevant.

## 3. Building Partnerships

3.1 UNRN will seek to forge effective partnerships with

- Other councils who share our aims (ESBC, Staffordshire County Council)
- ESBC Open Spaces team to help make land management wildlife friendly

Local and County-wide organisations, including Support Staffordshire, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Globe Foundation and other Uttoxeter Voluntary Organisations

- Working with Uttoxeter in Bloom to ensure that horticultural initiatives benefit wildlife

3.2 The Town Council is a statutory consultee in the planning process and therefore can make representations to ensure that developers are encouraged to make buildings wildlife friendly, for example by incorporating “swift bricks” (which provide nesting sites for swifts) into building.

3.3 Long term success depends on generations of Uxonians being committed to the welfare of the natural world, and UNRN will work with schools to encourage the engagement of their students in biodiversity initiatives.

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<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.staffs-ecology.org.uk/html2015/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.staffs-ecology.org.uk/html2015/index.php?title=Main_Page)

## **Appendix 2**

### **Impact Areas: Wildlife Orientated Action Plans**

#### **2.1 Common Challenges**

#### **2.2 Making Uttoxeter Greener**

#### **2.3 Developing an Insect Friendly Uttoxeter**

#### **2.4 Engaging Young People**

#### **2.5 Expanding Habitats for Wildlife**

#### **2.6 Supporting Endangered Species**

##### **2.6 a Hedgehogs Action Plan**

##### **2.6 b Swifts Action Plan**

## 2.1 Common Challenges

This appendix outlines the actions which will be undertaken in the first year of the plan in five areas:

1. Making Uttoxeter Greener
2. Developing an Insect Friendly Uttoxeter
3. Engaging Young People
4. Expanding Habitats for wildlife
5. Supporting endangered species
  - I. Hedgehogs
  - II. Swifts

The following sections of this appendix set out outline action plans for each of the areas above. However, in implementing these plans we will need to address some major challenges:

- Addressing biodiversity in the context of the economic and health impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic
- The challenge of developing effective management information about biodiversity in our area so we can intervene effectively
- The conflicting interests of other stakeholders and potential partners, who are addressing the priorities of economic and housing development
- The need to establish effective channels of communication with all interest groups so we can develop working relationships which balance the priority of nature with the need for jobs and housing, and which enable us to engage all sectors of our community in implementing our plans.

If the general proposals set out in this plan are supported by stakeholders, we will develop more detailed implementation plans which address the challenges above by end of September 2020. This will ensure that the implementation process is robust and sensitive to other pressures affecting the town.

## 2.2 Making Uttoxeter Greener

**Overall Aim:** To protect and improve the quality and amount of green spaces in the town centre and surrounding area, and to develop the connections between these, thereby reducing the impact of urban development on wildlife.

**Rationale:** Wildlife can thrive only if it has places to live. Increasing the number, quality and inter-connection of green spaces will give opportunities for species and numbers of plants and animals to increase, promoting biodiversity.

**Year One Actions:** *N.B. Timescales for completion and monitoring will be incorporated into the final plan*

| Action  | Responsibility   | Communication/<br>Other Action<br>Required                                 | Outcome  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Use the Town Council's involvement in Regional and National In Bloom competitions as a way of promoting the greening of the town                                  | Town Council, UIB committee, UNRN.   | In Bloom and Biodiversity communications complement and enhance each other | In Bloom initiatives enhance biodiversity; biodiversity initiatives enhance In Bloom   |
| Identify current green areas  | UNRN in partnership with ESBC and SCC  | Liaison with ESBC and other stakeholders/ partners                         | Map of green areas/ information about extent and quality of land   |
| Identify potential areas for improvement  | UNRN in partnership with ESBC and SCC  | UNRN in consultation with other stakeholders                               | Identify areas where additional planting may enhance BD and identify test areas  |
| Undertake planting in two of the identified areas   | UNRN in partnership with relevant councils, Uttoxeter in Bloom, and gardening groups | UNRN in consultation with other stakeholders                               | Evaluate impact of enhanced planting; use to build community and other support for initiatives                                       |
| Work with stakeholders to develop wildlife corridors within Uttoxeter and surrounding area that enable isolated populations of animals to form larger communities | UNRN in partnership with relevant councils, and other stakeholders                   | UNRN in consultation with other stakeholders                               | Fragmented areas identified and potential linkages identified; proposals for enhancing connectivity formulated and under discussion. |
| Promote bio-diversity friendly gardening in the town  | See species focused action plans for details   | Newsletter, UIB communications, online and other media                     | See species focused action plans for details   |

## 2.3 Developing an Insect Friendly Uttoxeter

**Overall Aim:** To maximise the development of insect friendly gardens and planting across the town and the surrounding area so that insects will thrive.

**Rationale:** Insects are the key to biodiversity because they are important pollinators of plants and form a major link in the food chain for larger creatures. Their numbers have declined by up to 25% in recent decades, largely as a result of urban development.<sup>5</sup> Protecting green areas and growing plants which support insect species will benefit biodiversity in the town.

**Year One Actions:** N.B. Timescales for completion and monitoring will be incorporated into the final plan

| Action   | Responsibility  | Communication/Other Action Required  | Outcome   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Work with the Uttoxeter In Bloom Committee, ESBC, gardening, and allotment groups to evaluate the extent to which current planting practices promote insects and adjust where appropriate. | UNRN and partners   | Liaison with ESBC and other stakeholders and partners  | Annual report identifies ways in which improved land management practices are benefitting insect communities. |
| Encourage residents to adopt insect and animal friendly gardening practices, minimising use of harmful chemicals and promoting planting of nectar rich flowers.                            | UNRN in partnership with residents, gardening groups, other councils  | Liaison with Councils and gardening groups; on-line and public/press information for residents | Residents are aware of insect - friendly practices; community gardens provide models of good practice         |
| Encourage management of public land for the benefit of insects   | UNRN in partnership with ESBC (Parks/ open spaces), County Council (main road verges); Town Council (management of cemetery). | Liaison with relevant partners   | Uttoxeter in Bloom submission identifies examples of insect-friendly initiatives.                             |

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52399373>

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Promote Bee friendly Uttoxeter - including promoting the use of "bee hotels" for solitary bees | UNRN in partnership with ESBC, gardening groups/allotment holders/residents   | Provide information to residents about bee friendly practices and encourage them to apply these      | Market stalls to survey residents to provide information and assess knowledge and use of bee friendly practices before and after initiative.  |
| Ask local Garden Centres/Supermarkets to promote seeds for insect-friendly plants              | Partnership with Garden centres and supermarkets  | Encourage providers to advertise insect-friendly seeds   | Feedback from providers as to sales of seeds  |
| Measure changes in prevalence of insects   | Work with school children, residents, and other partners to develop ways in which they can help identify changes in insect populations. | Initial focus will be on particularly rare species, encouraging people to note and report sightings. | It will be difficult to obtain systematic evidence, and we may need to use people's awareness of and support for insect friendly practices as proxies for improvements in insect biodiversity |

## 2.4 Engaging Young People

**Overall Aim:** To make young people aware of the importance of protecting and sustaining wildlife and engage them in actions that protect and promote biodiversity in Uttoxeter and the surrounding areas.

**Rationale:** A sustainable biodiversity strategy needs the support of all sectors of the community. Young people are the future of that community: unless they become committed to promoting biodiversity, the biodiversity strategy will wither and die.

**Year One Action:** *N.B. Timescales for completion and monitoring measures will be incorporated into the final plan*

| Action  | Responsibility | Communication/Other Action Required  | Outcome  |
|---|----------------|--|--|
| Inform Uttoxeter Learning Trust (ULT), and all Uttoxeter Schools of the Biodiversity plan and seek their views on developing partnerships. Options are set out below. | UNRN           | Letters and copy of plan to ULT, Headteachers, Children's Group Leaders, seeking information about current school/group based initiatives and setting out some options for future partnership. | Knowledge of work being undertaken by schools to inform future planning. Agreement on how to develop future collaboration. |

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Agree a programme of work with Uttoxeter Schools and other children's organisations</p> | <p>UNRN/ULT/ Schools</p>  | <p>Set out options for involvement in the light of information about current activity in school/organisation including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A series of Biodiversity assemblies/presentations by UNRN members</li> <li>2. Ideas for project based work (for example creation of birdfeeders, a piece of research, or creating models to illustrate biodiversity)</li> <li>3. Support for existing projects by UNRN where resources are available (for example provision of seeds, bird feeders, nest boxes, hedgehog homes).</li> </ol> | <p>A sustainable partnership is developed between UNRN and Schools/ other organisations which can promote greater knowledge of and commitment to biodiversity among young people</p> |
| <p>Seek to engage young people in existing biodiversity projects</p>                       | <p>UNRN/ Thomas Alleyne's High School (TAHS) biodiversity committee</p> | <p>Engage with Thomas Alleyne's High School biodiversity committee to consider safe ways in which students could be involved in biodiversity projects (e.g. removing invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam)</p>  | <p>Students are able to contribute to biodiversity projects appropriately with due regard having been paid to health, safety, and safeguarding issues.</p>                           |

## 2.5 Expanding Habitats for Wildlife

**Overall Aim:** To manage development in the town and surrounding areas to protect and enhance existing habitats and develop opportunities to create new habitats.

**Rationale:** Wildlife can thrive only if it has a home. We need to protect existing homes for wildlife and create new ones if wildlife is to thrive and we are to achieve our objectives for biodiversity.

**Year One Action:** *N.B. Timescales for completion and monitoring measures will be incorporated into the final plan*

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>   | <b>Communication/<br/>Other Action<br/>Required</b>  | <b>Outcome</b>  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Town Council to use statutory consultation in the planning process to encourage wildlife friendly developments   | Town Council in liaison with ESBC/County Council/Developers                           | Town council makes recommendations to planning authorities to encourage wildlife friendly development  | New developments are sensitive to the needs of wildlife   |
| Encourage developers to build in wildlife friendly elements into their developments  | UNRN in liaison with developers   | Promote incorporation of nesting bricks for swifts and birds in new buildings/ hedgehog holes in fencing etc; and encourage developers to protect green links between habitats | New developments incorporate specific design features to protect wildlife, and protect green links      |
| Town Council models wildlife friendly management practices in the management of Uttoxeter Cemetery and uses any additional planting in the cemetery to model good practice in habitat creation | Town Council, UNRN, Contractors   | Management of contractors and communications with public reflects this commitment to promoting biodiversity  | Annual report identifies achievements in this area.   |
| Encourage house holders, Gardening groups and allotment holders to build/make their own habitats in their gardens  | UNRN/ Gardening groups/Uttoxeter in Bloom committee/ Allotment holders/ ESBC/Id Verde | Use communications to promote the importance of wildlife friendly planting/ hedgehog holes   | Residents report increase in wildlife friendly practices via Facebook page/ Surveys using Market stalls |
| Communicate with local farmers to encourage wildlife friendly activity: protecting and enhancing hedgerows, tree planting, minimising use of pesticides  | UNRN/NFU/ESBC/ Local Farmers  | Engage NFU and local farmers to promote  | Annual report identifies additional initiatives by local farmers to enhance wildlife                    |

## 2.6 Supporting Endangered Species

### Introduction

This section is concerned with how UNRN will work to support and protect endangered species. Implementation of the plans set out in Appendix 2 will benefit many species, but it is important to consider ways in which we can help particular plants and animal which may become endangered. Developing and implementing plans to help specific species will also help UNRN to develop the skills to work effectively to protect species in the future. We are initially focusing on two species:

- Hedgehogs – a species which has suffered a massive decline over the last 70 years<sup>6</sup>
- Swifts – a species whose nesting sites have been greatly reduced by demolition and urban redevelopment<sup>7</sup>

### 2.6 a Hedgehogs Action Plan

**Overall Aim:** To raise awareness of the declining population of hedgehogs, and inform the public as to how they can protect hedgehogs and help this species to thrive so as to reverse the decline of hedgehogs in this locality

**Rationale:** Hedgehogs are an attractive species and have become an icon of natural Britain. Public concern is high and there is likely to be significant support for a campaign to help this animal.

**Year One Action:** *N.B. Timescales for completion and monitoring measures will be incorporated into the final plan*

| Action   | Responsibility   | Communication/Other Action Required   | Outcome   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Build on the engaging young people, creating habitats and greening the town centre plans to highlight the needs of hedgehogs to residents and groups | UNRN and Partners  | Highlight hedgehog needs in relevant communications; hold an information stall in town centre to encourage residents to pledge action on hedgehogs. | Residents are aware of hedgehog needs and prepared to respond |
| Provide additional predator-proof homes for hedgehogs  | UNRN in partnership with Friends of Bramshall Road Park, Residents | As above.   | 17 Hedgehog homes installed                                   |

<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u12/state\\_of\\_hedgehog.pdf](https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u12/state_of_hedgehog.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/safeguarding-species/swiftmapper/are-your-swifts-under-threat/>

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Encourage residents, gardening groups, allotment holders and grounds maintenance teams to minimise use of chemicals and create access holes and hibernation areas for hedgehogs | UNRN in partnership with relevant groups | As above. Also incorporate into Uttoxeter In Bloom plans | Residents report action to help hedgehogs via Facebook page, and surveys. |
|---|--|--|---|

## 2.6 b Swifts Action Plan

**Overall Aim:** To raise awareness of the declining population of swifts due to loss of nesting sites, and encourage the provision of nesting sites on existing and new buildings

**Rationale:** Provision of swift boxes or incorporating swift bricks into new build is a simple way in which residents and developers can make a difference to swift populations, and thereby help to promote biodiversity.

**Year One Action:** *N.B. Timescales for completion and monitoring measures will be incorporated into the final plan*

| Action   | Responsibility | Communication/Other Action Required                                    | Outcome  |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| Provide information about swifts and swift nest boxes/ bricks to the public                | UNRN           | Publication of plan; newsletter; Facebook page; media articles         | Greater knowledge of swift needs and how to respond  |
| Consult planning authority (ESBC) over policy of incorporating swift bricks into new build | UNRN           | Demonstrate need and effectiveness and cost effectiveness of response. | ESBC considers encouraging all developers to make provision for swifts in their developments |
| Ask schools to consider installing swift boxes where appropriate                           | UNRN/Schools   | Liaison with Uttoxeter Learning Trust and schools                      | Schools consider installing swift nest boxes; swift boxes installed where possible           |