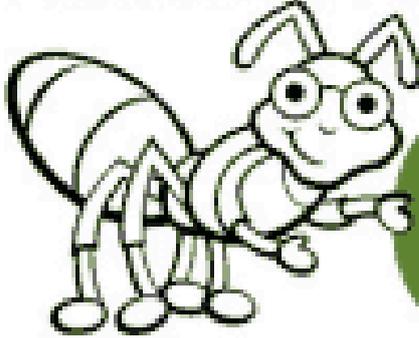


Action for Nature in Trafford



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Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

ACTION FOR NATURE.

2005 - 2006



Action for Nature Annual Report 2005-2006.

Summary.

Action for Nature Trafford [ANT] attempts to index and coordinate all the activities across the Borough of Trafford, which contribute to nature conservation. The increased coordination will allow the different bodies to make better uses of funding and training opportunities, share their cases of best practice, projects and share facilities where possible. When considering conserving wildlife we cannot restrict our selves to the last few species rich sites but must actively encourage habitat improvements in all environments however marginal from farmland through gardens to industrial parks. Any of the activities carried out by statutory bodies, businesses and individuals will in some way have an effect on nature conservation, when developing new policies, strategies and action we should consider the nature conservation implications.

The Task teams have been streamlined with the Funding subgroup cut and incorporated as a responsibility of the Steering group. Habitat and species monitoring group has joined with the Site Protection and enhancement group as a new team to be called the Local sites Task Team. Staffing has meant that the Local sites team has not been able to meet this year and only the Community Awareness and Involvement team has been meeting on a regular basis.

The Full plan has been Published and distributed to Councilors and senior officers. It is available on request and can be downloaded from the Trafford Website.

A number of options for a Patron were followed but eventually dropped as unnecessary and expensive for a project of this size.

The Action for Nature Website is now under development and a test version can be seen at <http://dev.trafford.gov.uk/content/ActioForNature/Volunteer.asp> . The documents to fill out this basic framework are being written as fast as possible along with the research to pull in the required links for useful outside websites especially for the Education pages. When the site goes live it will contain a basic wildlife sighting form for Emailing reports in to Action for Nature which will be manually entered into a Wildlife Data Base.

The Action for Nature Awards has been opened up for 2006 and judging is currently under way. This year we have received fourteen entries which includes many more private gardens. However this has been countered by a disappointing drop off from schools with many of last year's entrants choosing not to reapply. Unfortunately Wye Vale, our sponsor last year, is unable to provide any sponsorship this year. However Trafford In Bloom agreed to fund the awards which have allowed the Gnomes to be produced and funded a small prize for overall winners.

Action for Nature has built up a relationship with both the Youth Offending Team and the Probation Service during 2006 which has proven to be of great benefit. The Youth Offending Team has been working on two sites Trafford Ecology Park and Coroners wood on the first Friday and Saturday of each month. The teams of youths have enjoyed small thinning operations, wildflower propagation and the eradication of Himalayan Balsam. The Probation Services Teams are older, with larger numbers and have been able to tackle larger projects. They have been involved in woodland thinning at Woodheys Park and the creation of a wildlife area at Moor Nook Allotments. Action for Nature has also brokered a long Term Tool loan from the Neighbourhood Wardens Tool Library to the Probation Services which enables them to work on Conservation projects.



Key Achievements. 2004-2005.

- Action for Nature Project officer appointed, with funding from the Heritage Lottery to lead on Community Awareness and Involvement and Habitat and Species Management Task Teams.
- Action Plan printed and distributed to Councilors and partners E copy available on Trafford Website.
- Action for Nature Leaflet Printed and distributed out to Schools, Libraries and at events in and around Trafford. This leaflet has then formed the basis of a display. Three displays were made two have been touring Trafford Libraries and the third used to go out to one day public events along with a large selection of leaflets from the partners.
- Web site in Development with first version text and documents being produced.
- Action for Nature Project officer has worked with BBC Video nation to produce two 3 minute spring and summer watch videos which are available to view on the BBC website.
- Action for Nature has also had a presence on the Trafford TV the first using stills from our Photograph library and the second will use clips from the video.
- Constructive partnerships with Youth Offenders Team and Probation Services.
- Development of a Photo library with the assistance of Student Placement, this will eventually be made available to partners.

Future Development.

Action for Nature in Trafford has reached the end of its Second year and is beginning to get responses and queries from the general public from the various displays and its leaflet. These have been distributed widely. However some consideration should be given to funding promotion from the end of the Current Heritage lottery grant in 2008

The Website should be online before the end of the year which will put into place a further key task of the Action Plan for communication.

There is an urgent need for the Local Sites Task Team to be formed to take forward the key actions identified in the Action for Nature Action plan. Raising public expectations alone with out the ability to give them substance will only lead to disillusionment and disappointment.

The Project officer post runs for another year but it is now that new funding needs to be sought to carry on this role in 2008.

The assistance to the project of a Student Volunteer has enabled a number of projects to continue through the year. Action for Nature needs to build up a volunteer base to allow it to complete its targets.

An opportunity to work with Home educated children as well as schools should be grasped whole heartedly. However links with schools and their projects needs to be strengthened.

Minority groups have begun to be targeted but this approach is in its infancy and needs further work.



Conclusion.

- The Publicity and communication sides of Action for Nature are beginning to have an effect and bear fruit. A number of individuals are coming forward with queries and comments and this should be further enhanced by the arrival of the website.
- Many of the Key tasks from what was the Site Protection Task team, such as development monitoring, of Action for Nature are now behind schedule and some funding opportunities are being missed partly due to staff resources in Parks and Countryside service. These areas need to be taken forward as a matter of urgency when the Local Sites group has been identified and its first meeting scheduled.