



SOMERSET

All Somerset Parish and Town Councils
3rd September 2020

Somerset County Council – Climate Emergency Community Fund – Climate and Nature Networkers and Local Nature Partnership

Hello,

The recently launched £1 million Somerset County Council Climate Fund is an exciting local opportunity to help address the twin emergencies we face, that of climate change and our increasingly threatened natural world.

As you know, any applications to this fund have to be done through our parish and town councils, so this letter is to ask for your support for our proposal for £75,000 funding to pay for the two posts below; a Somerset Climate and Nature Networkers Coordinator and a Somerset Local Nature Partnership Manager.

So what would these two roles be for?

1. Somerset Climate and Nature Networkers Coordinator

This co-ordinator would build a movement for change in the county, mobilising, empowering and enabling action so people can help their communities meet the climate targets and restore nature.

The Climate and Nature Networkers Coordinator would;

- Recruit climate and nature volunteers in your town or parish community
- Engage with your parish to help encourage, facilitate and guide positive action
- Help link parishes and communities to organisations and other groups to learn from and support each other
- Help establish local Nature Hubs and Nature Recovery Networks - Nature Hubs are volunteer led community action groups, affiliated to and supported by the Trust to help deliver the Nature Recovery Network for Somerset. Nature Recovery Networks are a way of linking up areas of good natural habitat and creating new natural landscapes to allow nature to recover, move through the landscape and be more resilient to big changes like climate change
- Monitor the progress of networkers and projects, reporting to supporting parishes and celebrating the successes of communities using our extensive media channels
- Establish an interactive online resource to share good practice, facilitate peer support, offer training and signpost to useful information and organisations

2. Somerset Local Nature Partnership (SLNP) Coordinator

SLNP is a strong, strategic champion for the county's important and valuable natural environment. The SLNP Board and Forum will together embed the value and importance of the natural environment and implementation of the Nature Recovery Network and strategy into all decision-making processes, planning and policy decisions and provide leadership, coordinating delivery to achieve long-term strategic objectives to:

- Protect and improve the county's unique natural environment through a shared vision and strategy for the county
- Develop natural solutions to climate change identifying carbon sequestration opportunities
- Embed the intrinsic value of Somerset's natural environment into cultural, political and economic agendas

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in the county where you live*

- Show leadership in bringing sectors and people together to realise economic, social, health and environmental benefits from an improved, coherent and resilient ecological network for Somerset
- Communicate and improve the economic, social and health benefits that the natural environment brings for everyone who lives, works or visits Somerset

The SLNP Coordinator would work on behalf of the SLNP and:

- Drive forwards priority actions & embed in decision-making processes
- Develop, manage & support the SLNP to deliver work plan
- Identify & present evidence to support SLNP priorities & influence decision-making
- Advise on natural environment and public policy
- Deliver on the National Planning Policy Framework 'Duty to Cooperate' function regarding planning and policy documents (national and local)
- Deliver communications (internal & external)
- Build relationships within SLNP & externally including the Local Enterprise Partnership to drive Natural Capital investment
- Work with neighbouring LNPs to achieve greater outcomes across Somerset
- Develop projects & funding bids to deliver priority actions

If your local council is keen to join Somerset Wildlife Trust and Somerset Climate Action Network in this exciting application, please email Steve Mewes on steve.mewes@somersetwildlife.org by 5pm, Wednesday September 23rd.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Faithfully,



Georgia Stokes
CEO, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Interim Chair of Somerset Local Nature Partnership



Steve Mewes
Chair, Somerset Climate Action Network and Policy and Campaigns Manager Somerset Wildlife Trust



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