



Surrey
Wildlife Trust



Nextdoor Nature Project

Youth Community Partnership Guide



Project Introduction

With evidence of a climate and nature crisis becoming clearer every day, Nextdoor Nature aims to bring communities together to help wildlife flourish where people live and work!

Every one of us can make a difference to bring back nature and tackle climate change by taking small actions that add up to big changes.

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Nextdoor Nature has launched nationally and will provide people with the advice and support they need to help nature on their doorstep.

At Surrey Wildlife Trust, the Nextdoor Nature Project aims to support communities in creating wildlife friendly green spaces within their local areas.

We're asking communities and schools within Guildford (Stoke and Westborough) and Woking (Sheerwater and Maybury) to get in touch to take action for nature.

We want to hear what you have to say and how you want to restore nature within your community's green spaces.

We want to hear from a range of different community groups, including but not limited to: youth and community centres, clubs, societies, playgroups, committees and uniform groups. If you're a group of individuals who want to improve your local green spaces, we'd love to hear from you!



Youth Community Partnership Overview

Recruitment

- Programme detailed on Surrey Wildlife Trust website.
- Expression of interest from youth community group leaders.
- A letter of support will be required from landowners.
- Memorandum of Understanding.

Phase 1 Supported:

- Initial listening exercises conducted with youth community groups to determine how they want nature to be developed within their communities.
- Initial site and behavioural survey conducted by Surrey Wildlife Trust to determine the partnership's key priorities within the green space.
- Youth community groups will be supported to plan and research how they can impact nature within their local green spaces.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust will support youth community groups and group leaders in planning a project to be undertaken on-site or in the local area.
- Training sessions will be run where necessary to enable community group leaders and members to successfully execute any projects undertaken.
- Fundraising support can be provided to group leaders through a training session.
- Progress will be reviewed and support will be provided through site visits and additional sessions.

Phase 2: Supported/Independent

- Youth community group leaders will move into a network of community groups to support each other in their ongoing action for nature.
- Community and education networks will collaborate to develop and share skills.
- Community group leaders will work with Surrey Wildlife Trust to record and celebrate successes.
- Ongoing support will be provided to enable future independent action for nature.
- Wilder Communities events and Wilder Surrey Awards will celebrate successes.

Phase 3: Independent

- Natural spaces to be developed and maintained on site and within the communities.
- Youth communities and community leaders will use the skills learnt during sessions to continue to take action for nature.

Monitoring Biodiversity Outcomes: ArcGIS

- The release of a quarterly Nextdoor Nature newsletter.
- Network events and resources.
- Use of Storymaps to record ongoing progress and outcomes.
- Team wilder map.
- Wilder Communities webinars.

Programme Breakdown

The programme outlined below will be guided by Surrey Wildlife Trust's Nextdoor Nature Community Officer in conjunction with the youth community groups. The expected outcomes and impacts of the project are outlined later in this document.

Project Duration

The Nextdoor Nature Project will run until June 2024. The amount of time spent with each community group will vary depending on the specific needs of each group. The programme has been subdivided to demonstrate the level of support each group will receive at each stage of the project. Groups are expected to continue to maintain sites developed during the Project following the completion of Nextdoor Nature. We also ask that community leaders remain a part of the Nature Network.

Project Objectives

- Youth communities will be empowered to take action for nature and create change within their local areas.
- Youth community leaders will join a Nature Network and will connect with other communities.
- Youth and youth leaders will develop their project planning skills and will gain confidence when expressing their opinions.
- Youth and youth leaders will gain the skills required to maintain local green spaces.
- Youth and youth leaders will have an increased knowledge of existing wildlife.
- There will be an increase in health and wellbeing within communities.
- There will be an increase in wildlife friendly green spaces in local areas.
- Biodiversity across the county will increase, creating corridors for wildlife as part of the Nature Recovery Network.

Partnership Stipulations

- An initial listening exercise will be held to enable the Community Officer to understand the communities' ideas and aspirations for the local area.
- The Community Officer will identify any youth community leader training needs based on the projects being undertaken.
- Visits from Surrey Wildlife Trust will be more frequent towards the start of the Project.
- Youth communities should continue to develop and maintain their local and on-site green spaces following the completion of the Nextdoor Nature Project.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust can provide relevant training to community leaders based on the project which is being undertaken.
- Meetings, sessions and listening exercises can be arranged around existing group commitments.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust will support and encourage communities to restore nature on-site and within the local area.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust will encourage community leaders to connect and collaborate with other local community groups.

A Guide to Phase 1

Phase 1 is the supported phase of the partnership. Youth communities will benefit from the ongoing support of a Surrey Wildlife Trust Community Officer during this phase. Surrey Wildlife Trust will be available to offer support and advice and will help to guide communities in their transition into becoming part of the wider green community.

Session 1

Surrey Wildlife Trust will hold an initial listening exercise with the youth community group. The Community Officer will use this listening exercise to understand the key priorities of the group and to hear the community's ideas and aspirations for their local and on-site green spaces. The initial listening exercise will be a great opportunity for us to ascertain any barriers the youth community may have when accessing the local space around them. It is our job to empower and enable people to realise their vision for nature and wildlife within their communities. The first session could also take the form of a site visit - this could help to inspire groups in their own action for nature.

Session 2

Surrey Wildlife Trust will meet with the group for a second time to discuss the ideas raised within the initial listening exercise. The Community Officer will support the group in creating a Project Action Plan - this will identify an area of land which will be developed for nature and will outline how the project will be undertaken. The Community Officer will offer advice and support during this meeting, but the planning should be led by the community group leaders and members. The Community Officer will assess whether additional training will be necessary to enable the completion of the project. The Community Officer will plan training opportunities for group leaders in relation to project being undertaken.

Future Sessions

Future session will be planned based on the Project Action Plan. The planning of the sessions will be undertaken during Session 2. It may be necessary for additional community training to take place prior to future sessions, depending on the session content. The community will have control over the content of the sessions and the Community Officer will be present to support the group. Youth community leaders should consider the budget they have available to undertake the planned work.

Potential Future Session Activities

- All nature-based activities will be identified and agreed by the local community.
- The creation of wildlife features e.g., bug hotels, bird boxes, bat boxes, log piles, hoverfly lagoons and more.
- The creation of new and diverse habitats e.g., hedgerows, ponds, wildflower areas, bee banks, pollinator pitstops, orchards and more.
- Workshops to enable communities to maintain natural green spaces on an ongoing basis.

A Guide to Phase 2

Phase 2 is the supported/independent phase of the partnership. Surrey Wildlife Trust can continue to provide advice and support where necessary. The purpose of this phase is to enable youth communities to gradually transition into independent environmentally conscious groups.

1. Youth community leaders will move into a network of community groups. Surrey Wildlife Trust will connect community groups to enable them to continue to take action for nature. We aspire towards a future where communities collaboratively take ownership of and action for nature within their local spaces.
2. Youth communities will share skills and expertise with other youth community groups, continuing to develop their own knowledge of nature. The intention is that communities will eventually be able to develop and maintain the green spaces within their local communities independently, or in conjunction with the landowner.
3. Youth communities will have the tools to continue to develop and maintain their local green spaces for nature. People will be able to actively make change within their local areas. Surrey Wildlife Trust will continue to offer support and advice where necessary during this phase.
4. Youth community leaders will feedback their ongoing progress to Surrey Wildlife Trust in celebration of their successes. Progress will be recorded on Surrey Wildlife Trust social media platforms and the Surrey Wildlife Trust website. Progress updates will also be recorded in the Nextdoor Nature Project newsletter.
5. Youth community leaders will be invited to attend Wilder Communities events and apply for the Wilder Surrey Awards to celebrate successes.

A Guide to Phase 3

Phase 3 is the independent phase of the partnership. Communities are expected to maintain contact with Nature Networks.

1. Youth communities to continue develop and maintain the natural green spaces within their local areas, independently or in conjunction with the landowner.
2. Youth communities will share the skills and knowledge learned throughout their partnership with the Trust, continuing to strive towards a greener future.

Outcomes and Impacts

Biodiversity Outcomes

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat. Our goal is to empower and enable people to increase biodiversity within their local communities.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects undertaken within the community increase biodiversity within urban areas. • Communities to increase biodiversity within their own homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats in local areas are under improved management. • Enhanced biodiversity within local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increased understanding of nature leads to ongoing action for nature within communities.

Community Outcomes

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of nature and its value. • Connections made with other local community groups. • Increased willingness to take action for nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community leaders will join a Nature Network. • Independent maintenance and development of land. • Independent community contact and involvement in community projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of projects within the community. • Promotion of the importance of nature across communities. • Confidence in sharing skills and collaborating with other groups.

Individual Outcomes

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions empower individuals to protect and take action for nature. • Individuals feel confident in discussions nature and undertaking work on their natural green spaces. • Individuals feel confident in expressing their ideas and aspirations for nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased health and wellbeing. • Individuals feel empowered to create change within the world. • Increased action for nature amongst the community. • Increased knowledge of existing wildlife and its value amongst individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals understand how they can make a difference to nature daily. • Individuals actively help to develop and maintain nature. • Individuals feel confident in guiding others to take action for nature. • Individuals have the skills to protect nature.