Climate & Nature Matters

CAN Champion Update

The Inaugural Meeting was held on 19th November by Zoom, IM in attendance. It started as a result of a survey carried out by NCALC in February 2025. The survey objective was to focus on climate and nature in Northamptonshire, to understand current activities and future aspirations of Parish and Town councils. 181 out of 220 councils responded, see presentation document below. Although the intention was to have only 1 champion/PC, after discussion it was agreed that a Deputy Champion could be appointed to receive newsletters and communications. When a Deputy has been agreed by the PC, I can ask for a registration form to be sent to the Clerk. The Deputy details will not be shared as a part of the database NCALC are working on for the Scheme, the shared details would remain with the primary CAN Champion.

KRCAG Activities

There has been no recent meeting as this has proved difficult to arrange given members availability and the proximity to the Christmas Holidays. However, the Group now has 2 new members including Cllr Sibley. Some members of the group took part in Cllr Humphries climate meeting for Parish Councillors in her ward. Following on from Kilsby's visit to Sherbourne Recycling, Yelvertoft PC are arranging a visit on 5th February at 2pm. Kilsby residents are invited if there are any places available. Please let Ian Massey (ian.massey@btinternet.com) know if you would like to attend. Following a presentation by Welford School about the National Eco Schools project, the information was passed to our school along with the offer of the Welford Head Teacher to engage with the school if they wished to participate. So far we have not had a response.

The group has also contacted the Youth Club leader and it is planned to meet with them now that the holiday festivities are over. It is intended to have a short workshop session to find out how younger people and their families view the climate change situation, to analyse their responses and to give feedback at a subsequent session.

IDM

Climate & Nature Champion Scheme

Inaugural Meeting

Danny Moody – 19 November 2025

NCALC

Where it started…

- Survey Conducted by
  - Northants CALC
  - 3 February – 3 March 2025
- Survey Objective
  - Focus on climate and nature in Northamptonshire
  - Understand current activities and future aspirations of parish and town councils
- Response Rate
  - 181 out of 220 councils responded
  - 82% engagement rate
  - WN – 106/131 (81%)
  - NN – 75/90 (83%)

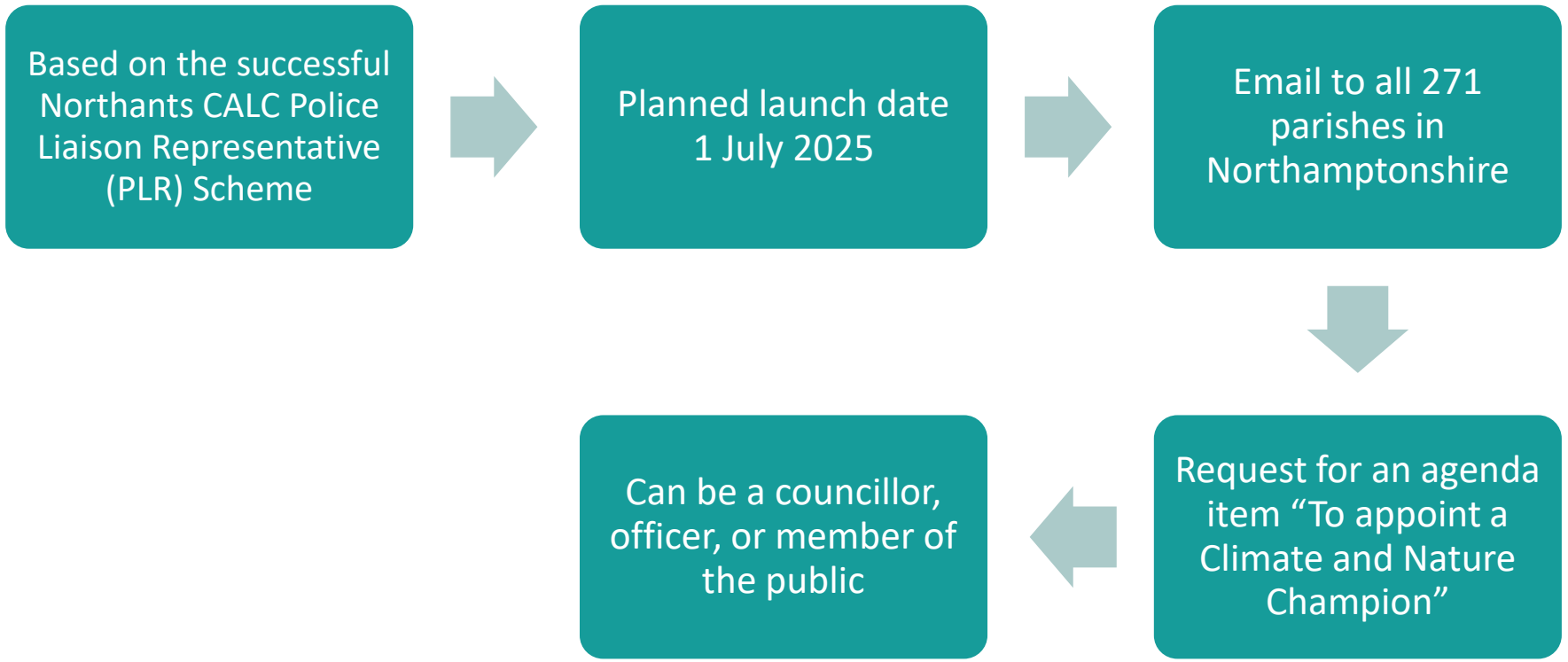
High Levels of Current Action

- Top 5 Common Actions
  - Planting native trees and plants (118)
  - Organising community clean-up events (117)
  - Creating and maintaining wildlife habitats (111)
  - Implementing LED street lighting (108)
  - Protecting local biodiversity (104)

Unlock the potential…

Northants CALC Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme



Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

Purpose

The Climate and Nature Champion (CAN Champion) acts as the local council's key point of contact and advocate for environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and climate resilience. This voluntary role supports the council in identifying, promoting, and coordinating local action on climate and nature.

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

Key Responsibilities

- **Liaison & Communication**
  - Serve as the council's link to local, regional, and national environmental initiatives.
  - Share relevant updates, funding opportunities, and best practices with the council and community.
  - Represent the council at climate and nature forums, workshops, and events.

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

Key Responsibilities

- **Community Engagement**
  - Encourage local participation in climate and nature projects (e.g. tree planting, biodiversity surveys, energy-saving schemes).
  - Promote awareness of environmental issues through newsletters, social media, and community events.
  - Act as a listening post for residents' concerns and ideas related to the environment.

Climate and Nature Champions (CAN Champions)

Key Responsibilities

- **Project Support**
  - Help identify and support local projects that contribute to climate mitigation, adaptation, and nature recovery.
  - Work with councillors, clerk, and community groups to develop and deliver initiatives.
  - Monitor progress and share outcomes with the council and wider community.

CAN Champions

Desirable Qualities

- Passion for environmental and climate issues
- Good communication and organisational skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders
- Willingness to learn and stay informed on relevant topics

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

Aims – Year 1
271 CAN Champions
100 “positive” CAN Champion appointments by 31 December 2025
First annual meeting held by July 2026
Online resources set up by 31 July 2025 and regularly updated

Progress to date

- **118** CAN Champions appointed by 19 November 2025
- Inaugural meeting held on 19 November 2025
- Scheme has been “noticed”

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

By CAN Champion Type

Type	No.	%
Councillor	90	76.3%
Officer	13	11.0%
MOPs	15	12.7%
Total	**118**	**100.0%**

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

By Area

Area	No.	Total	%
North Northamptonshire	43	106	40.6%
West Northamptonshire	75	165	45.5%
Total	**118**	**271**	**43.5%**

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

By size of parish (electors)

Electors	No.	Total	%
0 - 500	47	156	30.1%
501 - 1,000	22	39	56.4%
1,001 - 5,000	30	51	58.8%
5,001+	19	25	76.0%
Total	**118**	**271**	**43.5%**

Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

By parish type

Type	No.	Total	%
Parish Council	101	202	50.0%
Town Council	13	18	72.2%
Parish Meeting	4	51	7.8%
Total	**118**	**271**	**43.5%**

CAN Champion Support

Website
(https://northantscalc.gov.uk/can-champions)

An online, frequently updated resource

Brings together all the information that's already out there

Repository/directory of Climate and Nature Action in Northamptonshire

Meetings
An annual online meeting for all CAN Champions in Northamptonshire

Thematic focus meetings x3 per year, online, focused on a particular area of Climate & Nature Action

CAN Champion Support

Communications

Ad hoc emails and notifications (but not too many!!)

A newsletter with latest information, updates from NNC and WNC on LNRS and Climate Strategies, links to local, regional, and national resources

Polls and surveys as required/appropriate

Northants CALC Staff

Sophie Harding – Registrations, bookings, contact details, newsletter

Danny Moody – Actions, ideas, liaison with partners, guidance

Climate & Nature Champion Scheme

Inaugural Meeting

Danny Moody – 19 November 2025

NCALC