

* **Green Bullet**

27th March 2017

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to andyyuille@gmail.com - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](http://www.vsnw.org.uk/publications/nwel-green-bullet) website.

**CPRE has agreed to continue funding the Green Bullet throughout 2017 – many thanks!**

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# *Campaigns*

**Air pollution**

Friends of the Earth have made more [air pollution monitoring kits](https://www.foe.co.uk/go/clean-air-kit?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=9f8a7b5550-LM1703003&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-9f8a7b5550-20757677) available for you to take part in the biggest ever air quality citizen science project. Test the air quality in the places that matter most to you, your samples will be analysed in a laboratory and the results will be combined into a national ‘state of the nation’ air quality report to put pressure on Government and others to take action.

**Climate change**

* The record-breaking heat that made 2016 the hottest year ever recorded has continued into 2017, pushing the world into "[truly uncharted territory](https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/climate-breaks-multiple-records-2016-global-impacts)", according to the World Meteorological Organisation. The WMO’s assessment of the climate in 2016, published this month, reports unprecedented heat across the globe, exceptionally low ice at both poles and surging sea-level rise
* G20 nations look set to [renege on pledges to finance climate mitigation](https://www.bloombergquint.com/politics/2017/03/09/g-20-document-shows-governments-retreating-from-climate-funding) strategies, including the $100bn fund for developing countries, with ministers instead calling on development banks to raise private capital to meet the bill. This could effectively kill the Paris Agreement.
* EU member states want to weaken their [2030 energy efficiency targets](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Member-states-move-to-weaken-EU-energy-efficiency-targets/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%201f0b28409d-dailynewsletter), while the European Parliament and European Commission are pushing to strengthen them.
* The [Greater Manchester Low-Emission Strategy](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/downloads/download/79/gm_low-emission_strategy_dec_2016),  [Air Quality Action Plan](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/downloads/download/78/gm_air_quality_action_plan_2016-21)  and [Climate Change and Low-Emission Implementation Plan](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/downloads/file/221/change_and_low_emissions_implementation_plan_2016-2020)  are now available to view online.

**Bees**

**On 19 May the** [Great British Bee Count](https://act.foe.co.uk/act/join-great-british-bee-count?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=001491fbc4-LM1703013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-001491fbc4-20757677) **launches again!** Since 1900, the UK has lost 20 species of bee, and a further 35 are considered under threat of extinction. So it’s vital that we better understand how they’re doing across the country. You can help by counting and recording all the bees you see this summer with the free app from Friends of the Earth. The European Commission is moving towards a [total ban on neonicitinoid insecticides](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/23/europe-poised-for-total-ban-on-bee-harming-pesticides) being used outside.

**Fracking in Lancashire**

The scale of the recently-approved [shale gas development off Preston New Road](http://www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk/our-region/blackpool/drone-images-show-scale-of-fracking-operation-1-8439194) has been revealed through drone photography. Campaigners say that the pads could accommodate up to 60 wells, rather than the four that Cuadrilla have been given permission for. Cuadrilla say they are simply complying with the terms of their planning approval. The decision to grant permission has been [challenged in the high court](https://drillordrop.com/2017/03/15/shale-gas-regulation-is-not-up-to-scratch-high-court-challenge-to-lancs-fracking-consent/) this month, with a decision still pending.

**Community energy in Greater Manchester**

Are you involved in a [community energy project in Greater Manchester](http://gmlch.ontheplatform.org.uk/article/calling-all-community-energy-projects-greater-manchester)? GM are involved in a 4½ year European funded project to research and expand the community energy sector. If either your organisation or any organisations you know of would be interested in taking part in this project and potentially joining the GM stakeholder group, please email Andy Hunt andrew.hunt@oldham.gov.uk, who will be in touch with a view to meeting up for an interview.

**Litter, waste & fly-tipping**

Keep Britain Tidy has launched [Crime Not To Care](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/crimenottocare/2827), a fly-tipping awareness and prevention campaign, as national fly-tipping rates increased for the third year in a row. Meanwhile, the Environmental Audit Committee has launched an inquiry into [waste from plastic bottles and coffee cups](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry4/), picking up on campaigning by CPRE and others for [deposit return schemes](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4508-beat-the-bottle?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=campaigns_update_march_2017&utm_content=Campaigns+Update+2017+March+-+non+members). The gap between English and Welsh recycling rates continues to grow as [Wales](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-39115743) hits 62% while [England](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/dec/15/recycling-rates-england-drop-first-time) has slipped back to 43%. Independently, Wales would now rank as the second-best recycling nation in Europe, behind Germany.

**Cycling**

New figures suggest that [91% of today’s children aren’t getting enough exercise](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/news/91-today%E2%80%99s-children-are-not-getting-enough-exercise). The survey was conducted in support of this year’s [Big Pedal](http://bigpedal.org.uk/) event, powered by [Sustrans](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/news/91-today%E2%80%99s-children-are-not-getting-enough-exercise), to help get more children cycling to school.

**Cumbria’s Top 50 Trees**

[Cumbria’s Top 50 Trees](http://www.cumbriastop50trees.org.uk/) is a celebration of the county’s biggest and most magnificent living plants. All the trees have been nominated by members of the public. Those 50 trees – and the unique stories behind them – are now in our special gallery awaiting your votes to decide the most popular. Their aim is to help protect all the fantastic trees in Cumbria that help to make our landscapes so special. They also have an [exhibition](http://www.cumbriastop50trees.org.uk/events/) touring Cumbria until the end of May.

# *Information update*

## Brexit & beyond and the 25 year plans

* A new [Environment Links UK Brexit Nature Coalition](http://www.wcl.org.uk/brexit-nature-coalition.asp) is developing and coordinating shared policy, advocacy and campaigns work on Brexit issues, with a focus on protecting the natural environment across the UK countries as we move through the Brexit process. Comprising legal and policy experts from across the four UK Link organisations - [Northern Ireland Environment Link](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/), [Scottish Environment Link](http://www.scotlink.org/), [Wales Environment Link](http://www.waleslink.org/) and [Wildlife and Countryside Link](http://www.wcl.org.uk/) - the group aims to ensure that the UK Government delivers its promises, in each of the UK countries, to bring all EU environmental legislation into domestic law. Current work includes: mapping the implications of Brexit on the environment across the four devolved countries; developing ideas and options for 'rebuilding' EU protections that may be lost as a result of the Great Repeal Bill; exploring effective policies to protect and enhance the natural environment, including through new legislation; and taking a strategic overview of relevant areas of work, with a UK focus, that are not being addressed in other Link groups. The Group is working with [Greener UK](http://greeneruk.org/vision.php) on this important area of work.
* Leading Brexiter Michael Gove has explicitly called for [EU environmental protection rules to be scrapped.](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-regulations-michael-gove-environment-drugs-a7649041.html)

## Energy

* The Government has taken a low-profile U-turn on fracking under National Parks and AONBs, using a statutory instrument to revise the previous ban so that it would [only put limits on “high volume” fracking in these areas](http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2017/03/10/fracking-risk-for-cannock-chase-as-government-sneaks-through-new-rules/). No definition of “high volume” has been forthcoming, leaving our most valued landscapes relatively unprotected.
* Analysis by Carbon Brief suggests that [UK carbon emissions fell by 6%](http://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-cuts-carbon-record-coal-drop) in 2016, due to a major decrease in coal use for energy generation
* However, the BEIS committee have said that they are ‘deeply worried’ about the [gap between the Government’s ambitions](https://www.edie.net/news/11/MP-s--deeply-worried--about-gaps-between-UK-climate-targets-and-policy-delivery/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%208027b8266b-dailynewsletter) set out in the 5th Carbon Budget and the lack of policies able to deliver them.
* New research by Imperial College London on behalf of Drax suggests that [without the carbon price support](http://www.drax.com/energy-policy/taxing-coal-off-the-system/) (which there have been calls to scrap), UK carbon emissions would be 21% higher
* The government has been forced to pay nearly £100m in a settlement with two US companies for mishandling the way it awarded a [£6.1bn nuclear decommissioning contract](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/mar/27/uk-nuclear-decommissioning-debacle-costs-government-100m). The contract has now been cancelled anyway, just two years into a 14-year contract, as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority underestimated the scale of the work required to clean up some of the 12 sites covered. The decisions have left the UK’s nuclear decommissioning programme in some uncertainty.
* The RTPI has published an [advice guide](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2017/march/new-advice-on-fracking-and-the-planning-system-for-communities/) for Planning Aid volunteers, politicians, community groups and individuals affected by shale gas proposals.

## Planning

* The Housing and Planning Act's ['permission in principle'](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/402/introduction/made) (PiP) for sites allocated for housing will come into force on April 15, according to a statutory instrument published by the government this week. The duty for planning authorities to keep a [brownfield register](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/403/pdfs/uksi_20170403_en.pdf) will come into force a day later. PiP will grant provisional consent for "housing-led" development on sites allocated in the new brownfield registers, development plan documents or neighbourhood plans, or via applications made directly to local authorities on unallocated sites. Once PiP is granted, technical details consent will be needed to implement it and conditions may be attached, but the local authority will not be able to reconsider the principle of use.
* A court case had shed a little bit more light on the [scope for ‘garden-grabbing’](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2017/141.html). It has clarified that, for the purposes of this issue, only gardens within built-up areas are exempt from the definition of brownfield land. So the gardens of farmhouses and other buildings in the countryside, at least, will be considered brownfield. It is still not clear how much development is required for a garden to qualify as being ‘in a built-up area’, ie the status of hamlets and villages is still unclear.
* Research by consultants Barton Willmore indicates that although a simplified, standardized method for working out a district’s housing need (as proposed in the Housing White Paper) would be likely to increase housing targets across England as a whole, it would substantially [decrease measures of need and targets in the North](http://www.bartonwillmore.co.uk/Knowledge/Blogs/2017/North-s-housing-need-could-be-at-threat), depressing Local Plan housing targets by 13% and Objectively Assessed Need by 19% across the North West.
* The government has published guidance on [including housing as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601461/Housing_and_Planning_Act_guidance.pdf) (NSIP). The maximum number of homes that can be granted through a Development Consent Order when permanent housing is being provided based on geographical proximity or functional linkage to an infrastructure project should be 500. The secretary of state is “very unlikely” to consent to more than this for a single NSIP. Housing on its own cannot be considered an NSIP. Development (infrastructure etc) associated with the housing can also be included.
* A report by Localis, endorsed by BEIS Minister Greg Clark, recommends that the Government’s industrial strategy should require [all parts of the country to develop sub-regional spatial plans](http://www.localis.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/004_Localis_IndustrialStrategy_AWK_WEB-1.pdf), like that being progressed in Greater Manchester.
* Gavin Barwell has said (in an [interview with Planning Resource](http://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1427749/interview-gavin-barwell-minister-housing-planning), paywall protected) that he is unlikely to intervene to take local plan production out of the hands of Local Authorities that are too slow in bringing plans forward until after the revisions to the NPPF have been published. The Government had originally said that they would start stepping in in ‘early 2017’. He has also said that allowing private sector consultants to process planning applications and allowing developers to demolish offices in order to build houses are still on the Government’s agenda, but are not priorities.
* Sajid Javid has approved outline plans for 97 homes on a site at Hassocks in West Sussex, despite concluding that the decision could 'lead to an [erosion of local confidence in neighbourhood planning](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-parcel-at-london-road-hassocks-west-sussex-ref-2226987-16-march-2017)'.
* Greg Clark has approved plans for an [underground gas storage](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/keuper-gas-storage-project/) facility capable of holding 500 million cubic metres of gas at a site in Cheshire.

**Spring Budget 2017**

The Chancellor [failed to mention climate change](https://www.carbonbrief.org/spring-budget-2017-key-climate-energy-announcements) at all in the [Budget](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/spring-budget-2017), while saying that it was vital to extract every last drop of oil and gas from UK territory; committing to [£90 million new spending on roads in the North](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/budget-2017-transport-funding-announced-for-the-midlands-and-the-north) (here’s a map showing [funded schemes](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/597908/congestion-relief-programme-map-march-2017.pdf)); and imposing a [tax hike of 800% on some rooftop solar](http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/solar-industry-budget-2017-800-per-cent-tax-increase-green-renewable-energy-a7618191.html) schemes. [The Wildlife Trusts](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/2017/03/08/our-response-2017-spring-budget) managed to find something slightly positive to say, but on the whole [analysis suggests](http://www.environmenttimes.co.uk/news/item/488-budget-2017-reaction-to-green-aspects-or-lack-of) that the ‘greenest government ever’ joke has worn thin to beyond threadbare.

# *Publications*

**The End of the Road? Challenging the road-building consensus**

[The End of the Road?,](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/transport/roads/item/4543-the-end-of-the-road-challenging-the-road-building-consensus) a new report from CPRE, reveals that road-building is failing to provide the congestion relief and economic boost promised, while devastating the environment. It directly challenges government claims that ‘the economic gains from road investment are beyond doubt’; that road-building will lead to ‘mile a minute’ journeys; and that the impact on the environment will be limited ‘as far as possible’. The report shows how road building over the past two decades has repeatedly failed to live up to similar aims. It is based on a study commissioned by CPRE and carried out by consultants Transport for Quality of Life (TfQL), which examined 86 official studies of completed road schemes. The TfQL research is published separately as [The Impacts of Road Projects in England](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/transport/roads/item/4542-the-impact-of-road-projects-in-england).

**Nature connection**

Over the last 15 years, nature connection has become a recognised and measurable psychological construct – one that describes an individual’s sense of their relationship with the natural world, our emotional attachment and beliefs about our inclusion within nature. These aspects affect our being – how we experience the world, our emotional response, our attitudes and behaviour towards nature. [This blog](https://findingnature.org.uk/2017/03/24/beyond-contact-with-nature-to-connection/) accompanies the launch of the [Nature Connections 2016 conference report](https://www.derby.ac.uk/media/derbyacuk/contentassets/documents/ehs/collegeoflifeandnaturalsciences/research/centreforpsychologicalresearch/NCx2016-Report.pdf) which expands on why nature connection matters for wellbeing, summarises nature connection research and highlights key steps forward.

**Green Building - but who will do it?**

The [UK Green Building Council](http://www.ukgbc.org/news/uks-construction-and-property-industry-can-help-solve-key-social-and-economic-challenges-0) has released a new report suggesting how the construction industry can help the Government improve housebuilding standards, improve economic growth and help achieve binding carbon targets. It says this will only be possible if an array of new policies are introduced, including the re-introduction of a zero-carbon standard for new housing and the refurbishment of 25 million homes to high levels of energy efficiency. It includes case studies of current good practice. They have also just published guidance on [embodied carbon measurement](http://www.ukgbc.org/news/uk-gbc-publishes-embodied-carbon-guidance-clients). Meanwhile, Arcadis have published a report suggesting that to meet planned housing and infrastructure requirements, the industry would have to [recruit over 400,000 new skilled staff every year](https://www.arcadis.com/media/4/B/9/%7B4B999107-2F44-42E2-94D7-43FDD0963378%7D9784_Talent%20Scale%20FINAL%20WEB_2102.pdf) – one person every 77 seconds. So, a good time to make the UK a hostile environment for all those skilled European builders, plumbers, carpenters etc then… This does cast real doubt on whether excessively high housing targets can be achieved nationally.

**Greater Manchester: Treading Lightly for Shared Prosperity**

[Steady State Manchester](https://steadystatemanchester.net/2017/03/02/policies-for-the-city-region-our-full-report-out-now/?mc_cid=8200f6f6c6&mc_eid=d44b746384) have published their alternative vision and approach to the opportunities presented by devolution. In it they explore and promote policies and practices to help society and economy in Greater Manchester meet the key challenges of climate change and environmental destruction, together with inequality and economic vulnerability. They offer further [reflections on the future development of the city region](https://steadystatemanchester.net/2017/02/23/what-kind-of-a-city-and-region-do-we-want/?mc_cid=8200f6f6c6&mc_eid=d44b746384) on their website.

# *Events*

**Morecambe Bay Partnership annual conference**

The [Partnership’s annual conference](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/morecambe-bay-partnership-conference-agm-2017-tickets-32691357731) is on Wednesday 5th April, 10-4.30, Victoria Hall, Grange-Over-Sands. The day will cover the cave sites around Grange, their projects including the Coastal Community Team, trampers, electric bikes, looking after the Bay's birds and coastal habitats, stories from local fisherman and residents of the Bay, developing art projects and artworks and how they are uncovering the fascinating story of Warton Crag through antiquarian reports and modern remote sensing lidar. Details of their spring programme of events around the Bay can be found on their [events page](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/events).

**Save Greater Manchester’s Green Belt Rally**

Save Greater Manchester Greenbelt is an umbrella association representing many of the local 'Save the Green Belt groups' across GM. They are holding a [rally](https://www.facebook.com/events/673236919523901/) outside the Town Hall in Albert Square, 1-2pm on April 1st in protest at the thousands of hectares of Green Belt land proposed for building in the [Spatial Framework](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/GMSF).

**Carbon-free Liverpool**

What would a carbon-free Liverpool look like? Following the recent launch of the new report [Zero Carbon Britain: Making it Happen](http://zerocarbonbritain.com/en/), Liverpool Community Renewables (LCR) and the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), are collaborating and co-creating a series of events in Liverpool. The report highlights the vital role of the arts and cultural bodies to help catalyse this transformation. The arts can communicate and inspire in ways that science, politics, academia, media and other disciplines cannot. Together, they want to explore what a zero carbon Liverpool would look and feel like, and together, how do we make it happen. The [launch of the project](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-incredible-story-of-carbon-musical-performance-launch-of-zero-carbon-liverpool-tickets-32950091611) on Friday April 7th, 7-9pm, is a cultural event looking at the story of humans and energy, which will be followed by two workshops on the 18th and 20th May.

**Energise Festival**

Celebrate low carbon, diverse and just communities at [Carbon Co-op's Energise Festival](http://www.energise-mcr.info/), a weekend of music, food, talks, workshops, poetry, theatre, open eco-homes, films, family friendly activities and more. Come along to be inspired, learn practical skills and have fun! Main festival at Hulme Community Garden Centre, Saturday 1st April, other events across Manchester over the weekend.

**Free webinars**

The Ecosystems Knowledge Network are offering hour-long [free webinars](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/events/webinars) for environmental and sustainability practitioners. The next in the series are on the social distribution of ecosystems services in England (30 March); lessons learned from three trial projects in sustainable management of natural resources in Wales – (27 April); and using the ecosystem approach to fulfil the UK’s international conservation obligations. (29 June)

# *Resources*

**Landlines: A strategic approach to land use**

This new pamphlet from CPRE argues that the case for a national approach to land use is more pressing than ever by showing that England’s land is under an increasing multitude of pressures. The current, fragmentary approach to land use is failing to address the problems caused by often conflicting demands: environmental degradation, rising costs and harm to health and wellbeing. The ‘Landlines’ pamphlet brings together a number of experts to argue for greater national coordination on land use, a longer term approach that can enhance both the environment and the economy.

**Changing environmental behaviour**

The University of Derby has launched a [part-time, distance learning MSc course](https://findingnature.org.uk/2017/03/01/how-to-change-human-behaviour-to-improve-the-state-of-nature/) in Behavioural Change, with a specific focus on environmental behaviours. The first of its kind, the programme challenges assumptions about behaviour change. It is aimed at people who want to gain new knowledge to support their work, and at graduates from a broad range of disciplines who would like to specialise in behaviour change and add social science to their skill set. The programme covers psychological theories and models so that people can develop a greater understanding of human behaviour and behaviour change.

**Health and environment**

Defra and the University of Exeter have published a succinct summary of the evidence base on the positive associations between the environment and people's health. The document is a useful resource for local environment projects seeking to partner with organisations in the health system. It features, alongside a wealth of more detailed information, on the Ecosystem Knowledge Network’s [‘environment for health’](http://ecosystemsknowledge.us12.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=0422cf0f805cd08eadbae5392&id=58309edf25&e=324a5c6036) resource page.

**Locality**

Across the country, community organisations face similar challenges. [Locality](http://locality.org.uk/members/join/) is the largest network of community-led organisations in the country, and they help their members get connected and share knowledge, learning and experience to find solutions.

**Peatland benefits**

Researchers from the University of Leeds, Scotland's Rural College and The James Hutton Institute have created a free set of communication tools that provide an introduction to the benefits associated with improving the condition of peatland. One is aimed at helping the [public to learn about peatland](http://ecosystemsknowledge.us12.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=0422cf0f805cd08eadbae5392&id=db0e170931&e=324a5c6036) and the other at [land managers](http://ecosystemsknowledge.us12.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=0422cf0f805cd08eadbae5392&id=fded4e25ad&e=324a5c6036) wanting to assess the value of peatland.

**Catchment Management**

The [Catchment Management Modelling Platform](http://www.cammp.org.uk/) (CaMMP) is an on-line resource for organisations involved in catchment management from the local to national scale. It aims to improve access to data and models, as well as integration between them, to help address the key questions in catchment management for water quality and wider ecosystem services.

**Impact measurement**

Accessing funding usually involves some means of showing the impact you have. If you’re a charity or social enterprise looking to grow, there are grants available to [develop an impact measurement system](http://accessimpact.org/news/pilot-grant-applications-now-open/) from start to finish. Locality can [work with you to help work out](http://locality.org.uk/locality-consultancy/impact-management-programme/) what to measure, how to measure it and how to talk about it so you can access new funding and grow your reach.

# *Consultations*

**Housing White Paper**

A reminder that, as highlighted last month, the [Housing White Paper consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fixing-our-broken-housing-market-consultation) is open until May 2nd. [The Woodland Trust](https://campaigns.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1743&ea.campaign.id=64023&ea.tracking.id=facebook) is promoting an e-action to ensure that ancient woodland and veteran trees get additional protection.

# *Funding*

**Sport England Community Asset Fund**

This new capital fund is dedicated to [enhancing the spaces in your local community](https://www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund/). As well as traditional sports facilities where people enjoy physical activity, there are thousands of outdoor spaces up and down the country – like canal towpaths, woodlands and open spaces – all with great potential to be used and enjoyed as part of an active lifestyle. Sport England are keen to hear from any sports club or community organisation with a great idea that will make a difference to the places where people (could) play sport or get active. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never accessed funding before.

**Spacehive**

[Spacehive](https://www.spacehive.com/) is the UK’s dedicated crowdfunding platform for projects that make places better. They connect project ideas to the people, councils, companies and grant-makers ready and willing to fund them. It provides a single portal where people with ideas can build support from their community, ensure their plans are viable, pitch for funding from the crowd and their partners at the same time, and share the impact they've created.

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To subscribe or contribute

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VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

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