

* **Green Bullet**

28th April 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](https://www.vsnw.org.uk/green-bullet) website.

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

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# *Campaigns*

**General election**

[CPRE](http://www.cpre.org.uk/component/k2/item/4582-cpre-manifesto-for-general-election-2017) and [Sustain](https://www.sustainweb.org/brexit/general_election_2017/) have released their own manifestos for the General Election, [Wildlife and Countryside Link](http://www.wcl.org.uk/general-election-2017.asp) have called on all parties to include five key commitments in their manifestos, the [Wildlife Trusts](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/GE2017) are calling on members to ask their parliamentary candidates to commit to three key principles, and all members of the Greener UK coalition will be pushing for the parties to act on their [environmental manifesto for a post-Brexit Britain.](http://greeneruk.org/resources/Greener_UK_Manifesto.pdf)

**Climate change**

* Led by WWF, more than 30 construction, heat and energy efficiency firms have urged ministers to use the upcoming BEIS emission reduction strategy – now known as the [Clean Growth Plan](http://renews.biz/106024/clean-growth-plan-due-in-june/), and allegedly due in June – to provide clarity for businesses on [tackling emissions from buildings](https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/uks-low-carbon-buildings-sector-calls-uk-government-publish-climate-action-plan), one of the “weakest areas of Government policy to tackle climate change”. The plan, originally due out last year and intended to address “the persistent and unlawful gap between legally binding carbon budgets and current plans and policies”, has been delayed for so long that [Client Earth are threatening the Government with legal action](http://www.cleanenergynews.co.uk/news/storage/government-threatened-with-legal-action-over-continued-delays-to-emissions). However, the Minister responsible says that the Plan is now ‘[in a holding pattern’](http://www.cleanenergynews.co.uk/news/solar/clean-growth-plan-in-a-holding-pattern-following-election-announcement)
* Only three European countries are on course to achieve the [Paris Agreement targets](https://www.transportenvironment.org/sites/te/files/publications/2017_03_EU_Climate_Leader_Board_policy_brief_final.pdf), according to new research by Transport & Environment and Carbon Market Watch. The UK is ranked in fifth position in terms of its progress, which is judged “insufficient”.
* Despite this, [the EU has led criticism of the Trump administration](https://www.edie.net/news/9/EU-leads-attacks-on-Trump-s-rollback-of-Obama-climate-policy/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20e6dd0ecb63-dailynewsletter)’s attempts to roll back the USA’s existing climate commitments, claiming that Europe will now take the lead in global efforts to tackle climate chnange
* Heathrow has launched [ambitious plans](http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/heathrow-boss-pledges-growth-from-third-runway-will-be-carbon-neutral-a3478286.html) to ensure that all growth in aviation from the new proposed new runway will be carbon-neutral, and that by 2050 the airport will be zero-carbon and zero-waste. However, the House of Commons [Environmental Audit Committee](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/heathrow-expansion-report-published-16-17/) warned that expansion at Heathrow could create a “black hole” in future carbon budgets, wiping out reductions in other sectors, and criticized the Government’s failure to explain how air quality, carbon and noise impacts could be adequately mitigated.
* [Cutting global emissions in half by 2040 is possible](http://www.energy-transitions.org/better-energy-greater-prosperity), but only if governments, investors and businesses act now and "set the stage" for further reductions required in the second half of the century, according to new research from a diverse group of investors, companies and NGOs.

**Air quality**

* Friends of the Earth have called on the Government to commit to strong new air pollution measures, including creation of a new [Clean Air Act](https://cdn.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/plan-clean-air-everywhere-103274.pdf) and a plan to end illegal pollution in 2018as a new survey shows that almost half of UK citizens support restriction on polluting vehicles.
* However, the Government has tried to [delay publishing its plans for reducing air pollution](https://www.clientearth.org/judge-refuses-uk-government-permission-delay-air-quality-plan-til-general-election/) until after the General Election, despite having been twice ordered by the courts to do so because its unlawful lack of action. It has now been ordered yet again by the courts to publish those plans, but further appeals mean that it will probably be able to conceal its intentions until after the vote…
* …despite the fact that new figures show that almost [60% of the UK population lives in areas with illegally high air pollution](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/apr/22/nearly-40-million-people-live-in-uk-areas-with-illegal-air-pollution), with [over 2,000 schools](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/apr/04/thousands-of-british-children-exposed-to-illegal-levels-of-air-pollution) in the same situation.

**Litter Strategy**

The Government has unveiled the first ever [litter strategy for England](http://www.incpen.org/resource/data/incpen1/docs/LitterStrategy2017.pdf) in an effort to reduce the near £800m clean-up costs annually. Measures include potential £150 fines for litterers and penalty notices for vehicle owners from whose car litter is thrown, and a Litter Innovation Fund to support small-scale community initiatives, strengthening the work of groups and individuals.  Organisations campaigning on litter such as [CPRE](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/sound-bites/item/4567-new-national-litter-strategy-will-forge-a-more-beautiful-and-resourceful-england) and [Keep Britain Today](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/we-welcome-country-s-first-ever-litter-strategy/2830/2/1/999/3) have welcomed the move.

**Tree Charter**

The Woodland Trust will plant a tree for every signature to the [Tree Charter](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/tree-charter/). So get everyone you know to sign up today!

**30 Days Wild**

In the lead up to the [30 Days Wild campaign](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/30days) in June, intended to get people to take small steps to connect more with nature, the Wildlife Trusts are encouraging schools, businesses and community groups to sign up to receive a pack of wild goodies, plus lots of ideas to inspire you to go wild. **30 Days Wild** is all about taking a little bit of time every day to do something a little bit wild, so take the challenge and you might just find yourself feeling a little bit healthier, happier and wilder!

**Nature in North West City Regions**

The local Wildlife Trusts have produced manifestos for nature in the [Liverpool City Region](https://www.lancswt.org.uk/what-we-do/liverpool-mayoral-elections) and [Greater Manchester](http://www.lancswt.org.uk/what-we-do/manchester-mayoral-elections) (along with the National Trust and RSPB), asking the soon-to-be-elected metro mayors to leave the city regions’ nature in a better state when they leave office than when they starts, nd setting out a series of recommendations to help that happen..

**Environmental Justice**

The High Court has fast-tracked the challenge by green groups against the government’s [attempt to restrict access to environmental justice](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/high-court-fast-tracks-challenge-to-new-environmental-justice-rules) by removing the cap on costs that may be awarded against claimants.

**Cumbrian churches environmental champions**

The Environment Group at Churches Together in Cumbria is building a network of champions around the county who are interested in leading actions within their church and wider community to tackle environmental and climate change challenges. From fitting LED lighting to focusing on the environment in worship and teaching, there are a range of actions that the group can suggest. [Find out more and become a champion](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hycxG0rKKbcIFDIPfzd6SkSusWA6LN5kuzBg1M0AucNidfEalYj6OqVMUMBP3erSJyv_z14-YFG0j6NxPcp6vyMtX9ioXBZcpkwAefw55Pb4VGOLdGCzV9Ak-sNGHIYX7WeOfNB0qTWwCkT-1EpSHtWJvvRR7OZGOFYIsjQR8v9z5_3fQfgqIdQAx1RHylLQL8UhQXRVgwgvxdAlc-7HwdxJZ6mmHEPR9ts0oE7Kar8=&c=iQaJnQbeQ-1qakpeOYNREz-JxkF_obK-_W-EBoAHR-VyQSYL9EmADg==&ch=-gWbqMppaJBW3bApMs0DFT1wb1re9UA8J5yLvLhTkcQUyACNuSQSJg==).

# *Information update*

## Brexit & beyond and the 25 year plans

* A snap general election, with a new set of manifestos from all the parties imminent but not yet available just means [more uncertainty and ambiguity](https://www.edie.net/news/11/General-election--What-it-could-mean-for-the-green-economy/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%202bc04c3cef-dailynewsletter) for no about what the future holds for the environment
* [Environmental groups have been critical](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Great-Repeal-Bill-raises-environmental-concerns-for-green-groups/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20804c445b45-dailynewsletter) of the ‘[Great Repeal Bill’](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604516/Great_repeal_bill_white_paper_accessible.pdf), which is intended to transpose EU legislation into UK law following Brexit, claiming that it is too ambiguous and general, gives Ministers sweeping powers to make significant changes without scrutiny, and does not guarantee environmental protections.
* Wildlife and Countryside Link have published an [analysis of the Great Repeal Bill](http://www.wcl.org.uk/repeal-bill-stricter-scrutiny-needed-to-make-the-white-paper-green.asp), concluding that much stronger safeguards are needed to ensure a green Brexit and setting out three recommendations to help this happen.
* Edie provides an in-depth examination of what [Brexit might mean for the environment and green business](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Brexit-Article-50-impact-on-UK-environment-and-sustainable-business/?adfesuccess=1) in the UK following the triggering of Article 50. Although this was published before the general election was called, so things are even more in flux now…
* Ministers have been criticized for [refusing to guarantee that air pollution standards will be maintained](http://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/ministers-condemned-for-failing-to-pledge-air-pollution-standards-will-be-kept-postbrexit-a3526146.html) in the UK after Brexit
* Defra is coming under increasing pressure to start consulting on its long awaited [25-year plan for the environment](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-39557565), after a leaked version was criticized by a wide range of sustainability and environmental organisations as lacking teeth, solutions, and even policies – while [the EU has released a new plan for improving nature](https://www.clientearth.org/concrete-action-essential-eu-unveils-new-action-plan-nature/) and biodiversity across the continent.
* The Government has responded to the House of Lords EU Environment and Energy sub-committee's inquiry into the Environment post-Brexit. [The response](http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-energy-environment-subcommittee/Brexit-environment-climate-change/Gov-response-Brexit-env-climate.pdf), which contains copy-and-pasted sections from the draft, as yet unpublished 25 year plan, appears hurried, cobbled together, and [extremely worrying](https://anewnatureblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/28/a-further-peep-behind-the-curtain-of-defras-thinking-about-environment-and-agriculture-after-brexit/), suggesting that enforcement of and planning for environmental protection will become increasingly weakened
* An unlikely alliance of business entrepreneurs, media personalities and sporting figures have come together with green groups to warn that [Brexit could lead to an "environmental race to the bottom"](https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/government-warned-against-environmental-race-bottom-during-brexit-negotiations) if climate change and environmental protection commitments are watered down, as leaked Government documents have suggested.
* Wildlife and Countryside Link published several Brexit-related blogs in April, on [how trade deals could affect agriculture](http://www.wcl.org.uk/agriculture-faces-trade-deal-challenges.asp) when the UK exits the EU, calling on Government to take a more [joined up approach to farming](http://www.wcl.org.uk/farming-is-part-of-a-much-greater-whole.asp) as we say goodbye to the Common Agricultural Policy[, and post-Brexit wildlife trafficking](http://www.wcl.org.uk/what-does-brexit-mean-for-wildlife-trafficking.asp), [impacts of air pollution on nature](http://www.wcl.org.uk/we-need-to-talk-about-nitrogen-air-pollutions-impact-on-nature.asp).

## Energy

* The Government has [sold the Green Investment Bank](http://energydesk.greenpeace.org/2017/04/22/green-investment-bank-sale-privatisation-macquarie-gib/) to an organisation that supports fracking, and which appears to be preparing to asset-strip it

## Planning

* The [Neighbourhood Planning Bill](http://lichfields.uk/blog/2017/april/28/neighbourhood-planning-act-2017-a-push-for-speedier-plan-making-and-site-starts/) (now Act!) was given Royal Assent before the dissolution of Parliament, and includes provisions intended to strengthen the role of neighbourhood planning, including requirements that decision-makers take account of "well-advanced" neighbourhood plans, and that such plans have full legal effect once they have passed a referendum; new powers for the government to direct two or more local planning authorities to develop joint plans, and powers for county councils to prepare plans where districts have not done so; and restrictions on council powers to impose planning conditions
* [New Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/introduction/made) have been laid before Parliament, to come into effect next month, which will affect the ways in which Environmental Statements are prepared, the ways in which the public are notified, the factors to be included and the circumstances in which projects may be exempt. Pretty weighty stuff, but plain English guidance is thin on the ground – [try this for now](https://simonicity.wordpress.com/author/simonicity/)
* According to [Government projections](http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7671), 210,000 households will form per year between 2014 and 2039. Last year saw 190,000 new homes delivered, an increase on previous years but still less than the numbers that the Government says is needed to meet future demand and deal with the historic backlog. So, more pressure on Green Belt and greenfield land on its way.
* [New figures](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/land-use-change-statistics-2015-to-2016) show that in 2015-16, 61% of new homes were on brownfield land, up from 58% last year. 2% of new homes were in the Green Belt (down from 3% last year), but 57% of these were on brownfield land within the Green Belt.
* After an initial cautious welcome, further analysis by CPRE suggests that the [Housing White Paper presents more of a threat to the Green Belt](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4552-housing-white-paper-empty-promises-on-green-belt?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=campaigns_update_2017_apr_non_members&utm_content=Campaigns+Update+2017+April+-+non-members) than the headline assurances might suggest.
* Housing and planning minister Gavin Barwell has announced that local authorities across England will now have to produce and maintain up-to-date [registers listing all brownfield sites](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/government-launches-brownfield-registers) available for housing. [Guidance on the new registers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brownfield-registers-and-permission-in-principle/brownfield-registers-and-permission-in-principle-frequently-asked-questions) and permission-in-principle has been published.
* The government's proposed housing delivery test – which would, from November, measure delivery over a three year period against housing targets, and penalize authorities that were not achieving sufficient numbers - could require [more than half of local authorities to provide a 20 per cent buffer](http://lichfields.uk/content/insights/?article=housing-delivery-test) on their housing land supply
* New analysis shows that [five years after the NPPF](http://lichfields.uk/content/insights/?article=planned-and-deliver), fewer than 4 in 10 local planning authorities have seen a ‘strategic-level’ local plan through examination to adoption, whilst 43% are yet even to publish a draft local plan ready for submission to Government.
* The [High Court](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2017/788.html) has backed the [Secretary of State](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-to-the-south-of-ford-lane-east-of-north-end-road-yapton-ref-2228260-13-september-2016) in deciding that policies in a Neighbourhood Plan can prevent housing development, even where there is a shortfall against the five year supply – and even though the Inspector recommended approval, having given more weight to the housing shortfall than to the Plan.
* In news that may make some suspect there is an election coming, the [Secretary of State dismissed 6 housing appeals](https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=department-for-communities-and-local-government) on April 21st, including three around Tattenhall due to conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Transport**

* London has been ranked second for cities leading the push to [decarbonise its transport sector](https://www.qualcomm.com/documents/urban-mobility-index-report), making it a "likely candidate" to become the world's first zero-emissions city, according to a new report.
* The Department for Transport has finally published its [Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy), originally campaigned for by an alliance of NGOs in 2014. [Detailed guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-technical-guidance-and-tools) has been published setting out how local authorities and communities can draw up Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans, which can be integrated into local and neighbourhood plans.

# *Publications*

**Using Natural Capital**

The Natural Capital Committee recently published [How to do it – a natural capital workbook](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/608852/ncc-natural-capital-workbook.pdf). This practical guide and its supporting paper on [valuing natural capital](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/608850/ncc-natural-capital-valuation.pdf) are aimed at anyone who wants to use natural capital approaches in making decisions about the natural environment, including planners, communities and landowners, and have particular relevance for place-based decisions. As an initial draft, and with the aim of working in partnership with its intended audience, the NCC welcome your input: send any comments to NaturalCapitalCommittee@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

**Natural capital and ecosystem services mapping**

Natural Capital Solutions, in partnership with the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area and the University of Northampton, has conducted a [comprehensive mapping of natural capital, ecosystem services and their monetary values](http://www.naturalcapitalsolutions.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Mapping-natural-capital-ecosystem-services-in-the-Nene-Valley.pdf) in the Nene catchment. It highlights the interdependencies between the natural environment, people and the economy.

**Outsourcing air pollution**

Western consumers who buy cheap imported toys, clothes and mobile phones are indirectly contributing to [hundreds of thousands of pollution-related deaths](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/international-air-pollution-linked-1-170030566.html) in the countries where the goods are produced, according to a [landmark study](https://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v543/n7647/nature21712/metrics/news) published in Nature. Nearly 3.5 million people die prematurely each year due to air pollution, the research estimates, and about 22% of these deaths are associated with goods and services that were produced in one region for consumption in another.

**Industrial strategy - fit for the future?**

Green Alliance have released a [new report](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/industrial_strategy_fit_for_the_future.php) which brings together the views of respected thinkers from politics, business, trade unions and academia on the kind of economy the Government’s [industrial strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/building-our-industrial-strategy) should be building and the role low carbon and resource efficiency can play. [CPRE have released their response](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/item/4574-cpre-response-to-industrial-strategy-green-paper-consultation) to the draft strategy, which has also [come under fire from the RTPI](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/499/planning_news_-_20_april_2017?utm_source=PPQ+Newsletter&utm_campaign=939b1b550f-Newsletter_20042017_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_734e0b63a9-939b1b550f-6976173#three) for failing to engage with key priorities that should drive industrial policy, such as climate change and environmental protection

**20:20 – The Climate Turning Point**

A new report has highlighted [2020 as the necessary game-changing year on global emissions](https://newclimate.org/2017/04/10/2020-climate-turning-point/) that can set into a motion a series of transitions to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and reach net zero carbon by 2050. The report highlights that in the next three years, businesses, investors and policy makers need to introduce new actions covering a wide range of sectors to hit key global climate goals. Specifically, the report stresses the need for renewables to outcompete fossil fuels by 2020.

**Devolution and Beyond**

A new publication by VSNW, [Devolution and Beyond](https://www.vsnw.org.uk/news/2017/4/6/new-publication-devolution-and-beyond), compiles essays from leading thinkers and operators in devolution, exploring how the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector can be involved, in the context of the upcoming mayoral elections in May 2017, the UK's departure from the EU, and the emerging inclusive growth agenda.

# *Events*

**Basecamp**

[Basecamp](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/basecamp-2017-an-environmental-activists-wonderland-tickets-26944808648?aff=email2&utm_campaign=1f59e5ab6d-LM1703025&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-1f59e5ab6d-20757677) **is a three day environmental festival**, offering a mix of training sessions, interesting talks on a variety of topical subjects, creative workshops, great music, fantastic food and new friendships, all set in the heart of the beautiful Peak District. **It’s organised by Friends of the Earth, but is open to everyone** – from seasoned campaigners, to people who’ve never done anything like this before **– to work together on creative solutions to some of the planet’s biggest problems**. 2-4 June.

**People’s Powerhouse**

Do you want a say in the future of the North? Join the debate about fairer, more inclusive growth. To date the Northern Powerhouse plans and narrative have focused on transport, infrastructure and business over skills, jobs, the environment and happier, healthier communities. This [People’s Powerhouse](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-peoples-powerhouse-early-bird-tickets-32881648897) convention invites the diverse community of the North to contribute their combined skills, expertise and influence to debate policy, share best practice and what’s working and create a plan for the future together. Doncaster Rovers Football Ground, 10am – 4pm, Wednesday 12 July.

**Morecambe Bay**

Morecambe Bay Partnership’s schedule of [spring-summer events](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/events) is now available, from [community arts](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/news/catching-tales) to birds to cycling to beach cleans to heritage skills and beyond…

**Green Infrastructure Partnership**

The next [Green Infrastructure Partnership North](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/green-infrastructure-partnership-north-tickets-33476619470) will be held on 20th June 2017, at the University of Liverpool.

# *Resources*

**Greening the City Regions**

Green Alliance is working with the National Trust, CPRE, The Wildlife Trusts and The Campaign for Better Transport on a [green index of the six city regions](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/city_region_green_index.php) that will be covered by the new ‘metro mayors’, including Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester. This will give a picture of progress against a set of green indicators that cover sustainable housing, low carbon transport, green infrastructure, waste and overall resilience to climate change. The insight that it offers can inform local campaigning and analysis of the devolution deals and the opportunities they offer for environmental progress. It is due to be published in full by the end of April, so watch this space!

**The ecosystem approach**

The UK is committed to the ecosystem approach: a set of principles for joined-up, people-centred management of the environment. The [Ecosystem Approach Handbook](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/handbook) - published in 2015 - contains helpful advice on how local and landscape-scale initiatives can benefit from the ecosystem approach.

**Bright Green Futures**

Young people aged 14 to 17 with an interest in the environment and climate change are invited to take part in the two-year Bright Green Future programme. It will help young people to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to embark on a career path that could influence decisions on energy and climate change. [Find out more and apply online](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hycxG0rKKbcIFDIPfzd6SkSusWA6LN5kuzBg1M0AucNidfEalYj6OqVMUMBP3erSf9hFfsBIXE_E7BrSPphzA6p4IBgHp4i2VgIu3338nUb8AMVcq7PFNpNSUc0rHcM9kVYWaf1KUGVqAzzsXEa012wwK05s_rJWIk5k-YC9mbkosHGk5ZxSaA==&c=iQaJnQbeQ-1qakpeOYNREz-JxkF_obK-_W-EBoAHR-VyQSYL9EmADg==&ch=-gWbqMppaJBW3bApMs0DFT1wb1re9UA8J5yLvLhTkcQUyACNuSQSJg==) by 4th June. Share amongst your networks!

**Local Nature Partnerships**

**Presentations from** [Dorset](https://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual_forum_2017_presentations) and the [North East](http://nelnp.co.uk/what-will-the-local-partnership-do/north-east-england-nature-partnership-2017-conference/) LNPs’ Annual Forums are available online, covering topics such as development planning, public health, the inter-relationship between environment and the economy, and a vision for Environmental Growth.

**Bee Creative**

The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society provide a [package of actions](http://wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/downloads) to take to make your garden, community green space or even office car park more friendly for bees and other wildlife, including keeping [birds](http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaee8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/BIRD-FEEDER.jpg) visiting all year round.

**Good Finance**

[Good Finance](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kliuuky-ujdljlkud-y/), a website to help community organisations and groups navigate the often complex world of social investment, has just launched. It was designed by charities & social enterprises and developed in collaboration with Locality, Big Society Capital, Access, Government and [key sector partners](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kliuuky-ujdljlkud-j/). It provides organisations with: [Educational content, resources](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kliuuky-ujdljlkud-t/) and [case studies](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kliuuky-ujdljlkud-i/); a new tool to help [decide if it’s right for you](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kliuuky-ujdljlkud-d/); and sources of investment from a [directory of investors and advisers](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kliuuky-ujdljlkud-h/).

# *Consultations*

**The Future of Localism**

[Locality](http://locality.org.uk/), in association with [Power to Change](http://mycommunity.cmail19.com/t/d-l-hkgtul-ujdljlkud-j/), are [launching a new Commission on the Future of Localism](http://mycommunity.cmail19.com/t/d-l-hkgtul-ujdljlkud-t/) to explore what is needed to reinvigorate local democracy and empower communities. The Commission will review the current opportunities of the Localism agenda and ask **if we are to imagine a new wave of powers, rights and levers for local communities, what might these look like?**

# *Funding*

**Bright Ideas Fund**

The [Bright Ideas Fund](http://mycommunity.cmail20.com/t/d-l-kllrkyk-ujdljlkud-y/) aims to give your community group the support and tools you need to set up a community business, through a programme of tailored **community business development support** and **early stage finance** of up to £20,000. Community business are businesses that are **locally rooted**, **accountable to the local community**, will **benefit the local community** and **have a broad community impact**. If your business idea sounds like it could be a community business, then this fund is for you! **Round two applications will be accepted until the 31 May 2017, from organisations in England only.**

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

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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