

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Development of a Parish based bespoke nature recovery plan

Background The parish sits within a special area of Shropshire known as the meres and mosses. With several natural meres and two SSSI sites, it is made up of the main village of Welshampton, and the hamlets of Lyneal and Colemere.

What inspired you: The mere at Colemere is a SSSI and a RAMSAR site due to it being one of only two sites in the UK to host the incredibly rare least water lily. A 'Friends of Colemere' group has championed and cared for the site for many years.

Brief history: The Parish council have promoted green initiatives for many years, the first 'Green Day' being held in 2010. We have held open evenings for parishioners with talks on Climate, Biodiversity and Sustainability, and facilitate a group of volunteers in the Parish. The group meets regularly and has three parish councillors – events such as a Sustainable 'Swish' clothes swap, a big green day, and a Habitat Creation Day have all been put on by the group with the help of the council, the parish hall and grant funding. They have also been trying to restore several verges in the village of Welshampton. The Local nature recovery plan is going to be started this spring; we have agreed for a map to be placed in the village hall where people can mark what features they know of or have for wildlife (bird/bat boxes, ponds, next sites etc.)

Welshampton and Lyneal - Initiative undertaken

Key Parish Champions	Initiative	Outcomes
Parish Councillors and clerk; volunteers from the WLC Biodiversity, Sustainability and Climate Group	Big Green Days: we invite local organic farms, renewable energy suppliers, master composters, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Local Repair Café, Colemere Rangers, CPRE, and many more to exhibit and give talks for a whole day	Many parishioners had surveys for renewable energy sources following this event. In addition, we specifically promoted gardening and how we can attract wildlife into our gardens
Parish Councillors and clerk; volunteers from the WLC Biodiversity, Sustainability and Climate Group	Habitat Creation Day: We received a grant for £500 from Freedom Fibre and bought untreated wood; a parishioner then made 12 bat boxes, 12 bird boxes and 12 bug hotels. We had Shropshire Barn Owl Group, Chirk Swifts and the Summer Wings Bird rescue groups, and Cuan Wildlife Rescue exhibit. There were also wildflower planting stations. A raffle and refreshments were charged for (all monies went to the charities exhibiting)	Parishioners took home a free bird/bat/bug box which had a QR code label telling them how to install and where to site it. They also took home compostable pots with peat free compost and wildflower seeds. We had amazing feedback and lots of people asking if we would do a repeat event.
Parish Councillors and clerk; volunteers from the WLC Biodiversity, Sustainability and Climate Group	Inspired by the wonderful Restoring Shropshire Verges Project, the group are trying to restore three verges currently within Welshampton and this year will also begin in Lyneal.	Mixed outcomes so far but we are determined to keep trying. One verge borders a field whose owner has asked if we will help plant a hedge along the whole length in 2025

<p>Parish Councillors and clerk; volunteers from the WLC Biodiversity, Sustainability and Climate Group</p> <p>Friends of Colemere</p>	<p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy/Plan</p> <p>There has been a group for many years who have helped to protect and keep tidy the whole site at Colemere; initiatives such as butterfly surveys or ridding the site of invasive species (e.g. rhododendron)</p>	<p>Work has not yet started, however we have agreed a large wall space in the village hall where we can put a map of the Parish to identify where we already have habitat or areas that can be improved upon or protected</p> <p>The parish council also have regular meetings with Shropshire council and the rangers to ensure we are all doing the best we can for the site; at present we are agreeing new information signage with them. In 2024 a new boardwalk was installed.</p>
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