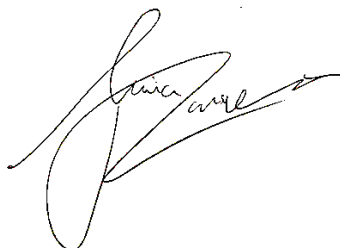


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Promoting Green Space and Biodiversity in Camden	
REPORT OF: Councillor Nina de Ayala Parker, Cabinet Advisor on Promoting Green Space and Biodiversity in Camden	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE Wednesday 15 th March 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report explores and sets out recommendations on how to improve green spaces and biodiversity across Camden.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Hannah Bennai Cabinet Officer Corporate Services 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 1750 Email: hannah.bennai@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the report of Councillor Nina de Ayala Parker, Cabinet Adviser on Promoting Green Space and Biodiversity; b) Comment on the report and recommendations ahead of the report being considered by the relevant Cabinet Member and submitted to Cabinet. 	

Signed:



Councillor Nina de Ayala Parker, Cabinet Adviser on Promoting Green Space and Biodiversity
Date: 03/03/2023



Increasing Green Spaces and Biodiversity in Camden

The climate and ecological crises are global issues,
but *local action* is part of the solution.

Cllr Nina de Ayala Parker

1. Report Outline:

- 1.1. The Leader of the Council has established Cabinet Adviser roles to provide evidence-based policy support and make recommendations to the Cabinet on specific policy areas. The Cabinet Advisers are appointed by the Leader for a period of a year and the 2022/23 Advisers were appointed in May 2022.
- 1.2. The Cabinet Advisers are not members of the Cabinet and do not have decision making powers, but rather report to the Cabinet and relevant portfolio holder on their evidence-gathering and conclusions. They present their findings in a report to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for comment, after which their report goes on to Cabinet alongside a response from the relevant Cabinet Member outlining their response to the recommendations.
- 1.3. Councillor Nina de Ayala Parker has been appointed as Cabinet Advisor on Promoting Green Space and Biodiversity. This role explores how Camden can increase green space, green corridors and opens up access to diverse communities. The below report looks at the work Camden is currently doing to increase green space and biodiversity, and advocates for further work we could do.

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Key Recommendations

1



A 'COMMUNITY GREEN DEAL' FOR CAMDEN

A 'Community Green Deal' for Camden is an offer for residents which clearly states the multiple climate strategies Camden is enacting, and signposting to the multiple climate resources, and initiatives residents can get involved in, and benefit from. Want to start a community garden for your estate? Or apply to Camden's Climate Investment Fund? Camden residents, workers, citizens need to know where to go.

CAMDEN'S CLIMATE COMMUNITY "TOOL KIT"!



2

Prevention and Resilience in Land Infrastructure and usage.

To build and maintain effective land infrastructure, which prevents, and is resilient to such devastating climate-exacerbated shocks such as flooding, and heatwaves.



3

INCREASING GREEN SPACES and in turn, BIODIVERSITY

Increasing green spaces, preventing against the felling of trees, re-wilding, restoring and pushing for more green corridors, bringing back and protecting species vulnerable to extinction in Camden, must be a priority.



"CAMDEN'S CLIMATE TALKING CIRCLE"



4

GUARDIANS OF THE LAND

Connected to the above, Guardians of the Land is an initiative born out of the felling of trees and destruction to nature on our doorsteps. To empower the community to protect the land they live on, and species they share Camden with. To organise frequent Camden Climate Talking Circles to monitor tree protection, and nature protection across Camden. Guardians will be connect with Camden climate groups and share resources. Camden's role as facilitator.



2. **Executive Summary**

- 2.1. Local action is indispensable in the face of the global ecological and biodiversity crisis. In July 2022, the United Nations declared a resolution that everyone on the planet has the 'universal human right to a healthy environment', a move backers say is an important step in countering the alarming decline of the natural world.¹ The universal resolution has since created a rippling effect, with state actors integrating the right to a healthy environment into their constitutions, and laws, otherwise termed 'environmental constitutionalism'.
- 2.2. Climate justice is social justice which is why this report advocates for a Community Green Deal in Camden. We need radical community action. Residents need to feel empowered to address the multiple climate-related crisis, as well as, encouraged by local government with accessible and locatable tools to take action. The Community Green Deal structure could be the umbrella for our climate-centred policy, facilitating drastic initiatives that need to be taken in the face of the climate, ecological and biodiversity emergencies on Camden's doorstep. The purpose of the Community Green Deal would increase climate knowledge and action accessibility across Camden. Residents, community groups, and businesses should have the tools at their disposal to enact solutions to address the climate crisis.
- 2.3. The close relationship between addressing climate change and recovering our biodiversity is a key feature both in Parliamentary and Camden policy. Addressing climate change involves improving the resilience of landscapes to respond to our changing climate. Green spaces are critical to this as they can, amongst other benefits, help to reduce carbon, and manage flood risk. The ecological services provided by green spaces depend on the diversity of microorganisms, plants and animals that are increasingly at risk. By restoring this biodiversity, creating expansive nature recovery networks and improving the interconnectivity of green spaces, Camden can deliver solutions to address the ecological crisis whilst also growing, mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 2.4. We must continue to ensure our methods of encouraging citizen participation advance and reach every corner of the borough calling for community ownership and community action. This aligns with We Make Camden's vision for the future of the borough to be a green, clean, vibrant, accessible and sustainable place where everyone is empowered to contribute to tackling the climate emergency.² To tie the many threads of Camden's current climate action plans, biodiversity,

¹ Katy Thompson and Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, 'Historic UN Resolution Recognises Healthy Environment as Human Right' (UNDP) 28 July 2022 <<https://www.undp.org/blog/historic-un-resolution-recognizes-healthy-environment-human-right>> accessed 27th Dec 2022

² Camden Council's 'We Make Camden' <<https://www.wemakecamden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/We-Make-Camden-Vision.pdf>> accessed 21 Dec 2022

tree planting strategies, sustainable goals, policy initiatives, and communication channels and panels, this report submits that the recommendations made throughout this report should be enacted by Camden under the umbrella of a 'Community Green Deal' proposal. If orchestrated with care and consideration for the diversity of Camden's communities, this Community Green Deal could assemble such loose threads systematically, and ensure a greener, climate-conscious Camden for residents, and the thousands of species we share this borough with.

2.5. This report seeks to align the national biodiversity and ecological resolutions with resilience mechanisms to the Climate Crisis, a crisis that transcends politics and threatens humanity's very existence. We know that greening cities with trees, living walls, grasses, parks, gardens, and forests reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps cool urban areas, reduces flooding, and encourages biodiversity of the thousands of species we share our lives with. As mentioned by Camden's Citizen Assembly members in their 2019 recommendations, increasing green spaces is essential and proven to improve our physical and mental health, which simultaneously allows us to continue to find the solutions we desperately need to avert these crises.³

2.6. Emphasising the close link between preserving and increasing biodiversity and the widely held goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions⁴ needs to be a consistent approach Camden takes throughout all of its sustainability delivery. 'Net zero' refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere, this report refers to this definition throughout. We reach net zero when the amount of harm we add to the atmosphere is no more than the amount taken away. Eventually a goal would be to become carbon negative, as in, actually producing less than we put back, however, this is not covered in this report. Regenerative solutions are, however, covered in the report in that green spaces are not only sustainable but regenerate previously destroyed land.

2.7. Recognising and increasing greenspace and biodiversity has mutual human, and climate benefits, allows us to align climate justice with social justice. Thinking and acting at a local level helps communities fight climate change, builds resilience to climate shocks and impacts, and address social issues. For instance, growing food locally can lower the cost of transportation, reduce waste and support the local economy while, low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) have been found to

³ Camden Council News, 'Citizens' Assembly makes recommendations for action on the climate crisis', <<https://news.camden.gov.uk/citizens-assembly-makes-recommendations-for-action-on-the-climate-crisis/>> accessed 22nd Dec 2022

⁴ The Economist, 'Why Climate Change is Intimately Tied to Biodiversity', 20 Dec 2022 <<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/12/20/why-climate-change-is-intimately-tied-to-biodiversity>> accessed 26th Dec 2022

reduce crime by promoting increased walking, running, cycling, social interaction and community ownership.

2.8. Finally, by improving our biodiverse and green spaces we also improve the physical and mental health of our residents which numerous studies have evidenced. We know that decades of austerity cuts have severely reduced local authorities' capacity to deliver all the changes they wish they could. This is particularly true for actions that require on-going spending. However, not all of the solutions are costly, and those that are, are outweighed by the positive ramifications of saving our planet, improving the air quality, and collective health across Camden. Climate justice is weaved throughout this report to ensure our biodiversity and greenspace ambitions also recognise environmental inequalities, and the need for adequate representation.

2.9. Camden Community groups, and a biodiversity expert were consulted in the compilation of this report through communication avenues, and invitation to the Camden Climate Talking Circle which took place post COP27 on 14 December 2022. Much like Camden's circular economy panel which kickstarted at the beginning of 2023, Camden needs more climate-centred, public communication avenues for residents to input into climate policy making of Camden Council. Key climate recommendations are summarised in the infographic above, and threaded throughout the report.

3. A Community Green Deal for Camden

3.1. This report submits that Camden needs a Community Green Deal which ties Camden's many detailed, but loose climate strategies together, and offers a revamped proposal to residents that puts communities, , land, and species at the heart of the offer.

3.2. In 2019 Camden took a Climate Assembly approach to tackle the climate emergency and was the first Local Authority in the UK to hold a citizens assembly to develop a 5 year programme of Climate Action across the borough. The council's environmental approach was reviewed and 17 recommendations were produced across the organisation to develop the Climate Action Plan. A direct recommendation from the Assembly was to establish a Citizens Panel to monitor and support the delivery of Camden's Climate Action Plan (adopted June 2020).

3.3. Four years on since Camden declared a climate and ecological emergency, multiple climate plans, strategies and solutions have been developed for example,

our Climate Action Plan⁵, Tree Planting Strategy⁶, Increasing Biodiversity Strategy⁷, and many more climate strategies.

3.4. While these strategies offer credible solutions, they are not easily accessible for residents, and they are not in one clear place to access. This creates grave barriers when communities want to take climate action such as enquiring about community growing, the climate investment fund, joining circle groups or even connecting with Camden organisations.

3.5. Communication

3.5.1. The Community Green Deal would include a dedicated section of the Camden website that clearly pinpoints these resources. We understand that work on the organisations website is underway, however, the ecological crisis is here and we need these changes to come swiftly or for a microsite with all the climate change information be clear and accessible for all of our residents. There is a climate page on the Camden council website, but we need to think about how we can promote the use of the webpage using existing comms. Summaries of the strategies and policies should be provided in clear and comprehensive language with the option to click and listen to the summaries for our ESL residents and those with learning disabilities.

3.6. Camden's Climate Talking Circle

3.6.1 A great deal of how we ensure the work we're doing *reaches* all of our residents is dependent on how we *communicate with* our residents. We need to develop a clear climate targeting plan to ensure we reach everyone in our community and especially those in biodiversity/green space deprived areas. We do this by targeting the communities rather than broadcasting. Reaching out to residents with resources from our website through TRA's DMC, and community meetings with climate at the centre of conversation for example setting up a permanent Camden Climate Talking Circle that meets fortnightly to inform our communities of the importance of our work and how they can get involved in advocating for a healthier, greener, and more equal space. A secondary objective of the Talking Circle is to facilitate a space where Camden's climate groups can meet to discuss and share ideas and collaborate together, as so much of their aims

⁵ Camden Council, 'Climate Action Plan: 2020 – 2025'
<<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/344816220/Camden+Climate+Action+Plan.pdf/1518b741-3a82-b442-7d71-9d43c158f3aa> > accessed 18th Dec 2022

⁶ Camden Council, 'Camden Council's Tree Planting Strategy: 2020 - 2025'
<<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/5268201/Camden+Tree+Planting+Strategy.pdf> > accessed 18th Dec 2022

⁷ Camden Council, 'Biodiversity Strategy: Creating Space for Nature in Camden'
<<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/0/Creating+space+for+nature+in+Camden+web.pdf> > accessed 18th Dec 2022

are aligned when it comes to addressing the climate and ecological crises in our borough and beyond.

- 3.6.2 Such talking circles share the same premise as citizen assemblies, yet the key difference is that this initiative is solely for the purpose of addressing the climate, biodiversity and ecological crises through the community's lens.

3.7. Representation Matters

- 3.7.1 It is important that such prospective talking circles represent the community. This report submits that young people who attend community centres, local football, and sports clubs, should be actively invited to take part in Camden's climate talking circle. In addition, so should those who live in Camden's estates. Diversity of thought, perspective, is key to finding effective solutions for people and planet. Many minority cultures already have strong ecological values and standards, however, all too often their voices are not incorporated into our conversations. For example, there is a strong link between environmentalism and the Islamic faith whereby the religion recognises humans as successors of the earth not possessors, believing there is no sovereignty over nature. Through cultural understanding and recognition, we can incorporate and encourage all of our communities across Camden to join our mutual cause.

3.8. Guardians of the Land

- 3.8.1 We are all creatures of the earth, cohabiting in one space and through this understanding, humans need to develop a symbiotic relationship with the land and species we cohabit, grow and live with on this Earth. Through "Guardians of the Land" we can connect Camden to the land so that they are empowered to protect their land.
- 3.8.2 Guardians of the land focuses on embedded change across the land that makes the borough of Camden. This is about changing people's hearts and minds about nature and what it means to live on this planet. We need to develop a Camden where our greenspace, biodiversity, sustainability, and regenerative solutions reaches every corner of the borough.
- 3.8.3 This idea has been influenced by research on indigenous community groups who have been living in equilibrium with land. Ecuadorian activist Helen Gualinga expressed to state, business, and diplomats at COP27, "*Kawsak Sach*" translated in English as "the living forest" represents a decolonized shift in mindset, rooted in Indigenous practices – is absolutely vital to stand against

human greed and fight climate change.⁸ Like many, Helen Gualinga submits that we need to replace Western conservation methods with Indigenous stewardship. Western models treat nature as something separate from humans, while Indigenous peoples see ourselves as part of nature, which we have lived with for thousands of years, and seek to pass on to future generations.⁹

3.8.4 Increasingly residents are becoming conscious to the felling of trees, destruction of land, such as the many, many trees cut down to make way for a high speed train that cost the tax payer million, but still has yet to be built. HS2 is a prime example of poor engineering, that did not take into account the damage to surrounding habitats, and people's homes.

3.8.5 Our Climate Talking Circle and Guardians of the land relates back to this idea of empowering people to recognise that nature is not separate to use, that our actions are entwined with nature giving citizens the power to claim back their and enforce environmental policy.

3.9. Community Growing

The Desire for Community Growing

3.9.1. As a Local Authority we are in a strong position to respond to the communities' local priorities and needs. Improving the biodiversity and green spaces of the borough proves to be high on the agenda for our citizens. For example Camden's We Make Camden kit is designed to deliver the core missions of access to food for all, diversity in positions of power, building sustainable neighbourhoods and creating opportunities for young people. Any resident can think of an idea to contribute to the core missions and fill out an application for support to deliver this, but the mission that has had the greatest uptake in applications has been the mission of delivering food access for all through community growing. However, Camden has reputedly the longest waiting list for allotments in the country.¹⁰

3.9.2. There are lots of great examples of support for community growing across parks and housing sites. One example is the partnership work with Global Generation (GG) in Somers Town, which has been supported through the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 project (GLA funded). GG provide gardening support and

⁸ Helen Gualinga, 'Where I Come From, being an Activist isn't a Choice' (CNN) <<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/10/opinions/amazon-climate-change-cop27-helena-gualinga/index.html>> accessed 28th Dec 2022

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Lily Waddell and Jonathan Pryn, 'So much for the good life... waiting lists for London Allotments out of control' (Evening Standard) 20 October 2021 < <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-allotment-waiting-list-out-of-control-b961468.html> > accessed 28th Dec 2022

capacity building within the community through their Postcode Gardener, while we have been working in partnership to create new or improved growing spaces to accommodate this activity.

3.9.3. From community group gardens in Kilburn Grange Park¹¹, to gardening on Elm Village managed by Castlehaven¹², to greening estates, like Hillgrove in South Hampstead, where TCV volunteers in partnership with South Hampstead Councillors helped residents plant a fruit tree woodland in the middle of a green space¹³, there is a key desire for land ownership from Camden residents that we need to support.

3.9.4. This report submits that it should be easy to start a community grow project in your estate, at school, in your garden, in your local park, or even on your windowsill. Community growing would form part of a key aspect of the Climate Community Tool kit.

3.9.5. Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, as well as allotments has seen increased interest due to public awareness of 'green' issues and concerns over the links between food and health.

3.9.6. As a part of its regular business Camden creates community managed spaces in housing areas and is in the process of mapping all of these areas across the 300 estates we manage the Grounds Maintenance on. This report submits that once this mapping is complete, it should be made available to the public to allow residents to know where their closest community growing garden or allotment is, so that they can easily get involved.

3.10. **Camden's "Climate Community Toolkit!"**

3.10.1 As part of the community green deal offer, residents will be provided with a tool kit clearly signposted on Camden's website. The tool kit will provide resident with information on:

- How to apply to the Camden Climate Fund¹⁴
- How to start a community growing group, and whether it is possible to get funds for this via We Make Camden¹⁵, or again, the Camden Climate Fund
- How to apply for green energy alternatives in their estate¹⁶

¹¹ Kilburn Grange Park, Community Garden, linktr.ee < <https://linktr.ee/kilburncommunitygarden> > accessed 29th Dec 2022

¹² Castlehaven, Community Growing Garden <<https://www.castlehaven.org.uk/whats-on/event/2677/>> accessed 29 Dec 2022

¹³ The Conservation Volunteer and Green Gym website, < <https://www.tcv.org.uk/london/green-gym-london/camden-green-gym/> > accessed 02/01/2023

¹⁴ Camden climate fund - Camden Council < www.camden.gov.uk/camden-climate-fund > accessed 03/01/2023

¹⁵ We Make Camden – Connecting the citizens of Camden to make the borough we want to see <www.wemakecamden.org.uk> accessed 03/01/2023

¹⁶ [Green Camden Helpline - Camden Council](https://www.camden.gov.uk/green-camden) <https://www.camden.gov.uk/green-camden>

- How to become a 'Guardian of the land' and monitor the trees, and species in their area.
- How to attend Camden Climate Talking Circle events, and other community discussions on the climate from the citizens assembly to the dates of the Environment and culture committee meetings
- Information on local Camden Climate organisations, and their contact details.
- A complaints procedure related to the climate, for Camden environmental officers to easily pick up, and in turn, could help to develop solutions to climate-exacerbated issues such as flooding.

4. Land Infrastructure and Usage

4.1. The role of a London Borough Council is to support its residents by delivering a range of services, some of which emit greenhouse gasses. As a result, the council inherits a responsibility to monitor and combat the effects of this human activity on our Climate. Use of the land has a direct impact on biodiversity loss, and our ability to increase resilience to climate change, and prevention too.

4.2. Climate Resilience:

3.2.1 Last year, 2022 saw some of the highest temperatures reported and the severest flooding events in Camden's recent history. Freezing temperatures and a burst pipe outside a local Camden Tesco caused gushing water which flooded hundreds homes across South Hampstead, Swiss Cottage and Kilburn.¹⁷ This is but one example of the importance of the maintenance and installation of land infrastructure, which *prevents*, and is *resilient to* such devastating climate-exacerbated shocks such as flooding, and heatwaves. Extreme weather events remain a challenge we need to grow resilient to.¹⁸

3.2.2 Studies have found the correlation between climate resilience and increasing greenspace. Scientists at Nanjing and Yale Universities analysed satellite data from across 2,000 cities and compared surface temperature readings between cities and rural areas from 2002 to 2021.¹⁹ The average warming of urban areas are 29% quicker than rural areas and urban greening has been found to offset

¹⁷ Tom Foot, 'Burst Water Main Floods 100 Homes in South Hampstead as People are Helped to Safety in Boats' Camden New Journal, 17 Dec 2022
<<https://www.camdennewjournal.co.uk/article/burst-water-main-floods-100-homes-in-south-hampstead-as-people-are-helped-to-safety-in-boatsa>> accessed 22/12/2022

¹⁸ MetOffice Blog 1st November 2022 <https://blog.metoffice.gov.uk/>

¹⁹ Zihan Liu¹, Wenfeng Zhan, Benjamin Bechtel et al 'Surface warming in global cities is substantially more rapid than in rural background areas' Nanjing and Yale Universities (2022)
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364026286_Surface_warming_in_global_cities_is_substantially_more_rapid_than_in_rural_background_areas> accessed 03/01/2023

the rate of urban warming by 0.13C a decade on average.²⁰ Parks, forests, street trees, greening, water management play their role cooling the air temperature, mitigating urban heat island effect, regulation of water runoff, carbon sequestration and increasing biodiversity.

- 3.2.3 Trees and vegetation are also key to achieving net zero²¹. Trees and vegetation lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration. Shaded surfaces, for example, may be 20–45°F (11–25°C) cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials²². Evapotranspiration, alone or in combination with shading, can help reduce peak summer temperatures by 2–9°F (1–5°C).²³ Furthermore, trees are also useful as a *mitigation* strategy when planted in strategic locations around buildings or to shade pavements in parking lots and on streets. Researchers have found that planting deciduous trees or vines to the west is typically most effective for cooling a building, especially if they shade windows and part of the building's roof.²⁴
- 3.2.4 Vegetation, especially trees, will capture carbon through photosynthesis and pass it into below and above ground biomass. Soil carbon is most likely to increase under most green infrastructure vegetation types. Camden has a long-standing relationship with UCL regarding research on biomass accumulated by trees.
- 3.2.5 Research from Beijing found that nearly 2,500m of potential rainwater runoff was reduced per hectare of green area²⁵. This is important part of managing storm water run-off, particularly in London with its Victorian infrastructure. The Council received funding from the GLA's Green and Resilient Space Fund to develop a vision and masterplan for Kilburn Grange Park to shape its future development. Camden have also received funding from Thames Water to deliver a number of schemes that help manage surface water and reduce flood risk, including Camley Street SuDS and Fleet Valley Pocket Park. As part of this, the project will identify opportunities for increasing water attenuation within the park and help reduce the risk of surface water flooding. Once the masterplan has been completed, the Council will seek funding opportunities to deliver the works. The Council has also submitted funding bids to Central Government for pocket parks in Kilburn to reduce surface water run-off in the area.

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ <https://eciu.net/insights/2021/rooting-for-climate-success-the-crucial-role-of-trees-in-net-zero>

²² Akbari, H., D. Kurn, et al. 1997. Peak power and cooling energy savings of shade trees. *Energy and Buildings* 25:139–148

²³ Kurn, D., S. Bretz, B. Huang, and H. Akbari. 1994. The Potential for Reducing Urban Air Temperatures and Energy Consumption through Vegetative Cooling <http://www.osti.gov/bridge/servlets/purl/10180633-hLSlId/native/10180633.PDF>

²⁴ Using Trees and Vegetation to reduce Heat Islands, US Environment Protection Agency [Using Trees and Vegetation to Reduce Heat Islands | US EPA](#)

²⁵ Zhang, B. , Xie, G. , Zhang, C., Zhang, J., 2012. The economic benefits of rainwater-runoff reduction by urban green spaces: A case study in Beijing, China. *Journal of Environmental Management* 100, 65-71

3.2.6 This report submits that requesting to start a pocket park on Camden's streets should be streamlined, and simplified, with clear signposting to increase the amount of pocket parks across Camden.

3.2.7 Although we are doing our best to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, this doesn't guarantee the rest of London, England, or the world, which means we must build our adaptation methods (adapting to the change to reduce its impact) and overall resilience (strengthening our ability to recover from impact) to the changing climate as much as we can. Community action groups are aligned with this thinking and have voiced their proposals as:

- Promoting the correlation between greenspaces and climate resilience the use of greenspaces. The Highway Greening Accelerator is doing this for a specific type of green infrastructure, and the Kilburn Green and Resilient project is helping us explore what this looks like for more traditional parks. Furthermore, including lines promoting the correlation between the two is needed consistently throughout Camden's sustainability work.
- Installing more Raingardens. The Camden Climate Talking Circle used Camley Street as an example of effective and beautiful land usage.
- Ensure there is an increase in SUDS sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) across Camden as recommended by the South Hampstead Flood Action Group.
- Ensure the trees we plant are well maintained.

4.3. Retrofitting, Building and Planning

4.3.1. How we retrofit our homes also plays a key component as to how we use our land to ensure Camden is a place of greenery and biodiversity. This means a lot of our work is in making improvement to existing properties in Camden. Camden's current guiding principle is to tackle the least efficient homes first, to ensure our older properties are safe for our residents and for the environment. This feeds into the social justice element of the report to tackle climate inequality across the borough.

4.3.2. Creating green corridors on upcoming planning developments and schemes is key to increasing green spaces in Camden. If such planned construction of estates as Murphy's Yard do continue in Camden, then it should be a priority of Camden to ensure that the build is sustainable and increases the green space in the area. One way of doing this, and as previously proposed, is to connect the 790 acres of Hampstead heath to Murphy's Yard in Kentish town.

- In October 2022 Camden completed the £3m retrofit project of Swiss Cottage Library, including the installation of low carbon heating technology.
- In February 2023 secured £80,000 through Power Up North London to install a community funded solar Photovoltaics (PV) array.

- Over 2020-2023 installed solar arrays on York Way Depot, Swiss Cottage Library, Hampstead secondary school, Parliament Hill school, Fleet Primary school, Acland Burghley, Konstan children's centre, Kentish Town Primary School
- 33,000 council dwellings Camden-owned have been categorised into priority works orders with pilot projects now underway at Belsize Grove, Brookes Court, and in Somers Town to deliver a new housing retrofit programme.
- Insulated over 90% of Council homes with cavity walls since 2010
- Over the last 7 years implemented more than 9,000 direct energy saving measures in Council-owned homes.
- The Council's Community Investment Programme has also driven environmental improvements, with Camden's new 359-unit Agar Grove development meeting the highest Passivhaus energy efficiency standards.
- 38 new 'extra-care' homes at Charlie Ratchford Court with the building utilising low-carbon heating technology supported by solar panels on the roof -catering for older people whose needs are better suited to living in supported accommodation.
- £24,403 of funding from 21-22 for residents installing measures such as solar panels and insulation, making their homes more energy efficient from the Camden Climate Fund provided
- Refurbished Holmes Road Depot (reducing the building's carbon footprint by 40%); LED lighting schemes (delivered across 6 council buildings, expected to save more than 57 tCO₂e per year and £36,095 in energy costs per year).

4.3.3. This report submits that Camden should continue to prioritise retrofitting primarily, and ensuring that where possible, green corridors are used to link up more green spaces across the borough and increase biodiversity.

4.4. Safe and Healthy Streets

4.4.1. Low traffic neighbourhoods ("LTNs") could have a positive impact on lowering crime in Camden.²⁶ Using police data, 2012-2019, Anna Goodman and Rachel Aldred from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University of Westminster examined the impact on street crime of introducing LTNs in Waltham Forest in London. Overall, their findings revealed that the introduction of an LTN was associated with a 10% decrease in total street crime (95% confidence interval 7% to 13%), and this effect increased with a longer duration since implementation (18% decrease after 3 years).²⁷

4.4.2. Notably, an even larger reduction in violence and sexual offences was observed. Reportedly, the only subcategory of crime that did increase

²⁶ Anna Goodman, Rachel Aldred, 'The Impact of Introducing a Low Traffic Neighbourhood on Street Crime, in Waltham Forest, London', London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University of Westminster, February 2021 < <https://findingspress.org/article/19414-the-impact-of-introducing-a-low-traffic-neighbourhood-on-street-crime-in-waltham-forest-london> >

²⁷ Ibid

significantly was bicycle theft. This increase, unsurprisingly, due to the increase in cycling as a reaction to the LTN. Equally notably, there was no indication of displacement of any crime subcategory into adjacent areas.²⁸

4.4.3. In essence, LTN's make neighbourhoods and roads safer and healthier which is why Camden uses "Safe and Healthy Streets" when referring to LTN's. The Green Space teamwork in partnership with Safe and Healthy Streets team to identify opportunities for greening, and a number of greening initiatives (e.g. rain gardens and additional tree planting) have been delivered as a result. In addition to this, we have a specific programme of work made possible through funding from Future Parks Accelerator to explore how we can better deliver highway greening in the future. Our parks for health work is supported by Future Parks Accelerator which ('Highway Greening Accelerator')²⁹ aims to establish clear pathways for delivery of greening schemes, provide skills to teams working in this area, and establish a strategic framework to help target funds and efforts to the areas that could benefit most (directly responding to the call for social justice/climate justice).

4.4.4. Continuing to add greenspaces to our "Safe and Healthy Streets" is a key way we can reimaging our approach to the ecological crisis. Neighbourhoods would not only be ridding their streets of congestion or "rat racing" but improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and contribute to helping the environment.



4.5. Enforcement

4.5.1. Enforcement also plays a critical role in our land usage as by having clear and concise reasons as to why enforcement is in place, promotes cooperation across Camden our climate policies across the council is also an important tool to keep our residents informed of the work we're doing to tackle climate change.

4.5.2. Again, our Climate Talking Circle and Guardians of the Land could be utilised to play a critical role enforcing biodiversity and green space by helping

²⁸ Ibid

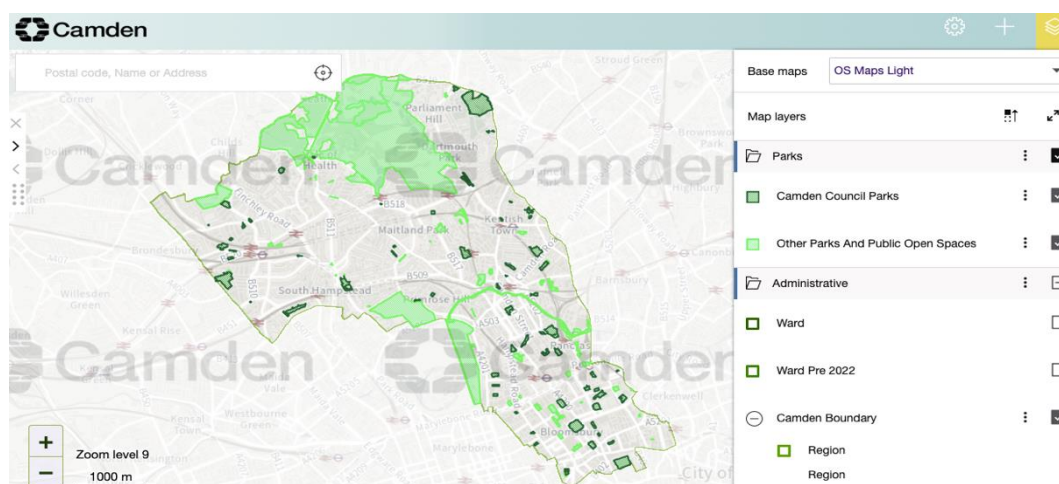
²⁹ Camden and Islington councils announce shared vision to harness health benefits of parks and green spaces < <https://news.camden.gov.uk/camden-and-islington-councils-announce-shared-vision-to-harness-health-benefits-of-parks-and-green-spaces/> >

discourage curbing gardens and using plastic grass. They could also discourage the use of glyphosate and support reporting engine idling to the council. We could set up a communication channel with Guardians of the Land, councillors and Camden officers.

5. Greening the Grey and Increasing Biodiversity in Camden

5.1. “Greening the grey” is the active act of redesigning infrastructure to be more ecologically minded in order to encourage biodiversity. Increasing green spaces re-wilding for the sake of bio diversifying species, planting tree’s is all good and well, but monoculture doesn’t help with biodiversity and, restoring and pushing for more green corridors are ways we can work towards bringing back and protecting species vulnerable in Camden. Climate groups in Camden have started planting micro forests in order to push for my diversity in Camden’s trees, and again, encouraging biodiversity of species and preventing again monoculture tree coverage.

5.2. We need to radically rethink how we prioritise animal welfare and the nature agenda which can be done by regreening the grey. There are 74 public Green Spaces within the borough that the council manages, and the BBC found Camden and Croydon were among the top 20 boroughs in England and Wales for tree cover.³⁰ This work needs to be advertised to the residents of Camden with a clear way of demonstrating our the greenspaces we have already as well as areas that we wish to green. Camden have recently added a map of accessible green space³¹ to the website, which we aim to develop and build upon. This currently includes information on levels of accessibility as well as park feature and Friends groups. It is submitted that this map should be clearly signposted as part of the Camden Community Tool kit, and Community Green New Deal. Now that the council has a map of containing all of our greenspaces everyone should be able to access a green space as part of what should be their human right.



³⁰ Wesley Stephenson, Gardens help towns and cities beat countryside for tree cover (BBC News) 2020 < <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-54311593> > accessed 06/02/23

³¹ Camden Council's Map of Accessible Green Spaces <<https://ssa.camden.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=%2FMapProjects%2FParks> > accessed 06/02/2023

Source: Camden's map of accessible Green Space(s) in the borough

5.3. Greening the grey is high on the priority list across the council but also for all of its elected members. Upon writing this report many fellow councillors knew of derelict spaces in their wards that could be turned into green, or fertile land, and or, offer current green spaces in their wards which need increased maintenance.

5.3.1. Kings Cross: While we do have a decent amount of green space in Kings Cross, some areas require greater attention, and there is willingness on the part of residents to get involved and look after these green spaces. Such green spaces as Argyle Square and Regent's Square need further maintenance and attention, as does the Holy Cross Church Peace Garden (having spoken to the local councillors, residents need help with this), and Elm Village only seems to have two green spaces, while Camley Street's regen project may address this, proper consultation is needed (Cllr Lotis Bautista).

5.3.2. West Hampstead and South Hampstead: The vast expanse of land connecting Finchley Road to West End Lane in the West Hampstead ward could benefit from one or two new green spaces to replace the large tracts of industrial wasteland currently there (Cllr Shiva Tiwari).

5.3.3. Kilburn: A lot of space around Abbey Road estate is underused, and could be improved. While the space does include climbing facilities for children, the infrastructure could be greener, with less concrete and more vegetation and foliage. Similarly, a neighbouring estate, Webheath is yet another example of a Camden estate that would benefit from greening the grey (Cllr Lloyd Hatton).

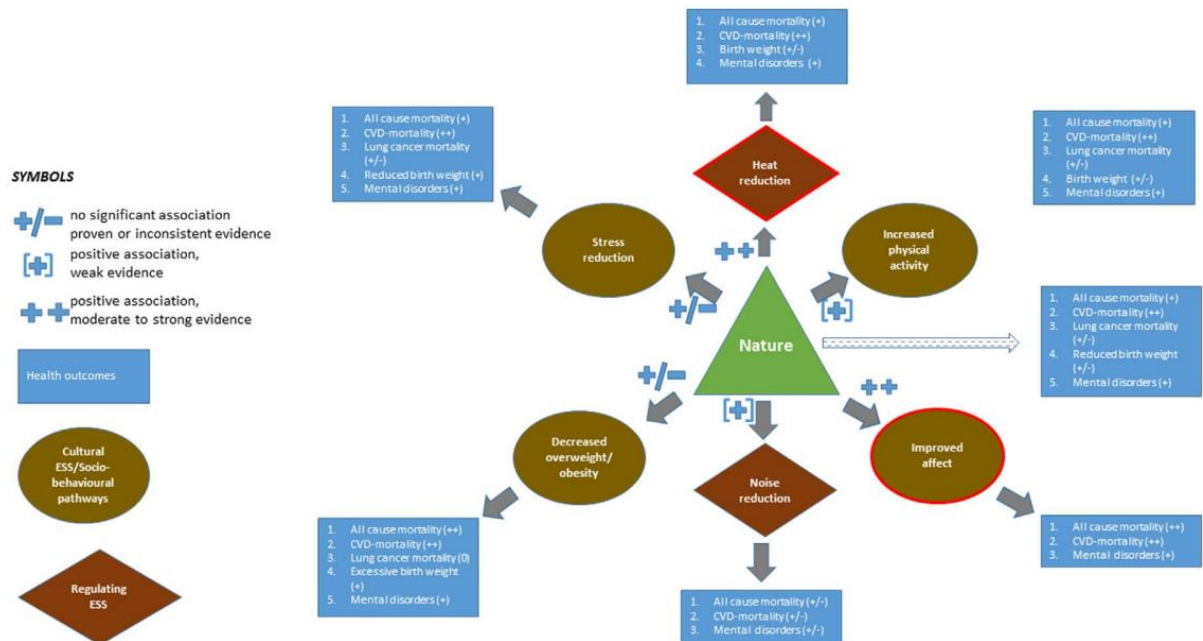
5.3.4. South Hampstead: Following the floods in our ward it is absolutely essential the land infrastructure is adapted to become more resilient to such climate exacerbated shocks as flooding. We propose that Camden installs more green space, drainage systems, and guttering at the roundabout connecting Belsize Road, one of the most severely flooded roads in December last year. (Cllr Will Prince and Cllr Izzy Lenga)

5.4. Health Benefits of Green Space

5.4.1. The reduction of temperature using green infrastructure has its inevitable health benefits on human life. Reductions in temperatures are linked to higher mortality and reduced incidents of sunburn also minimises the risk of sunburn, skin cancer and cataracts. It also has its social benefits by improving outdoor and indoor thermal comfort.

5.4.2. Camden and Islington council undertook the Parks for Health Project to support parks and greenspaces as physical and mental health enablers. The project has brought together various academic research on the benefits of green spaces on

health and wellbeing.³² The project also developed new relationships with public health, identified physical measures to encourage healthy activity, and co-designed and trialled ways to support community activation of our parks.



Source: Urban natural environment as nature-based solutions for improved public health – A systematic review of reviews (2017)³³

5.4.3. Bird Song Improves Our Mental Health.

5.4.4. Green spaces encourage an increase in bird species, which has been proven to have positive health benefits on humans. Scientists at the University of Surrey have been studying the “restorative benefits of birdsong”, testing whether it really does improve our mood. They discovered that, of all the natural sounds, bird songs and calls were those most often cited as helping people recover from stress and allowing them to restore and refocus their attention.³⁴

5.4.5. A 2020 study from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology highlights specific features of urban green spaces that support the greatest diversity of bird species. In short, the more green space available, the greater the diversity of birds, and species in urban environments. Cornell’s models show that increasing the area of green

³² Future Parks Accelerator, Parks are essential health assets with significant financial benefits < <https://www.futureparks.org.uk/blogs/blog-post-title-two-t5lbb> > accessed 06/01/2023

³³ M. van den Boscha,b, Å Ode Sangc, ‘Urban natural environments as nature-based solutions for improved public health – A systematic review of reviews’ < <https://www.agnesvandenbergnl/vandenbosch.pdf> > accessed 07/01/2023

³⁴ Stephen Moss, ‘Natural high: why birdsong is the best antidote to our stressful lives’, (The Guardian) 4 May 2019 < <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/04/birdsong-antidote-to-stressful-lives-dawn-chorus-day> > accessed 07/01/2023

space by 50% would result in an 11.5% increase in annual and an 8.2% increase in seasonal species diversity.³⁵

5.4.6. Trees are also important, particularly for migratory species during spring when models show a 50% increase in canopy cover would result in a 23.3% increase in species diversity.³⁶

5.5. Social Justice: Prioritising, and greening our housing estates

5.5.1. Greening our estates is another way we can tackle the ecological crisis, improve biodiversity but also deliver social justice across Camden. Many of our estates are in green space deprived area's. With the physical and mental health benefits in mind, prioritising greening our older estates will help us to achieve our ambitions. Camden's existing planning guidance³⁷ uses a threshold of just 280m (as the crow flies) which is intended to represent a 400m walking distance (approx. 5mins). Meanwhile, the GLA use a standard of 10mins³⁸ (or 800m), based on the Mayor's manifesto pledge, and new Natural England guidance³⁹ uses a threshold of 15mins (which they equate to 1km).

5.5.2. Disabled persons and those with complex needs should be able to access green space as easily as able bodied persons. It is equally important for us to ensure our disabled community are incorporated into our thinking throughout our recommendations. This will include how we make our green spaces wheel chair friendly and easy for the visually impaired to locate.⁴⁰ Assigning climate community champions/Guardians of the land to our community groups across Camden could be a great way to get this conversation started in places where the conversation may not usually take place.

5.6. Front Gardens: Greening our Homes for health and for the diverse species we share our homes with

5.6.1. Much of the green space in Camden is personal space to home owners and occupiers. This means that the council has little control in enforcing greenspace and biodiversity but can still encourage it. Throughout the research for this report a key message was that this is what Camden residents want, so creating spaces for their biodiversity and greenspace action is important.

³⁵ Cornell University, 'If it's big enough and leafy enough the birds will come', 21 July 2020 < <https://phys.org/news/2020-07-big-leafy-birds.html> > accessed 06/02/2023

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Camden Planning Guidance, 'Public Open Space: January 2021' < <https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/4823269/Public+open+space+CPG+Jan+2021.pdf/0baca4c3-1aef-1b03-248f-ec47d7a73c92?t=1611580573399> > accessed 08/01/2023

³⁸ Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC ("GiGL"), 'GLA 10 Minute Walk map' < <https://www.gigl.org.uk/2023/02/16/gla-10-minute-walk-map/> > ACCESSED 12/02/2023

³⁹ Natural England, 'Green Infrastructure Standards' < <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/GIStandards.aspx> > accessed 13/02/2023

⁴⁰ Sensory Trust, and Natural England, 'By All Reasonable Means: Least Restrictive Access to the Outdoors' < <https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/uploads/documents/ByAllReasonableMeansEnglandAug2020.pdf> > accessed 01/03/2023

5.6.2. On the other hand, we have also seen some of our green spaces turned into grey through residents' paving over green front gardens and driveways with plastic grass, and concrete slabs. We must promote the beauty of nature and the benefits of having greenery in your home. Having a clear space on the council's website to promote and praise greenspace action could be the way forward as a space to share:

- Beautiful gardens and nature's creatures that visit it;
- Flat houseplants, balconies and windowsills that have been beautified with nature;
- Re-greened gardens/driveways – supporting residents in de-paving their driveways and front gardens (this cost could be subsidised by Camden via the climate investment bond);
- Re-greening school playgrounds.

5.6.3. There is also a potential space for us to work with estate agents to ask they emphasise green features of properties in their marketing and possibly create a green rating system to encourage green considerations in house evaluations.

6. Monitoring Species

6.1. As aforementioned, green space can provide valuable habitat for a wide range of species from flora and fauna to birds, mammals and insects. The Council agreed its most recent Biodiversity Strategy in January 2022.⁴¹ In many of the Borough's most urban areas trees are often the only visible natural feature and are therefore especially important to both wildlife and people. Led by UCL, Wild Bloomsbury⁴² is making nature-based interventions to improve wellbeing, increase climate-resilience and reduce pollution.⁴³

6.2. To ensure we are kept up to date and informed of our greenspace we have a Service Level Agreement with Greenspace Information for Greater London, the custodians of biological records for the Greater London area. Over 15,000 different species have been recorded in London⁴⁴ Unfortunately, little or no systematic species monitoring has been undertaken that would provide the data to answer questions of species trends at that timescale or geographical scale this is because the species that inhabit Camden don't necessarily only stay in the borough for their

⁴¹ Biodiversity Strategy on Camden's website < <https://www.camden.gov.uk/wildlife-areas#cjmw> > accessed 14/02/2023

⁴² University City London, 'Wild Bloomsbury' < <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/wild-bloomsbury> > accessed 14/02/2023

⁴³ London Assembly, 'London Priority Species', 23 July 2019, <<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-and-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/environment-publications/london-priority-species> > accessed 15/02/2023

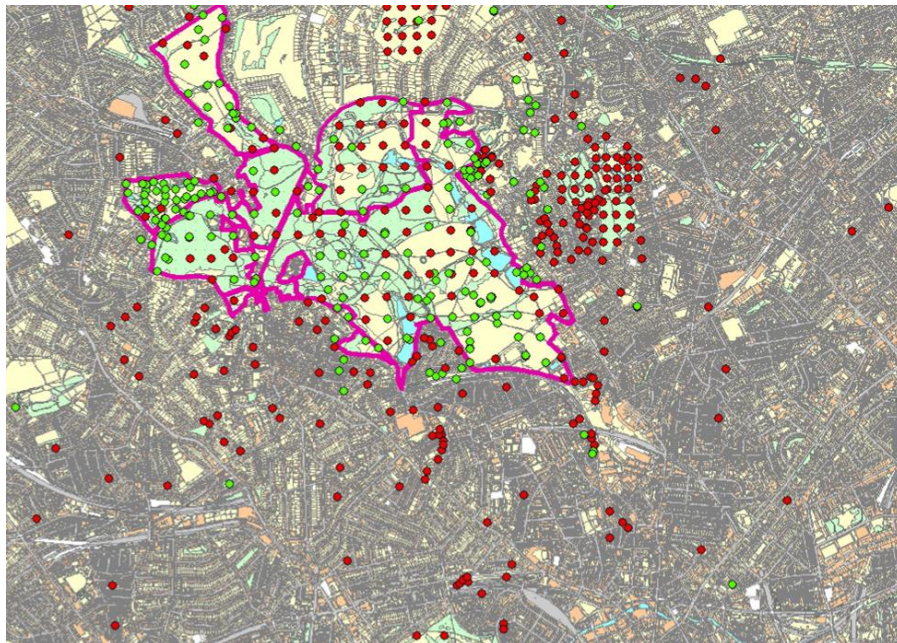
⁴⁴ Ibid

lives, they move around. Lack of environmental information is a national issue which is why advocating for animal documenting pan London will help us understand what we need to do across the city to ensure our spaces can accommodate.

6.3. As variables that affect populations over short timescales (e.g. the weather) would obscure any population changes that result of other factors, species declines are assessed against timescales longer than a year. While population changes occur, and are assessed, at larger geographical scales, we are of course interested in changes at borough-level and pan London. In advocating for this monitoring, we can also work together to join our green corridors across London so that are species can easily move across London. Our current approach involves making inferences by assessing what data we do have against national and regional trends, looking at ways to increase monitoring of site-level changes is how we can prioritise our species.

6.4. Case study: Camden's endangered hedgehogs

6.4.1. Hedgehogs are an endangered and declining species across the UK. Unlike birds and insects, hedgehogs have limited mobility and are therefore a particularly good species to study the effect of a decline in green spaces and their connectivity on urban biodiversity. Camden has central London's largest hedgehog population, concentrated in Hampstead Heath and Regents Park.



Source: Hampstead Heath Society, on behalf of Jeff Waage.

6.4.2. In 2022, the Mayor of London's Rewild London programme supported a study to determine the distribution of Camden's hedgehogs and how numbers have changed in recent decades. The study involved 20 local scientific and community organizations. Using data from scientific surveys and the

experiences of over 200 local residents, the map shown above was generated. It shows where hedgehogs have been seen in the past five years (green) and where they have not been seen in over a decade, or never seen (red). It suggests that large parts of residential Camden now have no hedgehogs. However, note that hedgehog sightings in urban neighbourhoods are most common around the fringes of Hampstead Heath (pink border) where hedgehogs apparently move out from that green space into gardens and allotments. These findings support the desire of many Camden community groups and neighbourhood forums to build green corridors through their neighbourhoods, linking green spaces and gardens. For hedgehogs, this could involve hedgehog highways - small openings in fences between gardens, allotments, and green spaces – and improving the quality of these habitats for wildlife. For many other species, this would be even easier.

- 6.4.3. The question is, how can we get residents more involved in tracking vulnerable species in Camden, and using their private gardens to create and ensure green corridors exist for such species as hedgehogs.

6.5. Prioritising species in Camden

- 6.5.1. As part of the development of creating space for nature in Camden, Camden has looked at the species of conservation concern that had been recorded in different time periods in Camden since 1980. As caveated in that document, the number of records is a reflection of survey effort, rather than population trends.
- 6.5.2. For some of the more relatively well-recorded species, the number of records is more likely to reflect known population trends. For others, particularly invertebrates where there are few records, more work is needed to understand their status in the borough.
- 6.5.3. Its difficult for one borough to record the full detail of species that inhabit their land which is why it could prove more beneficial to record species that “visit Camden” or advocate for species to be recorded on a pan-London level.
- 6.5.4. Employing a specialised officer or dedicating officer time to track biodiversity loss and to help strategize solutions to increase biodiverse species in Camden and maintain this in the face of the climate crisis. We know that in Camden, building and planning, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation (impacts from people, light, noise, pollution, pets) and lack of habitat management is killing a multitude of species we share this borough with.
- 6.5.5. A 'nature engagement officer' type role to encourage and support citizen science and action for species by individuals and communities would fit in well with mobilising the community theme already mentioned.

6.6. Review Camden's use of pesticides

- 6.6.1. Impacted by the findings in this report, and from extensive conversations with experts such as biodiversity professor, and local Camden resident Jeffery Waage, this report submits that Camden should review its use of pesticides in Camden. While Camden does have a robust, and restrictive, controlled usage of such toxic pesticides as glysohate, it is submitted that, such usage could be harmful to vulnerable species in Camden such as bees.⁴⁵
- 6.6.2. Alternatively, a recent study by Cardiff Council and Cardiff University concluded this year in January that glysohate *"is the most efficient and effective way of controlling weeds, but once you look at the full life cycle of the product, factoring in things like the amount of fuel and water-used, it is also the least damaging to the environment, in comparison to other weed killers.[...] The responsible glysohate-based approach to weed control currently used by the council is the most sustainable method of weed control currently available in the UK."*⁴⁶
- 6.6.3. A potential proposal is for Camden to facilitate a public consultation on the use of the pesticide glysohate, and other pesticides used by such corporations as the City of London Corporation's maintenance of Hampstead Heath. Many residents have raised concern of such usage. Equally, many Camden Officers have raised concern of the usage of the pesticide by Camden residents themselves in their own private gardens.
- 6.6.4. Camden should review its use of glysohate and organise an open, public presentation on the pesticide and invite experts on either side to discuss and invite experts on either side. This could be done as a themed debate at full council or conducted at a climate talking circle, or as part of the environment scrutiny committee.

⁴⁵Damian Carrington, 'Glyphosate weedkiller damages wild bee colonies, study reveals' 2nd Junw 2022 <<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/02/glyphosate-weedkiller-damages-wild-bumblebee-colonies> >

⁴⁶ Cardiff Council, and Cardiff University, 'Weed Control Trial', 12 January 2023 <https://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=7966&Ver=4&LLL=0>

6.7. Young People at the Heart of Climate Solutions and Action

6.7.1 As we have seen, it has been young people across the world to wake up adults to the realities of the crisis we are in. Vanessa Nakate, a Ugandan climate activist who started campaigning daily in her local community, leading the local school strikes on Fridays, and campaigning her way all the way to Davos at the World Economic Forum, whereby she held state, business leaders, and journalists to account for their white washing in environmental activism.⁴⁷

To Greta Thunberg, a teenage activist from Sweden, who has inspired countless people of all ages from across the globe to both care about and act against climate change. Her viral *Fridays for Future* campaign and demand for inter-generational justice have established her as an inspirational youth figure.⁴⁸

We have so many young people in Camden just like Vanessa and Greta, and it is so important that Camden listens to young people, the key drivers behind so many possible climate solutions, and tools of resilience. A proposal is to include rotating young representative at fortnightly Camden Climate Talking Circles. This representative could rotate from each Camden school and we could host a Camden Talking Circle at a school.

6.8. International Climate Action – a local approach in Camden’s Schools

6.8.1. Along with local action, part of the ethos of the Green New Deal, to transform our economies was for the most polluting countries to compensate the least polluting countries. Statistically, we know it is the latter that has felt the biggest climate shocks, despite contributing the least to human-driven greenhouse gas emissions.

6.8.2. On this basis, one way we can teach children in Camden of this is to educate, and to invest in, and create a Camden-wide international exchange program.

6.8.3. Camden’s state schools are diverse, many Camden children speak more than one language, and this is one of Camden’s greatest strengths. Why not extend this celebration of diversity in Camden’s schools – internationally?

6.8.4. Having sat as a judge on the Camden’s Eco Champion awards, I was exposed to a wealth of ideas, especially by Camden school children. However,

⁴⁷ Kenya Evelyn, 'Like I wasn't there': climate activist Vanessa Nakate on being erased from a movement' (The Guardian, 29 Jan 2020) <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/29/vanessa-nakate-interview-climate-activism-cropped-photo-davos>>

⁴⁸ The Economist, 'The Greta Effect', 2019 <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2019/08/19/the-greta-effect> More Swedes are staying on the ground because of “flight-shame”.

there is clearly a gap between state schools and private schools in how much interaction the former has with children internationally.

6.8.5. The benefits of communication with children in different countries, equally as keen and passionate to address the climate crisis, such a sharing of knowledge and ideas could prove massively beneficial to Camden.

6.8.6. Camden could help Camden's state schools set up international communication channels between children in the global south. It's important for us to target state schools as this cohort are less regularly involved in the climate discussion. Sharing the message climate justice is social justice is important to encourage greater participation from all sectors of Camden. There is also a lot to be said on the climate justice impact internationally as although we are seeing the impacts of climate change first hand, many other countries are experiencing more extreme and radical impacts of climate change.

6.8.7. We have 25 School Charter signatories to our school charter which we can continue to actively promote across Camden. We can spread climate awareness to adults through Camden's enforcement methods. As explained earlier engine idling enforcement, as well as garden greening encouragement, could related back to the Guardians of the Land initiative. Guardians of the Land could be an incentive where teachers, parents, and children keen to become Guardians can help their classmates, friends, and parent's to be aware of the many resources and help there is in the community for those wanting to do more to help Camden collectively reach net-zero.

We could offer biodiversity and green space courses as alternatives to paying the charges for such local offences as idling, and promote our courses to parents.

7. Holding Camden's Corporations Accountable

7.1. Camden is home to multiple organisations with high emission production rates. We need to incentivise organisations to join us on our mission to make Camden a greener and more bio-diverse place to live. They have the potential to play key roles in our climate alliance and could play key roles in the delivery of our change.

7.2. Taking corporate majors as an example of the need for business to give back to their local environments Meta and Google both have offices in Camden's Kings Cross. In 2022 Meta made a revenue of 116 billion U.S. dollars⁴⁹ and Google made a revenue of 279.8 billion U.S. dollars.⁵⁰ While Google has worked with Camden

⁴⁹ Statista, 'Meta: Annual revenue and net income 2007 – 2022', 16th Feb 2023
<<https://www.statista.com/statistics/277229/facebooks-annual-revenue-and-net-income> > accessed 28/02/2023

⁵⁰ Statista, 'Google: global annual revenue 2002-2022', 13 Feb 2023
<<https://www.statista.com/statistics/266206/googles-annual-global-revenue> > accessed 28/02/2023

offering apprentices to young people in Camden, this report submits that Meta should do more.

7.3. The Camden Climate Alliance, which has partnered with the Mayor of London on the Business Climate Challenge 2022–23, is a positive example of encouraging business to do more to address the climate crisis and adapt their energy usage to transition to renewable energy.⁵¹ This report submits that Camden should continue to hold local businesses to a higher standard, as while individual responsibility is key, collective responsibility and an acknowledgment of the extent business contributes to greenhouse gas emissions should not be taken lightly.

8. Acknowledgments

8.1. There are a host of residents, organisations, experts, Camden officers and fellow councillors cross-party to thank for ideas, input, and encouragement with this report. Particularly those who attended the Camden Climate Talking Circle in December 2022, a chance for local, grassroots organisations, and long-term local climate activists to share their ideas and recommendations under the wide-umbrella topic of increasing green spaces, and sub-topics of land infrastructure and usage, increasing biodiversity and rewilding, corporate responsibility, climate justice and the proposal of a Community Green Deal for Camden.

8.2. The talking circle had twin goals of providing both practical and theoretical grounding in the implementation of increasing green spaces across Camden and serving as the springboard for the development of further, more radical green policy recommendations to Camden Council, and how local government, and residents can implement the change needed to address, and be prepared for the biggest crisis of our time, the climate crisis. I had the pleasure of chairing the event, with special thanks to Hannah Bennai, facilitators Camden Council, and local groups and individuals:

Dr Jeff Waage: ecologist working on green spaces in Camden, particularly biodiversity conservation on Hampstead Heath and surrounding sites of interest for Nature Conservation;

Ben Cooper: Kings Counsel barrister, and founder of Dream for Trees;

Dorothea Hackman: active member of Extinction Rebellion Camden;

John Chamberlain (JC): committee member of Camden Cycling Campaign;

Pamela Edwards (PE): Transition Kentish Town, founder of Think and Do Camden Forest 2025, lead on Nature Connections and is setting up a new initiative Camden Beeline;

⁵¹ The Camden Climate Alliance <<https://www.camdenclimatealliance.org.uk/team-list/>> 28/02/2023

Claudia Kretzschmar (CK): representative of Mothers CAN;

Sophie Marple (SM): Founder of Mothers CAN;

Joan Munro (JM); founder of South Hampstead Flood Action Group;

Mike Jenn (MJ): Camden Forest Project; involved in Think & Do and organises workshops in Sommers Town on Carbon Saving and Cost Saving.

Valeria Pensabene (VP): founder of pressure group Green School Runs, part of the advisory committee Camden Clean Air and works as Community Manager;

Dee Searle (DS) founding member of Camden Climate Emergency, vice Chair of Kentish Town Neighbourhood forum.

9. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

9.1. The report contains a number of recommendations and observations. The recommendations have not yet been costed and should be fully costed before any decisions are taken.

10. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

10.1. The Borough Solicitor has reviewed the content of this report and has no comments to make other than to indicate that when future specific policies are created as a result of this paper they will need to be reviewed for any legal implications.

11. Environmental Implications

11.1. All of the programmes and work outlined in this report aim to have positive environmental implications for Camden. The report's recommendations seek to improve Camden's environment.

REPORT ENDS