

AGENDA 9, Enc iv) ASHINGTON COMMUNITY BIRD BOX INITIATIVE

Overview

This project aims to construct and install bird boxes throughout the town in trees and green spaces in Ashington. Providing nesting sites for birds supports local biodiversity and aligns with the council's commitment to environmental sustainability and fighting climate change. The idea was enthusiastically put forward by our neighbourhood services officers, Mark and Ryan, who have investigated suitable materials and designs.

Project Goals

- ❖ Increase nesting habitat for bird species in Ashington's parks and woodlands.
- ❖ Engage the community through hands-on educational activities around bird conservation.
- ❖ Support Ashington's climate action goals by promoting urban wildlife and greening initiatives.

Proposed Actions

To agree to set aside funding from the Council's Climate Change budget to purchase bird box materials and tools.

Promote the initiative with schools, community groups, and residents to request bird box kits.

Provide easy-to-follow instructions and all required materials to construct the bird boxes.

Identify optimal locations in collaboration with NCC Green Spaces, NCC Trees Officer and Friends of Ashington Community Woods to install the bird boxes in trees throughout Ashington's green spaces.

Develop educational signage about the bird species benefitting and importance of this conservation effort.

Monitor usage of the installed bird boxes over time and share successes back with the community.

Rationale

In addition to the direct benefits of providing vital nesting habitat for birds, this initiative supports multiple aspects of climate action and sustainability:

- ❖ Increases urban biodiversity and connects residents to local nature.
- ❖ Hands-on environmental education promotes conservation mindsets.
- ❖ Planting more trees and growing wildlife populations help absorb carbon emissions.
- ❖ Community participation and ownership around this project reinforces climate literacy.

By leveraging the expertise and enthusiasm of our Neighbourhood Services team, Ashington can cost-effectively engage residents in this educational, sustainable initiative while taking positive steps to make the town more environmentally friendly.