Plymouth Rewilding Network: Online Workshop









Outcomes

On 16th December 2020, over 50 people across Plymouth attended the first 'Plymouth Rewilding Network' online workshop. Following introductions from the Green Minds team at Plymouth City Council (Jemma, Hayley and Emmie) and Devon Wildlife Trust (Ed and Nick), the Green Minds 1-minute film was shown and we had an introduction to rewilding.

What does urban rewilding mean to you?



Who attended?

- Widey Woods Conservation Community.
- Wild Ideas.
- University of Plymouth.
- Westcountry Rivers Trust.
- Rebel Botanists.
- Plymouth Open Spaces Network.
- The Tamar Pub.
- Hoe Neighbourhood Forum.
- Plymouth City Council.
- Devon Wildlife Trust.
- University Centre South Devon.
- Plymouth Scrapstore.
- Forest School Plymouth.
- National Trust.
- Exeter Diocese.
- Marinette County Land & Water Conservation, Wisconsin USA
- Urban Colour Plymouth.
- Plus lots of individuals who want to help rewild Plymouth!

What happened during the workshop?

Everyone took part in the Mentimeter survey, helping to identify the priorities & possibilities of creating a rewilding network in Plymouth.

Right: What rewilding action would you like to take in future?

Most people wanted to get involved with projects and support others, spread the rewilding message, as well as develop ecological knowledge, skills and understanding of rewilding.



Key themes

Opportunities:

- * Turning grass verges into wildflower meadows, creating wildlife corridors.
- Rewilding gardens, churchyards, school grounds and streets.
- * Create and restore more wetland and rivers in the city.
- * Engaging communities & businesses.

Challenges:

- Lack of resources, experience, funding and expertise.
- Opposition from vocal minority & lack of understanding / negative perceptions of rewilding.
- Lack of connectivity / collaboration between projects.
- * Land ownership & seeking permission.

What can you offer?

- Mapping of action.
- Funding support & mentoring.
- * Ecological advice & expertise.
- * Practical help & monitoring.
- * Using art to improve understanding.

What support is needed?

- Spread awareness & educate others.
- Expert ecological advice & training.
- * Equipment sharing.
- Platform to network, share & promote ideas to facilitate action.

Next steps

Priorities for 2021:

- * Education & improving understanding.
- * Connecting people & habitats.
- Community support & working in collaboration with landowners.
- * Increase rewilding opportunities—eg. where development is taking place.
- Engaging children & young adults.
- Manage public land appropriately—eg. less grass cutting, not spraying weeds.
- * **Below:** Your priorities for a rewilding network.



1. You said:

Awareness raising in a creative way.

We did:

Coming soon: Smart Citizens Workshops

- discover how to use technology & creativity to protect nature.

Plus campaigns & education training!

2. You said:

Peer support & networking.

We did:

31st March: Plymouth Rewilding Network Spring Social.

3. You said:

Training & ecological advice.

We did:

April & May: Devon Wildlife Trust leading 'take action for wildlife' events.

4. You said:

Two-way mapping of rewilding action.

We did:

Developing two-way map with focus group & mapping experts.