

Summary: Rewilding in your community – Ideas into Action Online Workshop

6pm – 7:30pm, Thursday 14th October 2021

Are you an individual who has a rewilding idea for a public space but aren't sure where to start? Or are you a group of individuals who need some guidance on how to start a community project?

Hosted by POP Ideas at [Plymouth Octopus Project](https://www.plymouthoctopus.org), this online workshop is aimed at any individuals or communities in Plymouth who are interested in running a rewilding project in a public space. This session will help you understand the basics of forming a community group & identify what your community wants to see, including how to consult, funding options & how to plan your project with others. Find out how to start turning your ideas into action & how to work with your local community to make your rewilding idea become reality!

POP ideas is a service delivered by POP and Iridescent Ideas CIC that provides advice for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, whatever size they may be, and whether they are new or established. It offers funding advice, project planning support, training, resource sharing and more! Find out more at <https://www.plymouthoctopus.org/pop-ideas/>

Find out more about Plymouth Rewilding Network: <https://greenmindsplymouth.com/rewilding-network>



REAL IDEAS



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Ideas Into Action

Your Ideas Your Community

A practical workshop for people looking to make a difference in their community

Ideas Into Action

Introduction

- Welcomes and introductions
- Green Minds
- The purpose of this session
- What the workshop will cover
- What you will learn
- Tackle scenarios
- The next steps

**"LEARNING TO RUN A
COMMUNITY GROUP
CAN OPEN SO MANY
DOORS".**

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Your Ideas Your Community

A bit about you...

- Your name?
- Where are you from?
- What are you hoping to do?

**"DOING SOMETHING
SMALL CAN CREATE
BIG CHANGE".**

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What are community groups?

- Who can form them?
- How they are created? ([Link](#))
- Rules ([Link](#))
- What do community groups do?

"A GROUP OF LIKE MINDED INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOWARDS A SHARED VISION WILL DO GREAT THINGS".



What are community groups?

These don't have to be complicated – you don't need to be a charity or CIC. A community group can simply be a group of individuals with a constitution.

A constitution can help people understand what a group does and how it works.

Constitution Guidance:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lo2Td3q5z9hflMdKaGk9Qc6lwcCg7o-j/view?usp=sharing>

Constitution example:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u41mdF0_aFcpguLpiGobbvFD-4HQXZS-/view?usp=sharing

Rules include Health & Safety, risk assessments and bank account options.

Useful links:

Starting a group: <https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information-category/starting-a-group/>

POP resources including rules: <https://www.plymouthoctopus.org/pop-ideas/resources/>

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Your Ideas Your Community

Getting started

- Need (community consultation)
- Plan
- Do
- Review
- Evaluation

*"A GOAL WITHOUT A
PLAN IS JUST A
WISH".*



What is needed in a community rewilding project?

Community consultation is essential when you are thinking about rewilding in a public place. It helps to inform others, get the community involved and support your idea, as well as evidence whether your idea could work. It's likely that funding providers and / or landowners (eg. Plymouth City Council or Plymouth Community Homes) will be looking to see evidence of consultation.

Consultation includes who uses the area and how they use it, as well as giving people an opportunity to give their feedback on your idea.

Once you've consulted, you can review the process and use it to inform the next steps in your project – eg. taking your idea to the site landowner with evidence of community consultation.

It's useful to often review your consultation responses to see if you're delivering what people want.

Useful link:

Example of community consultation (pages 5 & 6): <https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/green-minds/210707-Extended-Rewilding-Network-Social.pdf?mtime=20210709002212&focal=none>



'The Plot' Scenario

At the end of your community's road is a plot of disused land (roughly 10m sq). You decide that it is an eyesore and want to do something about it.

In a street of 40 houses you find 6 fellow residents who would like to join you. After a few meetings in your house you decide to turn the plot into a local growers space, you will grow food and wildflowers to improve the area's biodiversity.

You will put up education boards about the site for local residents and those who pass by.

You decide to have a community consultation about your plans and draw up a site map highlighting the ideas and timescale to make things happen.

View the scenario:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14wwAaj4sRAi9h4vSFSZsW1zzqQKQpu/view?usp=sharing>

Group work:

Review a scenario to problem solve together and start to think like a committee



‘The Plot’ Scenario

The group discussed answers to the questions asked in ‘The Plot’ scenario:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14wwAaj4sRAi9h4vSFSZsW1zzqQKQpu/view?usp=sharing>

One question that came up was ‘How do you deal with vandalism?’ – a factor to consider particularly in urban areas.

Reducing the risk of vandalism can be considered while planning your project – is there a way to openly communicate with people about your project and engage people who may otherwise engage in anti-social behaviour?

Group work feedback:

- What were the blocks and barriers?
- How did you problem solve?
- What decisions did you make and where did you struggle?
- Were you able to build partnerships?

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Project planning

- What is project planning?
- Why is it important?
- Example of project plans

"FROM LITTLE
ACORNS MIGHTY OAKS
GROW".



Project Planning

This means creating a plan that covers the duration of the project, with clear timescales and roles / responsibilities assigned.

It's useful to have something in writing that clearly shows what you want to achieve and when, keep track of your project and hold members of your community group to account. Project plans are also essential if you need to report back to funding providers with updates.

It's useful to have a project plan as an online file (eg. Google Drive or MS Teams), so everyone involved has access to the most updated information / live version of the document.

Project Plan Example.

Action	Detailed Actions	Lead	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Progress
		PR	█	█					
		PR		█	█	█	█	█	
		PR			█		█		
		PR			█	█	█	█	
		PR		█	█				
		PR			█	█			
		PR				█	█		
		PR					█	█	
		PR						█	
		PR							



**BREAK for a
breather!**

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Your Ideas Your Community

Working Together

- What's a board?
- Why is a board important?
(group decision, not just one person leading)
- Who should be on it? *(cross section of the community you support)*
- How many people?
- Skills and knowledge, what do you need?

"A CAMEL IS A
HORSE DESIGNED BY A
COMMITTEE".



Working together

Your community group should be representative of the community – do you have a range of ages and backgrounds? Look at who has skills needed for your project – who can help with finances, event promotion, safeguarding or ecology expertise?

Even if you have a small group, it can still be effective – it's much better to have an active group of people who are motivated and work hard than a large group with people who can create barriers.

Being part of a community group should be enjoyable – when putting a board together think about who will compliment each other's skillsets and help the project progress.

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How much does it cost...

- To start and run a community group?
- In detail: insurance, promotion etc (core or project)
- How to manage money (community account)

*"MONEY IS ONLY A
TOOL, IT WILL TAKE
YOU WHEREVER YOU
WISH, BUT IT WILL
NOT REPLACE YOU AS
THE DRIVER".*



Costs to consider

If you are a community group, you can usually setup a bank account for free which can be useful when applying for funding. There are a few costs to consider if you're running a project, one of the most important being public liability insurance, which is needed if your group is running activities in a public greenspace. Often (particularly if you have applied for funding) you will have costs related to buying tools, putting on events and buying materials like seed or trees.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have some useful resources for groups who run practical conservation activities including discounted insurance if you sign up as a TCV member:

<https://www.tcv.org.uk/>

It's useful to have a spreadsheet for keeping track of finances, particularly if you've been given a grant to do your project – this doesn't have to be complicated and can often be created in line with budgets outlined in a funding application.

Money isn't everything though – it's better to have a good group of people working together and working with other local groups for support and advice. POP can also help with finance advice if needed.



Group work:

You will receive £10,000 to run your community project - create a project budget.



What would you do with £10,000?

The group discussed costs including:

- Public liability insurance
- Tools (including maintenance)
- Training for volunteers
- Materials and resources
- Funds in case of an unexpected cost (eg. tool damage).

Group work feedback:

- What did you spend the money on?
- Did you all agree?

When applying for funding, make the most of the opportunity – if there's a maximum amount of funding you can apply for, then budget for that full amount.

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Evaluating your impact.

- What is impact evaluation?
- Why is it important?
- What do you record?
- How do you do it?

**"THE ABILITY TO
PROVE YOU MADE A
DIFFERENCE".**

How will you prove that you've made a difference?

It's important to keep track of the changes you're making to a site and how it is making a difference.

In the case of a community rewilding project, this includes how people are using the site as well as the ecological impact (eg. increase in species diversity).

When doing project evaluation and talking to others in the community, it's useful to ask a variety of shorter (quantitative) and longer (qualitative) questions, so you can share simple figures as well as stories / case studies.

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Your Ideas Your Community

What next?

- Thanks for joining us
- What we are planning next...

**"LEARN AS MUCH AS
YOU CAN AND ASK AS
MANY QUESTIONS AS
YOU CAN".**



POP Ideas

Thank you to Paul Read from POP Ideas for hosting this workshop.

POP can be accessed anytime:
<https://www.plymouthoctopus.org/>

Email Paul Read at
paul@driftadvice.com

Other useful resources:

Green Minds have been involved with creating a Community Action Playbook with the RSPB and other organisations and community groups across the UK and Ireland. This playbook can help you with how to run a community group:

<https://greenmindsplymouth.com/knowledge-hub/resources/article-community-action-playbook>

Finally...

If you haven't already looked at the resources on the Green Minds website, please refer to the following to help guide your rewilding project:

- **Plymouth Rewilding Network Summer Social Summary & How to rewild guidance / first steps:**
<https://greenmindsplymouth.com/news/summer-rewilding-network-social>
- **Introduction to Habitats in Plymouth Webinar:**
<https://greenmindsplymouth.com/knowledge-hub/resources/introduction-to-plymouth-habitats-webinar>
- **How to Rewild! Online Q&A with Devon Wildlife Trust:**
<https://greenmindsplymouth.com/knowledge-hub/resources/article-how-to-rewild-q-a-summary>
- **Green Minds Knowledge Hub:** <https://greenmindsplymouth.com/knowledge-hub>

