

# GREEN SPACES FOR PEOPLE, WILDLIFE AND FOOD GROWING

## GREEN VISION What we are aiming for overall

We want everyone to live within easy walking distance of a high-quality public green space, for relaxing, playing and growing food. Worcester residents love our parks and open spaces including the canal and River Severn and we know how important they are for people's mental and physical health. Outdoor inclusive space is important for children and young people. We want every part of the city to have plenty of tree cover – the right trees in the right places. More trees will mitigate the effects of climate change by providing shade and keeping our streets cooler in extreme heat.

We must also halt the loss of wildlife- both for its own sake and for all the ways we rely on it, such as crop pollination. We can support this by growing more food locally and making it easier for people to get involved in food production. We want to be a herbicide- and insecticide-free city and improve the water quality of the River Severn.

## GREEN PRIORITIES What we will try to do in the next four years

- Continue to improve council-owned parks and other open spaces, keeping them clean, green and safe, with space for wildlife to thrive.
- Deliver new high quality play spaces that are suitable for all ages and abilities using the city's Play Strategy.
- Ensure that all new developments include plenty of high-quality green spaces, including seating, growing areas, trees, wildflower areas and habitats for wildlife.
- Encourage more local food-growing initiatives such as allotments, school growing plots and community gardens.
- Set up groups to care for neglected green spaces in the city.



Working with the community to enhance their green spaces



The Community Garden shares food growing skills

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## GREEN ACTION      What we have already done

Through working collaboratively across the city council, we have:

- Changed the council's mowing regimes to create many more wildlife-friendly verges and wildflower meadows.
- Lobbied the county council to reduce its use of toxic weed killers.
- Achieved Green Flag status for more city council spaces.
- Supported the establishment of the Worcester Way wildlife corridor around the city.

As community campaigners we have:

- Organised countless community litter picks, bulb and tree planting sessions and wildlife-friendly projects including the swift box project.
- County Cllr Matt Jenkins has run the Worcester Canal Litter Pick for over ten years and is the Worcester Canal Group secretary while Alex Mace and Karen Lewing are the co-chairs.
- Protested against the dumping of sewage in the River Severn by Severn Trent Water.
- Karen Lewing sits on the board of Transition Worcester.
- Hannah and Karen sit on the Friends of Gheluvelt Park.
- Jon Bodenham is a trustee of Worcester Community Garden and supports Worcester Food Rescue.
- Leisa Taylor has organised balsam-bashing sessions on Diglis Fields.



Campaigning to keep the River Severn clean



A Community Litter pick in St Clements