

# Climate & Nature Champion Scheme

## Inaugural Meeting

Danny Moody – 19 November 2025





## Where it started...

- Survey Conducted by
  - Northants CALC
  - 3 February – 3 March 2025
- Survey Objective
  - Focus on climate and nature in Northamptonshire
  - Understand current activities and future aspirations of parish and town councils
- Response Rate
  - 181 out of 220 councils responded
  - 82% engagement rate
  - WN – 106/131 (81%)
  - NN – 75/90 (83%)



# High Levels of Current Action

- Top 5 Common Actions
  - Planting native trees and plants (118)
  - Organising community clean-up events (117)
  - Creating and maintaining wildlife habitats (111)
  - Implementing LED street lighting (108)
  - Protecting local biodiversity (104)



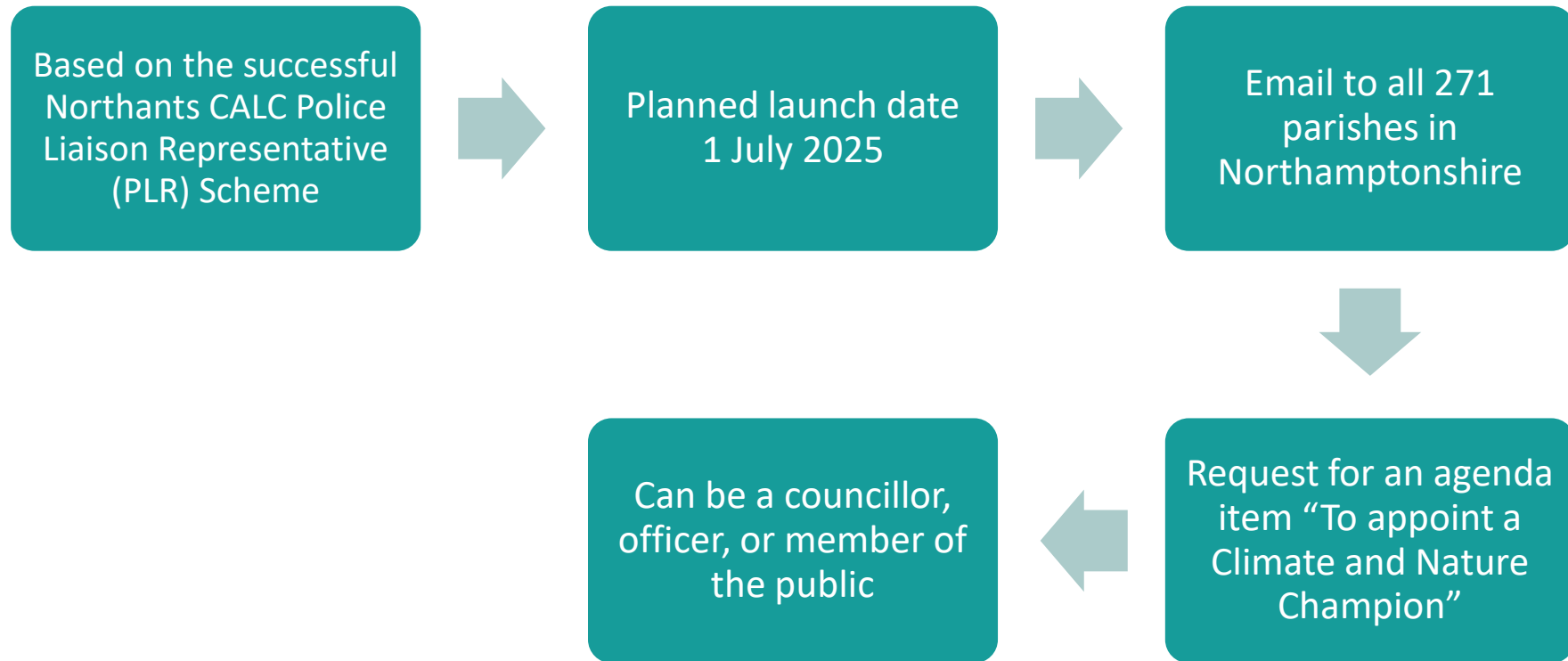


Unlock the  
potential...

Northants CALC  
Climate and Nature  
Champion Scheme



# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme



# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## **Purpose**

The Climate and Nature Champion (CAN Champion) acts as the local council's key point of contact and advocate for environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and climate resilience. This voluntary role supports the council in identifying, promoting, and coordinating local action on climate and nature.

# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## **Key Responsibilities**

- **Liaison & Communication**

- Serve as the council's link to local, regional, and national environmental initiatives.
- Share relevant updates, funding opportunities, and best practices with the council and community.
- Represent the council at climate and nature forums, workshops, and events.

# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## **Key Responsibilities**

- **Community Engagement**

- Encourage local participation in climate and nature projects (e.g. tree planting, biodiversity surveys, energy-saving schemes).
- Promote awareness of environmental issues through newsletters, social media, and community events.
- Act as a listening post for residents' concerns and ideas related to the environment.





# Climate and Nature Champions (CAN Champions)

## Key Responsibilities

- **Project Support**
  - Help identify and support local projects that contribute to climate mitigation, adaptation, and nature recovery.
  - Work with councillors, clerk, and community groups to develop and deliver initiatives.
  - Monitor progress and share outcomes with the council and wider community.

# CAN Champions

## Desirable Qualities

- Passion for environmental and climate issues
- Good communication and organisational skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders
- Willingness to learn and stay informed on relevant topics



# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

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## Aims – Year 1

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271 CAN Champions

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100 “positive” CAN Champion appointments by 31 December 2025

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First annual meeting held by July 2026

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Online resources set up by 31 July 2025 and regularly updated

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# Progress to date

- **118** CAN Champions appointed by 19 November 2025
- Inaugural meeting held on 19 November 2025
- Scheme has been “noticed”



# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## By CAN Champion Type

| Type              | No.        | %             |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Councillor</b> | 90         | 76.3%         |
| <b>Officer</b>    | 13         | 11.0%         |
| <b>MOPs</b>       | 15         | 12.7%         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>118</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## By Area

| Area                   | No. | Total | %     |
|------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| North Northamptonshire | 43  | 106   | 40.6% |
| West Northamptonshire  | 75  | 165   | 45.5% |
| Total                  | 118 | 271   | 43.5% |



# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## By size of parish (electors)

| <b>Electors</b>      | <b>No.</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>%</b>     |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>0 - 500</b>       | 47         | 156          | 30.1%        |
| <b>501 - 1,000</b>   | 22         | 39           | 56.4%        |
| <b>1,001 - 5,000</b> | 30         | 51           | 58.8%        |
| <b>5,001+</b>        | 19         | 25           | 76.0%        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>118</b> | <b>271</b>   | <b>43.5%</b> |

# Climate and Nature Champion Scheme

## By parish type

| Type           | No. | Total | %     |
|----------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Parish Council | 101 | 202   | 50.0% |
| Town Council   | 13  | 18    | 72.2% |
| Parish Meeting | 4   | 51    | 7.8%  |
| Total          | 118 | 271   | 43.5% |

# CAN Champion Support



## **Website**

(<https://northantscalc.gov.uk/can-champions>)

An online, frequently updated resource

Brings together all the information that's already out there

Repository/directory of Climate and Nature Action in Northamptonshire



## **Meetings**

An annual online meeting for all CAN Champions in Northamptonshire

Thematic focus meetings x3 per year, online, focused on a particular area of Climate & Nature Action



# CAN Champion Support



## Communications

Ad hoc emails and notifications (but not too many!!)

A newsletter with latest information, updates from NNC and WNC on LNRS and Climate Strategies, links to local, regional, and national resources

Polls and surveys as required/appropriate



## Northants CALC Staff

**Sophie Harding** – Registrations, bookings, contact details, newsletter

**Danny Moody** – Actions, ideas, liaison with partners, guidance

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