

## CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Title:** Great Big Green Week

**Contact Officer:** Communications and Community Engagement Officer -Polly Inness

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### Background

The Great Big Green Week will take place 18 – 26 September 2021 and will be the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Thousands of events will celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces and encourage others to get involved too.

This report is intended to inform councillors of officer proposals to mark this and help promote the Town Council's climate and biodiversity objectives.

### Current Situation

Great Big Green Week runs from 18 – 26 September. Car Free day on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the Green Coffee morning in the Corn Exchange are already being planned and fall during this week.

Other proposed activities during the week:

- Bike Repair Shops - Windrush Bike Project have offered to hold some Dr Bike repair shops on Car Free Day which will hopefully coincides with the arrival of the Council's two new Cycle repair bike stands.
- 'Wild Witney' Winners – The winners of the Council's gardening initiative will be selected at the end of August and the awards could be announced as part of Big Green week.
- Wildflower Planting - The Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer is currently awaiting a decision on wildflower planting at Eton Close, Oxlease and Burwell Recreation Ground or possibly planting amenity land at Burwell. Community Groups could be invited to help with planting during this week.

- Social Media Campaign - There will be a social media campaign around the week, which will include promotion of Great Big Green Week activities undertaken by other groups in the town and the Council's own activities.

Further suggestions would be to highlight local walks, such as in The Lake & Country Park and Lower Windrush Valley, promoting the correct use of the recycling bins in the Council's recreation grounds and parks.

### **Environmental impact**

There should be no environmental impact (other than positive) as a result of these proposed activities.

### **Risk**

There are no perceived risks from the contents of the report.

### **Financial implications**

All activities already have an allocated budget.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and;

1. Consider whether the Council should support the Big Green Week and if yes, consider the above proposals.