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● GREEN BULLET

9th September 2020

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West. We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to andyuille@gmail.com - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](#) website.

CONTENTS

- Campaigns – climate change, Civic Revival, Earth Overshoot, planning, plastic, air
- Information update – Covid-19, Brexit & beyond, energy, planning, devolution, transport, biodiversity
- Publications – Access to greenspace, NW water quality, agri-environment schemes
- Events – GM Green Summit, urban forestry, Cycle September, coastal catchment management
- Resources – NCVO, citizen's climate assemblies, Slow Ways walking routes, greenspace, land cover, urban forest, communities & natural capital
- Consultations – Planning for the future white paper, changes to the current planning system, waste management, dark skies, deforestation, suburbs, e-bikes in Lake District, GM parks

Campaigns

Climate change

- [Priti Patel](#) has said that Extinction Rebellion “criminals” threaten the British way of life. Others have suggested that in fact it is the climate emergency that they are trying to highlight that is the real threat. Meanwhile Scientists for XR have produced an online, fact-checked document explaining pretty much [everything you need to know about the climate emergency](#)

- China, alongside a host of other countries, is expected to [miss the deadline set out in the Paris agreement to update its climate commitments](#) this year. Under the 2015 accord, countries are supposed to revise their “nationally determined contributions” this year to ensure they can meet the goal of limiting warming to below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. But the coronavirus pandemic has played havoc with this process. However, France and Germany are pressing ahead with plans to [invest heavily in green infrastructure projects](#) as the EU’s two largest economies look to recover from the pandemic.
- Six young people from Portugal are suing the UK, Switzerland, Norway, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as the 27 EU member countries in the European Court of Human Rights, in what could be a [landmark legal case](#). Their claim rests on the idea that the devastating wildfires that hit Portugal in 2017 were made worse by climate change.
- Cumbria Action for Sustainability has been awarded £2.5 Million to support their Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, [aiming to make Cumbria the first carbon neutral county](#) in Britain

Civic Revival

Civic Revival is a new national network which aims to celebrate and develop the crucial factors that determine whether a particular place – neighbourhood, town or local area – has the feeling of identity, custody and self-esteem that make it a good place to live in or go to: the ‘something special’ that distinguishes it from elsewhere. They have defined five areas of special interest: the celebration of places and their character; the fostering of responsible and sustainable living to meet global and local environmental challenges; the exploration of the benefits that can be unlocked by new economic and ownership models; what it is that engenders a benign and constructive pride in local history, culture and identity; and the quest to find the most appropriate forms of democratic decision-making and governance to support positive citizen action. [Find out more and join them online](#).

Earth Overshoot Day

[Earth Overshoot Day](#) marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. This year it fell on August 22nd.

Planning reform

CPRE are asking people to sign a [petition protesting the Government’s proposed planning reforms](#) (see Planning and Consultations sections) as deregulatory and diminishing democratic involvement in the system – taking powers from communities and handing them to developers and Ministers.

Plastics

The UK Government has confirmed that the 5p [charge on single-use plastic carrier bags will be doubled](#) to 10p and extended to all retailers from April 2021.

Air quality

- Friends of the earth’s audit of the latest air quality reports has revealed that [1,360 sites across England have breached the government’s air quality objectives](#) for nitrogen dioxide – which is a both danger to health, and a huge source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Good Law Project has launched a landmark legal case to [force the UK government to urgently review its Clean Air Strategy](#) in light of a growing body of evidence suggesting that there is a link between air pollution and COVID-19.

• GREEN BULLET

- Applications are now open for local councils to apply for the latest £2 million share of the [Air Quality Grant Scheme](#) to improve local air pollution.
- With pupils across the country returning to school, Modeshift STARS has launched a new initiative to [encourage parents and children to walk to school](#).
- Oxford City Council has set out plans to introduce [more ambitious air quality targets than the UK's current, legally binding goals](#), in what it claims is a national first – setting a precedent for your local authority to follow?

Information update

Covid-19

- When he suggested that ‘newt counting’ was holding back development, the Prime Minister pledged a project speed to ‘build better, build greener and build faster’. [This Wildlife and Countryside Link paper](#) presents evidence showing that environmental protections (including those covering newts) are not a delay on building and highlights how their removal could undermine the very purpose of planning – the creation of healthy, sustainable communities and environments. The paper goes on to demonstrate how the provision of better environmental data and specialist expertise in planning could better achieve the Prime Minister’s goal of building better, greener and faster.
- A group of 100 moderate Conservative MPs have called on Boris Johnson [to beef up green legislation and investment through the UK's Covid-19 recovery strategy](#), and are particularly keen for the national petrol and diesel car ban to be moved forward to 2030. However, the Government continues to defend its [utter failure to attach ‘green strings’ to its economic recovery package](#), handing out billions to high-polluting, carbon-intensive businesses with no requirements to improve environmental performance, and dwarfing the amounts committed to a more sustainable recovery.
- Greenpeace and other climate campaigners have also accused the Bank of England of [backsliding on its green finance commitments](#) and are calling on it to stop providing extensive support to high-carbon sectors as part of its Covid-19 recovery process.
- Lancashire, Cheshire, Warrington and Cumbria pocketed a share of the £900m Government pot for [projects deemed fit to boost the UK economy post-Covid-19](#), in addition to Greater Manchester’s £54m and Liverpool City Region’s £26m allocations.

Brexit and beyond

- The Government have said that they are [developing legally binding targets for biodiversity, air quality, water and waste](#), similar to the legally binding net zero target. At least one “strong and meaningful” target will be introduced for each of the four priority areas for the Environment Bill: biodiversity, air quality, water and waste. All targets will be deadlined for the mid-to-late 2030s and will be backed up with interim targets that will not be legally binding, to help spur early progress. The goals should be set in statute by the end of October 2022 at the latest. [If robust, well-formulated and sufficiently broad in scope](#), these could, potentially, drive real environmental gain. The devil remains in the detail, however.
- The UK Government has agreed to transpose aspects of the European Union’s Circular Economy Package into UK law, agreeing on [targets to recycle 65% of household waste by 2035](#) and to allow a maximum of 10% municipal waste going to landfill in the same timeframe. Recycling levels have languished in England (as opposed to UK) for several years and the country is currently not on track to achieve its recycling target of 50% by 2020.

- The Government is [recruiting for a Chair for the new Office for Environmental Protection](#), the environmental watchdog that will, perhaps, hold Government and industry to account over their environmental performance in a post-Brexit UK.
- Wildlife and countryside campaigners have written to the head of the Environment Agency, urging him not to [weaken the rules that have driven the clean-up of rivers in England](#). He had suggested weakening the Water Framework Directive rules (which, as previously reported, the underfunded Agency is no longer able to enforce) after the UK leaves the EU, lowering environmental standards.

Energy

- [BEIS has slashed its forecasts for offshore wind energy costs](#) through to 2030 by more than half, in the first update to predictions since 2016. Offshore wind projects which come online between now and 2030 will produce power at an average cost of £47 per megawatt-hour over the course of their lifetime. BEIS's previous forecast had placed the figure at £103 per megawatt-hour. The equivalent figures for onshore wind and large-scale solar have also fallen, to £45/MWh and £39/MWh respectively. In comparison, BEIS is forecasting that the levelised cost of energy (LCOE) for new gas will reach £82 per megawatt-hour by 2030 and that the LCOE for new nuclear will reach £93 per megawatt-hour within the same timeframe.
- The National Infrastructure Commission has stated that [up to 65% of the UK's energy demand could be met by renewable generation within a decade](#) - increasing the proportion from 50% in previous forecasts to account for falling costs.
- However, the UK is achieving less than half of the build rate required to [deliver energy systems that will reach net-zero emissions by 2050](#), according to a new report from engineering consultancy Atkins. They make a set of 7 recommendations to help the UK reach its legally-binding target.
- The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has argued that the UK Government needs to "undertake a significant programme of infrastructure investment", give regulators more powers to [ensure that infrastructure contributes to the net-zero target](#), and leverage in private investment to create funding for critical net-zero infrastructure.
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will review whether its plans for the [future oil and gas licencing regime](#) are "aligned with tackling climate change" and compatible with the UK's 2050 net-zero target. The Department has repeatedly stated that continued oil and gas production will play a role in the UK's economy through to 2050 and beyond. While it is predicting a fall in demand from the electricity and transport sectors due to electrification, BEIS believes that fossil fuels will still be used for heating and cooking within this timeframe. Moreover, fossil-based carbon is used to produce medicines, cosmetics, cleaning products and plastics.

Planning

- The big news is of course the publication of the long-awaited [Planning White Paper](#) at the start of the month – see Consultations section for more detail, headline proposals, and links to other sources. The proposals met with strong negative reactions from [Labour](#) and [Conservative MPs](#), [environmental](#), [countryside](#) and [affordable housing groups](#) alike, including a coalition of environment, heritage and planning organisations who describe the reforms as being ["akin to demolishing the whole house just to mend the roof"](#), and a partnership of planning academics who describe the measures as ["incoherent" and warn they will "undermine democratic controls](#), reduce the quality of new development, and waste an important opportunity to build safer, healthier, more equal, and more environmentally sustainable places".

• GREEN BULLET

- Major planning decisions across England are open to corruption from secretive lobbying, conflicts of interest and bribery, according to new research by [Transparency International UK](#).
- Research by housing charity Shelter shows that [40% of homes granted planning permission since 2011 have not been built](#) – more than 380,000, and up by 100,000 in the last year alone - very strongly suggesting that planning permission is not a significant barrier to getting homes built.
- This week, Greater Manchester leaders will lay out a new timeline for delivering the [Greater Manchester Spatial Framework](#) at a [special meeting](#) of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. Following approval by all council leaders, elected representatives from all 10 Greater Manchester local authorities will be asked to consider and approve the plan throughout October. If all 10 councils agree, the plan will then be brought forward for eight weeks of public consultation from early November 2020.
- Urban design and masterplanning firm URBED has won a government contract to produce a set of national design principles - the National Model Design Code - that will inform local plans and development management decisions. The Government is promising fast-track permission for developments that comply with local design codes, and where local design guides and codes have not been produced, the white paper states that “the National Design Guide, National Model Design Code and Manual for Streets should guide decisions on the form of development”.
- Campaign group Rights: Community: Action have launched a [legal challenge against the Government’s recent extension to permitted development rights](#), fearing it will lead to thousands more poor quality, unsustainable homes – as the Government’s own research showed happened with the last extension (see [last month’s Bullet](#)).
- The Government has launched its [Affordable Housing Prospectus](#), setting out its targets and indicative funding for delivering affordable housing over the next five years, “should economic conditions allow”! However, plans to exempt many more sites from delivering affordable housing and prioritizing the Government new ‘First Homes’ scheme has led to industry concerns that [affordable housing delivery overall is set to suffer](#).
- Cheshire East Council has sent a “stinging” open letter to housing secretary Robert Jenrick strongly criticising his decision to allow a planning appeal for a 189-home development on an unallocated site, saying that it [undermines the principle of a plan-led system](#) (and makes claims that this Government wants their planning reforms to improve democratic scrutiny of the system appear even shakier)
- The District Councils Network, which represents 187 local authorities across England with housing and planning functions, [wants ministers to pause the housing delivery test and five-year land supply requirements](#) for town halls. It argues that councils are at risk of being unfairly penalised for missing the targets because of the construction slowdown caused by COVID-19.
- A High Court judge has ruled that Leeds City Council’s development plan proposals to deallocate 37 green belt sites to allow the building of 4,070 new homes must be reconsidered by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), following a [judicial review challenge by a Neighbourhood Forum](#).
- Housing secretary, Robert Jenrick MP this week announced funding to [help communities in urban and deprived areas plan their local neighbourhoods](#) will almost double. The government grants to individual neighbourhood planning groups in both areas will increase to £18,000.

Devolution

- A Cumbria County Council cabinet report has asked that chief executive Katherine Fairclough be authorised to submit a business case to Government that would see [Cumbria County Council and six district councils replaced by a new body](#).
- In Lancashire there are 12 district authorities and two unitary councils that fall under Lancashire County Council, which has sought direct negotiations with Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick MP about a future devolution settlement for the county. Its preferred option would see the existing district and unitary councils abolished in favour of [three new unitary authorities which would cover Lancashire](#): The Western and Northern areas – Blackpool, Wyre, Fylde, Lancaster and Ribble Valley; The East – Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn and Pendle; and The Central and Southern areas – Preston, South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancashire. However, there is [not agreement between all the authorities](#) on these divisions yet.
- [Reorganising England's local government into larger county-wide unitary authorities](#) would help strategic planning for housing and infrastructure, according to a new report commissioned for the County Councils Network by multinational professional services firm PwC.
- In response, the District Councils Network has published [Power in place: devolution and districts driving our recovery](#) arguing that districts, not counties should be the building blocks for devolution, and that concentrating power at county level is [centralization, not devolution](#).
- Both of these reports are attempts to influence the forthcoming English Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper, due to be published this autumn.

Transport

- The Treasury and Highways England are facing criticism after the [latest details about the UK Government's £27.4billion road-building plan](#) was published, with green groups arguing that the money would have been better spent on public transport and digital infrastructure. Campaign group Transport Action Network has been granted permission for a [judicial review challenge](#) of the Transport Secretary's decision to proceed with the programme.
- In 2015, Highways England was given £100m by central government to improve air quality between 2015 and 2021, with a direction that £75m must be spent before March 2020. It has spent just half of that amount, and with the fund now expired, the [money allocated to clean up air pollution from roads has been lost](#).
- Details of the Government's [£2 billion funding package to improve active travel](#) have been welcomed.

Biodiversity

- Defra has invited five local government bodies to [develop pilot Local Nature Recovery Strategies](#) in England, including Greater Manchester and Cumbria. £1 million of funding has been allocated (across all five) to map the most important sites and habitats for wildlife as well to work with partners to identify and prioritise opportunities for recovering nature.

Publications

Improving Access to Green Space: Review 2020

This update from the original 2014 Public Health England report reviews evidence on the health benefits of living in greener communities, the impact on inequalities in health and makes recommendations to help Local Authorities, policymakers and developers provide equitable greenspaces for communities. Greenspaces are increasingly being recognised as an important

asset for supporting health and well-being. This report provides Local Authorities and communities, particularly in public health teams, with the tools to make a case for maintaining and increasing provision of equitable access to greenspace, especially through the planning system. It [offers policy, practice and research recommendations](#) for local government and those working in partnership with it.

Water quality in the North West: Natural Course interim report

Natural Course is the UK's first EU funded LIFE Integrated Project, running from 2015-2024. It brings together stakeholders to improve and protect water quality across the North West River Basin District and address the barriers preventing the achievement of 'Good Ecological Status' under the EU Water Framework Directive. One third of the poorest quality rivers in England and Wales are found in the North West River Basin District and, within it, 78% of rivers are **NOT** reaching a recognised good standard. This [interim report, intended for non-specialists](#), sets out progress so far and next steps, including featured projects and key achievements.

Agri-Environment Schemes & natural capital

In 2018, Defra commissioned a study to determine the extent to which the contribution of current [agri-environment schemes could be described, quantified and valued within a natural capital framework](#). The focus of the work was the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England. The study examined evidence for the impact of land management interventions delivered through these schemes on natural capital and the resultant provision of benefits.

Events

Greater Manchester Green Summit 2020

Greater Manchester Combined Authority will outline its vision for its environment and set out the next steps to becoming carbon neutral at this year's Green Summit, taking place online from 21-24 September. Now in its third year, the [Greater Manchester Green Summit 2020](#) will mark progress made towards the goals of the GM Five-Year Environment Plan, which include becoming carbon neutral by 2038, improving air quality in the next decade, protecting the natural environment, and building resilience to the effects of climate change. Communities, businesses and organisations working towards Greater Manchester's environment goals are invited to take part, share their experiences, and discuss the actions they are taking throughout the city-region. And you can always follow the latest GM green news at <http://qmgreencity.com/>.

Urban forestry

The Mersey Forest team is working with partners on a Test and Trial of how Land Management Plans can support urban forestry projects funded by the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). They would really appreciate it if you could contribute your thoughts, ideas and experience to this project, to help to shape the new scheme. You can do this via an [online survey](#), and/or by [registering to attend a zoom workshop](#) on 22 September at 2pm which will look at creating a template draft Land Management Plan for urban forestry programmes as well as exploring the incentives, activities and support for urban forestry.

Cycle September

Cycle September is a fun, free competition where we're competing to see which workplace can get the most staff to try cycling. There are loads of prizes that you can win by riding and encouraging friends and colleagues. If you haven't cycled for years, don't worry! You only have to ride a bike for just 10 minutes or more for your participation to count towards our team's

score. And you can ride anywhere, anytime during the Challenge. If you already ride - you already know how enjoyable riding is and how good it makes you feel. So here's your chance to get your workmates to experience how easy and enjoyable riding can be. [Get involved, it takes just 2 minutes!](#)

Coastal and catchment management

Funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and managed by The Rivers Trust and the Coastal Partnerships Network, the Wholescape Approach to Marine Management 'WAMM' project aims to support a more collaborative approach between Coastal and Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) partnerships to enhance delivery for the coastal and estuarine environments. Find out more at a [Regional workshop, online, September 22nd](#).

Resources

NCVO resources

NCVO have recently updated their [coronavirus guidance to voluntary sector organisations](#). Their member resources remain free to access and you may be particularly interested in the following: [Volunteers and the law](#) - Access guidance to help you understand your legal rights when managing volunteers; [Strengthen your trustee board](#) - Identify, assess, and record the risks that your organisation faces with our risk register; [Good practice in volunteer management](#) - A practical four-part course that introduces you to key knowledge and skills that every volunteer manager needs.

Citizens Assemblies on climate

With funding from the [Place-based Climate Action Network \(PCAN\)](#), an ESRC supported network that brings together the research community and decision-makers in the public, private and third sectors, Shared Future CIC has published [a guide for local authorities and other bodies](#) thinking of commissioning (or advocating!) a citizens' assembly or jury. It considers how such processes might address the climate emergency, what is involved and approaches to design and delivery.

Slow Ways – national walking routes

Slow Ways is a project to create a [network of walking routes that connect all of Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages](#). Using existing footpaths, people will be able to use the Slow Ways to walk between neighbouring settlements or daisy-chain routes for long distance journeys. During lockdown 700 volunteers from across the country collaborated to produce a first draft of the Slow Ways. This incredible effort has led to the creation of 7,500 routes that collectively stretch for over 110,000km. They are now seeking around 10,000 volunteers to explore, test, and feed back on these routes.

Beyond Greenspace

The [Beyond Greenspace](#) blog is regularly updated with resources, outputs from projects, and discussion of related research. Resources include summary of evidence on the health benefits of green space; what local authorities can do to enhance the health benefits of green space; case studies; principles of successful interventions; and supporting documents and research papers.

FREE Green space health audits

In response to COVID-19, and to optimise parks for health, Tisdall Associates are providing green space audits to councils and charities in the UK at no cost for a limited period. They have created [the Park for Health Toolkit](#), tested and refined by Parks for London, Local Authorities and Friends of Parks groups. The Toolkit enables a 'health audit' of a park and forms the basis for the development of a Park Health Strategy.

Urban land cover assessment

The West of England Nature Partnership has published an assessment of the [distribution of different urban land cover types across the region](#). The study also outlines actions that would increase the benefits delivered by each land cover type for biodiversity, and human health and wellbeing. Improved accessibility of greenspace features heavily in this. The work utilises an approach to urban land cover classification pioneered in Greater Manchester and which is adaptable to any area.

Urban forest videos

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some Trees and Design Action Group members are making the talks they gave in early March at Futurebuild 2020's Urban Forest Pavilion [available online](#). Topics include: Assessing Urban Forest Sustainability in a Changing Climate; Urban Hedges; Many Green Infrastructure Benefits; Tree Planting Strategies; and Green Streets: Learning from Leeds City Region.

Connecting communities with natural capital

As part of the Catchment Data and Evidence Forum 2020, Ellie Brown, the Ribble Rivers Trust's GIS Data & Evidence Officer, presented the health and wellbeing analysis and evidence base she has developed to help identify priority locations where the improvement of access to and the condition of public open spaces could have the greatest benefits for people and the environment. The health analysis is available for the whole of England. There are plans to update this and undertake the environmental analysis nationally in the coming months. [Watch the recording](#) and view the [opportunity mapping](#).

Consultations

Planning for the future: The Planning White Paper

The [Planning White Paper](#) is out for consultation until October 29th. The key points are summarized well elsewhere (such as [Inside Housing](#) or [Savills](#) for a short read, or the excellent [Andy Boddington](#) or [Lichfields](#) for more in-depth analysis) so I won't rehash them here, other than to highlight a few headlines:

- Binding housing targets to be set centrally using a new standard method algorithm (although Ministers have [since rowed back on that](#), confusingly saying that the central figure will be both a "starting point" from which constraints will have to be accounted for, and a "minimum")
- [Modelling by Lichfields](#) suggests that the new standard method would require the steepest uplift in building in the south and east, and in rural, semi-rural and suburban rather than urban areas. For the North West it would mean higher targets than current Local Plans or the current standard method, but a lower target than average delivery over the past 3 years (although obviously this will vary between council areas)
- Land would be 'zoned' in local plans for either growth, renewal, or protection. Permission in principle would automatically be granted in growth and renewal zones for development that

complied with plan policies. Local plans would thus become principally about deciding the broad distribution (though not precise location) of a housing target set by central Government

- Public and democratic involvement would drastically curtailed at the planning application stage. The Government claims this would be balanced out by greater public involvement at the plan-making stage, but previous drives to increase public involvement in plan-making have seen very limited success ([only 11% of young people and 26% of the population have ever had any involvement](#)).
- The way that developers contribute to affordable housing and infrastructure would change, leading to fears that provision of both will be adversely affected.
- Design codes are intended to ensure the quality of new development, although to date design codes have had quite a weak influence on the system
- Replacement of the 'tests of soundness' for plans with a 'sustainable development' test

This would be the most radical overhaul of the planning system for several generations, so if you're only going to respond to one consultation this year, this should probably be it!

Changes to the current planning system

Government is also consulting on shorter-term changes to planning policy and regulations in addition to the fundamental reforms set out in "Planning for the Future". [This consultation sets out proposals which aim to "improve the effectiveness" of the current system](#). The four main proposals are:

- changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need, which as well as being a proposal to change guidance in the short term has relevance to proposals for land supply reforms set out in Planning for the Future;
- imposing First Homes, sold at a discount to market price for first time buyers, including key workers, at the expense of other forms of affordable housing;
- temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing, from 10 to up to 40 or 50 units;
- extending the current Permission in Principle to major development so landowners and developers would have a fast route to secure the principle of development for housing on sites without having to work up detailed plans first.

Deadline: 1st October.

Waste management

The Government is seeking views on a revised [draft Waste Management Plan for England](#) (the Plan). Under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 the Government is required to review the Plan every 6 years. The Plan provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England. It is primarily about the quantity of waste there is in England and how that waste is managed (but does not note, as perhaps it should, that [waste incinerators are three times more likely to be built in poorer areas](#) – waste management is a question of environmental justice). It reflects the policies included in the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy, published in 2018. Deadline: 15 October.

Dark Skies

An All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dark Skies was set up earlier this year. The group has opened a [consultation seeking proposals and evidence from stakeholders with expertise and experience of dark sky preservation and light pollution](#). The consultation will collect information to identify the main threats to dark sky preservation in the UK. It will aim to find the most

effective way for legislators and policy makers to meet the challenges, and will explore the environmental, economic, energy and health consequences of light pollution.

Deadline: 25th September

Deforestation & supply chains

Defra has launched a consultation into whether the UK Government should introduce a new law designed to [prevent forests and other rich habitats in supply chains abroad from being converted into agricultural land](#). More often than not, this process violates local laws around nature protection. The proposed law would require large, UK-based businesses to prove that the 'forest risk' commodities that they use have been sourced using deforestation-free processes. Defra includes soy, palm oil, cocoa, beef, rubber and leather alongside forestry products like wood and paper in this category. Deadline: 5th October.

Suburban taskforce

The Houses of Parliament's cross-party [Suburban Taskforce](#) has opened a public consultation to help it chart a 'renaissance' of Britain's suburbs. It aims to identify potential policy solutions to support the [long-term sustainability of suburban areas](#). It will review evidence of the state of Britain's suburbs, seeking to identify national trends (albeit focusing on the outer suburbs of London in its first phase). It will then make recommendations to the government on policy initiatives to enhance the country's suburbs, paying attention to social, economic and environmental circumstances, as well as available policy tools such as taxation, investment and the planning system. Deadline: 2nd October.

E-bike Research Summer 2020

Do you use or have you used an e-bike in the Lake District? Would you like to help us to understand how e bikes fit into the recovery of sustainable tourism in the Lake District? If so, please consider [completing this survey](#).

Greater Manchester Parks

IGNITION is a partnership project that aims to create a greener, healthier and more climate resilient future across Greater Manchester. If you live in Greater Manchester, please share your thoughts by filling in [this short survey](#) to help them understand how you use your public parks and greenspaces and why they are important to you. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

To subscribe or contribute

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