

* **Green Bullet**

29th May 2017

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 andyyuille@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](https://www.vsnw.org.uk/green-bullet) website.

**CPRE has agreed to continue funding the Green Bullet throughout 2017 – many thanks!**

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# *Campaigns*

**Climate change**

* The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has [slammed the Government’s track record](https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/1036/103602.htm) in failing to support carbon capture and storage (CCS) and concluded that as a result there is a “major gap” in the government’s decarbonisation plans and that they (ie we!) “will have to pay billions of pounds more to meet its decarbonisation targets, has missed opportunities to be at the forefront of a growing global industry, and has damaged investors’ confidence in working with the government on CCS in the future.”
* Meanwhile, the Environmental Audit Committee has criticised the Government for refusing to commit to air quality targets in relation to the third runway expansion at Heathrow, and described the associated [carbon calculations as a "fantasy".](http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/2017/05/mps-criticise-government-over-carbon-fantasy-for-heathrow-expansion-based-on-vague-hopes/)
* The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) reviewed subsidies to fossil fuels in the 10 countries accountable for 84% of Europe’s energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The UK is the only nation to score “very poorly” for its transparency of coal subsidy reporting. It found that the [UK is providing £356m annual subsidies to the industry](https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11494.pdf), as documented by the OECD and International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, it also claims that the UK Government “explicitly denies” that these payments exist; they would be in direct contravention of stated Government policy and rhetoric.

**Air quality**

* The European Union (EU) has approved [new air pollution limits](https://www.euractiv.com/section/air-pollution/news/eu-clears-tighter-controls-on-power-plant-air-pollution/), which it is estimated will save more than 20,000 lives each year by reducing pollution from power plants, particularly coal-fired ones.
* The Government has released its latest plan to tackle the UK’s illegal levels of air pollution, estimated to cause 40,000 deaths per year. It has been widely condemned as inadequate by pretty much all commentators (see consultations section).

**30 Days Wild**

The [30 Days Wild campaign](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/30days) is nearly here! Throughout June, intended to get people to take small steps to connect more with nature, the Wildlife Trusts are encouraging schools, businesses and community groups to sign up to receive a pack of wild goodies, plus lots of ideas to inspire you to go wild. **30 Days Wild** is all about taking a little bit of time every day to do something a little bit wild, so take the challenge and you might just find yourself feeling a little bit healthier, happier and wilder!

**Bees**

The [Great British Bee Count](https://www.foe.co.uk/bee-count/great-british-bee-count-events?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=25812ca44b-LM1705013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-25812ca44b-20757677) **has started** and there are many ways to take part. Throughout the summer events are being organised to get as many people as possible involved. **From farm open days to festivals**, guided walks to bee-friendly restaurant menus, there are loads of opportunities to join in. And if there are no events near you, you could organize one, or just [download the app or the identification guide](https://www.foe.co.uk/bee-count/great-british-bee-count-bee-identification-guide?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a1e6895611-LM1705039&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a1e6895611-20757677) and get counting! B&Q last week became the first home improvement retailer to announce it will grow its flowering plant range free from neonicotinoid pesticides, and Friends of the Earth are [petitioning other stores](https://act.foe.co.uk/act/get-bee-harming-pesticides-out-garden-plants#more) to follow suite, as a new survey shows that [more than 75% of the public support](https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/consumers-condemn-sale-of-plants-grown-with-pesticides-harmful-to-bees/) such a move.

**Natural Capital critique**

Among the flurry of toolkits, advice and advocacy for a natural capital approach, this month saw a rare [business mainstream criticism](https://www.edie.net/news/7/Natural-capital-good-or-bad-for-the-environment/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%207d9ab006ca-dailynewsletter) of the idea, a perhaps timely reminder of the deep unease many in [environmentalist](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2014/jul/24/price-nature-neoliberal-capital-road-ruin) and [academic](http://thestudyofvalue.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/WP3-Sullivan-2014-Natural-Capital-Myth.pdf) circles feel about the concept, as well as some in the [business community](https://www.greenbiz.com/article/pitfalls-putting-price-nature-whats-next-natural-capital).

**(Un)common land**

Local and national organisations are campaigning to stop the Ministry of Defence from destroying a vast area of Cumbria's cultural history.  The MoD wants to [deregister three large upland commons](https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/cumbrian-commons-face-biggest-threat-since-enclosure-movement) and turn them into private land.  Objectors say the deregistration would be unlawful and flies in the face of undertakings made by the MoD, at a public inquiry, to keep the commons registered in perpetuity.

**Donald Trump**

Edie have compiled a rather disturbing [environmental timeline of Donald Trump’s first 100 days](https://www.edie.net/news/9/100-Days-of-Trump--Timeline-of-the-President-s-environmental-agenda/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%205bb2959c1e-dailynewsletter) in office. Worth checking out, but not just before bed, you don’t want to have nightmares! This reversal of progress looks set to get worse as he is [expected to announce that he will pull the USA out of the Paris agreement](https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidblackmon/2017/05/28/for-president-trump-pulling-out-of-paris-the-only-logical-move/#73407d8b2d10) this week after [refusing to commit to the agreement with all other G7 leaders](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-g7-summit-latest-climate-change-consensus-paris-agreement-angela-merkel-a7759231.html).

# *Information update*

**General election**

You may not have noticed, but the general election that we were promised wouldn’t happen is nearly upon us. In case you’re still wavering, here are links to the manifestos from the [Conservatives](https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto), [Labour](http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php/manifesto2017), [Greens](https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/) and [Lib Dems](http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto). If wading through the manifestos doesn’t appeal for some reason, other people have done so for you:-

* Friends of the Earth have [scored the manifestos on their environmental credentials](https://www.foe.co.uk/general-election/election-manifestos-scores-are), as follows:
	+ Greens: 30
	+ Lib Dems: 28
	+ Labour: 27
	+ Conservatives: 11
* Andy Boddington gives a [very detailed breakdown of the parties’ pledges](http://andybodders.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CPRE_SE_eBulletin_May_2017_The_Manifestos.pdf) under the main headings of concern to CPRE, and compares them against the six commitments that CPRE are seeking.
* Green Alliance set out fairly comprehensively [what the main parties say about environmental issues](https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2017/05/24/what-are-the-manifestos-promising-on-the-environment/), but without analysis.
* The AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) [provide more in-depth analysis](http://www.aecb.net/whats-in-the-manifestos/) of the parties’ claims.
* Carbon Brief have compiled a table comparing the [parties’ positions on climate change and energy](https://www.carbonbrief.org/election-2017-what-minfestos-say-energy-climate-change), with some analysis below the main table.
* Greenpeace have analysed the [Labour](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/about/what-do-we-think-labour-party-manifesto-20170517) and [Conservative](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/about/what-do-we-think-labour-party-manifesto-20170517) manifestos from a wider environmental perspective.
* [Friends of the Earth](https://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/press_releases_7978) have also responded individually to the Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem manifestos, and have published a [General Election survival guide](https://www.foe.co.uk/general-election?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=129fd10a6f-LM1705030&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-129fd10a6f-20757677) to explain **what they think this election means for the environment, practical steps you can take** to make a difference, and a few **ideas for anyone who wants to take a break** from the world of opinion polls and ballot boxes.
* Planning portal provides a round-up of the parties’ [pledges on planning](https://blog.planningportal.co.uk/2015/04/30/election-special-a-planning-summary-of-the-manifestos/).

As mentioned last month, [CPRE](http://www.cpre.org.uk/component/k2/item/4582-cpre-manifesto-for-general-election-2017) and [Sustain](https://www.sustainweb.org/brexit/general_election_2017/) have released their own manifestos for the General Election, [Wildlife and Countryside Link](http://www.wcl.org.uk/general-election-2017.asp) have called on all parties to include five key commitments in their manifestos, the [Wildlife Trusts](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/GE2017) are calling on members to ask their parliamentary candidates to commit to three key principles, and all members of the Greener UK coalition will be pushing for the parties to act on their [environmental manifesto for a post-Brexit Britain.](http://greeneruk.org/resources/Greener_UK_Manifesto.pdf)

[The Aldersgate Group](http://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/latest#aldersgate-group-manifesto-2017-a-healthy-environment-a-competitive-economy) have also released a manifesto since the last Green Bullet, and there are also new manifestos or similar from the [Campaign for National Parks](http://www.cnp.org.uk/news/our-manifesto-next-westminster-government), the [Ramblers](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/vote-for-a-walking-britain.aspx), the [Campaign for Better Transport](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/blog/better-transport/transport-matters-general-election), the [RSPB](http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/b/martinharper/archive/2017/05/04/manifestos.aspx), the [Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)](https://www.tcpa.org.uk/building-the-future), the [Heritage Alliance](http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/tha-website/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Manifesto2017.pdf), and the [RTPI](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2017/may/planning-is-essential-to-deliver-our-successful-future%2C-rtpi-says-ahead-of-election/).

## Energy

* Recent government statistics have suggested that [79 per cent of people support renewable energy](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-and-climate-change-public-attitude-tracking-survey-wave-21). *The Public Attitudes Survey*, published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, notes that 73 per cent support onshore wind, 80 per cent support offshore wind, and 79 per cent support tidal energy.
* [Energy storage capacity](http://www.smartestenergy.com/info-hub/energy-entrepreneurs-report-2017/) in the UK is estimated to increase 100-fold by 2020, significantly helping to address the problem of intermittency in many renewable energies – although [industry voices are somewhat nervous](https://www.edie.net/news/8/UK-primed-for-energy-storage-boon--but-regulatory-barriers-remain/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%2033bb40e021-dailynewsletter) about changes to the regulatory landscape that may follow the General Election
* The [Moorside project](http://www.cityam.com/264808/national-grid-presses-pause-its-transmission-line-new) for a new nuclear reactor has been ‘paused’ due to a series of setbacks, including funders pulling out, and as a result so has [National Grid](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/overviewwherewearenow.asp)’s project to connect it to the grid with [kilometres of new pylons](http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/business/Cumbrian-nuclear-connection-project-on-hold-0c50d4d1-cb58-41d1-bcb9-43960d808992-ds) running through some stunning Cumbrian landscapes.

## Planning

* The [Supreme Court](https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2016-0076-judgment.pdf) has ruled that, even where a council cannot show a five-year supply of housing land, policies which restrict building in the countryside (such as green gaps and settlement boundaries) should not be considered as policies for the supply for housing, and therefore [should not be considered out-of-date](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/supreme-court-issue-ruling-on-nppf-paragraph-49). However, it also said that the lack of a five-year supply is enough to trigger the presumption in favour of development, and so the benefits of all policies have to be considered against the need for development in the area. As [reaction to the landmark ruling](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/reaction-to-supreme-court-ruling-on-the-nppf) suggests, the Court has managed to be both crystal clear and leave significant ambiguities at the same time, with some experts predicting more applications on unallocated sites being permitted, and others suggesting that greater weight for restrictive policies will enable protection against unwanted applications.
* The [Neighbourhood Planning Bill](http://lichfields.uk/blog/2017/april/28/neighbourhood-planning-act-2017-a-push-for-speedier-plan-making-and-site-starts/) (now Act!)
* The number of homes given [planning permission continues to increase](http://www.hbf.co.uk/?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=25620&filename=HPL_REPORT_2016_Q4.pdf), and approached 300,000 last year. In the same year, just over [150,000 homes began construction](https://tradingeconomics.com/united-kingdom/housing-starts). (See ‘Small builders’ publications below for some views on this!)
* Metro mayor planning pledges:
	+ [Greater Manchester’s Andy Burnham](https://burnhammeter.polimeter.org/promise/617) says he will require "a radical re-write" of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework "to produce a plan which provides solutions to the housing crisis, manages traffic congestion, raises our ambitions for jobs and maximises the ‘liveability’ of Greater Manchester", which also “results in a substantial reduction in loss of green belt"; he has tasked [Salford’s mayor Paul Dennett to oversee the re-write](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/503/planning_news_-_18_may_2017?utm_source=PPQ+Newsletter&utm_campaign=2a8131a3d5-Newsletter_18052017_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_734e0b63a9-2a8131a3d5-6976173#three).
	+ [Liverpool City Region’s Steve Rotheram](http://www.steverotheram.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FINAL-Steve-Rotheram-Our-future-together-Screen-min.pdf) says he will convene "a high-level housing summit", which will bring together councils, developers, housing providers and government agencies "to develop a strategy and early actions to make ours a fairer, greener housing market". He also pledged that "We will use our strategic planning and housing powers to encourage better use of brownfield land, promote good design and support concerted action to improve the quality and attractiveness of neighbourhoods across the City Region".
* [Angus Walker](https://www.bdb-law.co.uk/blogs/planning-act-2008/754-new-eia-regulations-come-into-force/) provides a (fairly) plain English guide to the main changes in the [new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/introduction/made), mentioned last month
* Councils in the UK are increasingly unable to meet demands for affordable housing, with 98 per cent now describing their need as either severe or moderate, according to new research. [Building Homes, Creating Communities](http://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/research/current-research-programme/building-homes-creating-communities-ensuring-councils-provide-innovative-solutions-to-meeting-housing-need/)notes the pressure on councils to meet the growing demand for affordable housing, and criticizes both a lack of new homes being built, and that those that are being built are not affordable to those in need. It makes 15 recommendations to the incoming government, including a call for investment in building new homes available for social rent to house Britain’s ‘essential’ low-paid workers.
* 20 Neighbourhood Plans passed referendum on the same day as the local elections, bringing the total that have passed referendum to nearly 350, with almost another 2,000 still in the pipeline

## Waste

* The EFRA Select Committee have called for a binding [national food waste reduction target](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/food-waste-report-published-16-17/) and greater transparency from retailers to reduce UK food waste levels, which they estimate is costing the average British citizen £200 per year. They also criticized the Government funding cuts to [WRAP](http://www.wrap.org.uk/), the organisation tasked with driving the transition to a circular economy.
* ‘[Waste crime’ is costing the UK £600 million a year](https://www.edie.net/news/5/Report--England-loses--600m-a-year-on-waste-crime/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20cabfc46f87-dailynewsletter), new research suggests, including £200 million from fly-tipping. The report criticizes the Government’s failure to adequately fund regulators and to put in place adequate regulations.

# *Publications*

**Garden towns and villages - smart growth or sprawl as usual?**

A new [report](http://www.smartgrowthuk.org/resources/downloads/Garden%20Towns%20and%20Villages%20-%20May%202017.pdf) “Garden towns and villages: Unwanted, unnecessary and unsustainable” by [Smart Growth UK](http://www.smartgrowthuk.org/) - a coalition of organisations who support a ‘smart growth’ approach to planning, transport and regeneration - says there is little to distinguish the current garden town and village proposals from "traditional greenfield sprawl" and that they have "serious sustainability shortcomings."

**Greening the City Regions**

The Six [*Greening the city regions: opportunities for new mayors*](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/greening_the_city_regions.php) report has now been published, which sets out the actions that the six new metro mayors can take to make their city regions greener, cleaner and more liveable. It includes a [Green City Regions Index](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/resources/Green_city_regions_index.pdf) which indicates each region’s strengths and weaknesses against a set of green indicators, from sustainable housing to low carbon transport, green infrastructure, waste and overall resilience to climate change. This analysis will form the basis of a public event with the newly elected mayors later in 2017.

**Devolution and Beyond**

VSNWs latest publication, [Devolution and Beyond](https://www.vsnw.org.uk/publications/2017/4/6/devolution-and-beyond-essays-on-the-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-sectors-role-in-an-inclusive-devolution-agenda), is a series of essays from leading thinkers and operators in devolution exploring the current context for the voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector at this pivotal point in the devolution journey. It includes a section on rural devolution, an issue often skipped over in the relentless focus on city regions.

**People’s Plan for Greater Manchester**

The ‘[People’s Plan for Greater Manchester](http://www.peoplesplangm.org.uk/)’ have published a report addressing some of the crucial questions at this important moment of change. The objective of the report is to provide GM citizens with opportunities to have a meaningful say on GM devolution and a constructive challenge and improvement of GM strategy and delivery, for social, environmental, economic and democratic progress.

**Small builders**

The National Housebuilding Council has published research, suggesting that small housebuilders are being squeezed out of the market by planning delays, lack of availability of land, and fee increases. [Small House Builders and Developers: Current Challenges to Growth](https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/publication/small-house-builders-and-developers-current-challenges-to-growth/) considers the experiences of nearly 500 companies who construct less than 10 homes a year. The [CLG Select Committee](https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmcomloc/46/4602.htm) has called for an end of the dominance of the big eight housebuilders and support for smaller companies who want to develop smaller sites, suggesting that there are no incentives for large housebuilders to increase output as current levels enable them to maintain profits at a high level. Both reports echo [CPRE’s research from 2014](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/housing/item/3679-increasing-diversity-in-the-house-building-sector) indicating that the dominance of volume house builders is having harmful impacts on the supply, location and design of new housing.

# *Events*

**Speak Up! Week of Action**

[Speak UP! Week of Action](https://www.weekofaction.org.uk/about/), July 1-9, is organised by the [Climate Coalition](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/), the UK’s largest group of people and organisations (including many NWEL members) committed to action on climate change. MPs are often keener to hear from constituents straight after an election, so the Week of Action is a perfect time to persuade your newly elected MP to champion positive solutions to climate change. From nature walks to tea parties to community energy visits, there are no limits to how you can get conversations about climate change started. Join or plan an event near you, or just write to your MP. Speak Up! Also coincides with [Community Energy Fortnight](http://www.ukcec.org/) (24th June – 9th July).

**People Powered Change: Learn How to Campaign in a Day**

If you are interested in bringing about change at a local or national level and would like information and advice to help you be more effective, then [this workshop is for you!](http://www.smk.org.uk/campaigning-training/one-day-introduction/) Provided by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation, the workshop provides the opportunity to find out how to develop a campaign strategy and identify the key tactics and skills needed to run an effective campaign, as well as the chance to meet other campaigners and develop your professional network. **Tuesday, 6th June 2017, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ, 10.00-17.00**

**After the elections: Where now for the Viable Economy?
June 14th 6.30-8pm,** Lounge at Manchester Methodist Hall, Central Buildings, Oldham St, Manchester M1 1JQ. [Steady State Manchester](https://steadystatemanchester.net/) will be discussing the prospects for an economically, socially and environmentally viable Greater Manchester in the light of the GM Mayoral and General Election results. All welcome to contribute to the debate!

**Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Partnership Annual Outburst 2017**

Mechanics Institute in Manchester, 13th July. Something for everyone with an [interest in our waterways](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/manchester-pennine-potteries-waterway-partnership-annual-outburst-tickets-34716733685?aff=enivte001), their sustainable future and the important role our waterways have in the local community. Event password: manchester.

# *Resources*

**New BESS website**

The [BESS](http://www.nerc-bess.net/) (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Sustainability) website has been relaunched, giving you access to all the key findings, downloadable [Synthesis Briefs](http://nerc-bess.us7.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=5cd76bc4872a9850c7a95db2a&id=3612dedd08&e=65eb507006) and links to the various Ecosystem Services toolkits from the six-year project, aimed at improving the evidence base and decision-making for managing our landscapes sustainably.

**Health, wellbeing and the environment**

* **Manifesto for Wellbeing**: Halton Clinical Commissioning Group have published a “[Cultural Manifesto for Wellbeing](http://www.haltonccg.nhs.uk/public-information/Documents/A%20Cultural%20Manifesto%20for%20Wellbeing.pdf)”, to help shift health care away from a medicine- and symptom-based approach to addressing the wider determinants of health. Unsurprisingly, it has a strong focus on the environment and community, and should be useful for anyone working on the health/environment axis.
* **Green prescribing:** The Ecosystem Knowledge Network is organising a training event (**Birmingham, 7th June)** to help professionals working in the health and social care system to scope, design and implement a green prescription scheme in their locality.. If you know of someone who would benefit, contact them at info@ecosystemsknowledge.net.
* **MyPlace**: A project that will improve the health and well-being of young people by involving them in making improvements to local green spaces has been launched by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust. The [MyPlace Project](https://www.lancswt.org.uk/myplace-project) has around £1million from the Big Lottery Fund and aims to work with 1,000 young people who may be experiencing mental health issues.
* **Mountains of the mind**: a reminder why [we should all get out in nature](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/05/mountains-of-the-mind-sion-jair-lake-district-fell-walking-dementia).

**Our Green Belt**

CPRE has launched a new short film about the Green Belt, entitled [#OurGreenBelt](http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-planning/green-belts), to help explain what Green Belt does and why people value it. You can watch the video on CPRE’s [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CampaigntoProtectRuralEngland/), [Twitter](http://Twitter), [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/user/CPRE1926) and [Instagram.](https://www.instagram.com/cpre/)

**Ecosystem services**

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has published a paper which [reviews environmental valuation](http://www.rics.org/Global/Value%20natural%20capital_insight%20paper_April2017.pdf) from the perspective of a practicing valuer, land manager or estate manager.

# *Consultations*

**Air pollution**

After [years of criticism and defeats in pretty much every UK and European Court](https://www.bdb-law.co.uk/blogs/planning-act-2008/753-air-quality-latest/) over their illegal delaying tactics, the Government have finally [published a consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-air-quality-plan-published-for-consultation) on their plans to reduce UK air pollution to within legal limits, and stop the 40,000 “excess deaths” per year caused by air pollution. The consultation is open until 15th June. Client Earth, the law firm that has led the campaign to get the Government to comply with its legal obligations, quite politely said that the plan is “much weaker than we had hoped for… [we will still be faced with illegal air quality for years](http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/article/may-2017/clientearth-rejects-governments-weak-clean-air-plan) to come under these proposals.” Other commentators have described it as [“toothless” and “woefully inadequate”](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Air-Quality-Plan--Why-is-the-Government-s-strategy-being-slammed-as--woefully-inadequate--/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%2033bb40e021-dailynewsletter).

# *Funding*

**Green Leaf Grants**

The Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) have a new small grant funding stream, the [Green Leaf Grants](http://www.lancsenvfund.org.uk/).  The grants, up to £1,000, are for not-for-profit organisations, charities, trusts, community groups, parish or community councils or voluntary organisations, for small stand-alone projects, with a 6-8 week turn around on applications. Projects might include: Energy efficiency measures at community facilities ie insulation, double glazing, water saving, low energy lighting etc; Wildflower and bulb planting; Tree planting; Community Orchards; Community Gardens (but not allotments); Pond creation and planting; Improvements to access to public parks and gardens; Benches and seating; Community Arts with an environmental theme; Health Walk waymarking; etc. For more information contact Jennifer Tidy, Fund Administrator, at LEF on 01772 317247 or general@lancsenvfund.org.uk

**Friends of the Lake District**

Friends of the Lake District have now contributed more than £1 million to environmental projects in Cumbria. Their [Environmental Improvement Grant](https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/environmental-improvement-grants-guidance)funds small scale projects and works that will enhance the landscape, connect people with it and aid their enjoyment of it, while their [Discover Cumbria](https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/innovative-scheme-funds-access-to-the-countryside-for-everyone) grants support activities or events which encourage access to the countryside or make a positive contribution to health and wellbeing.

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North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

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