

Question to Cabinet
Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on
9 June 2022

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Mark Clifford	Respondent: County Councillor Shaun Turner
	<p>Item 13 - Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme</p> <p>Whilst any money given to increase biodiversity in Lancashire shouldn't be sneezed at. Does the Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Change agree with me, that a total grant pot of just £58,000 for the Parish and Town Council Biodiversity small grant scheme is in effect chicken feed at £300 per grant, and will be seen as an insulting and derisory amount by many, especially as Town and Parish Councils have been forced by Lancashire County Council to spend thousands of pounds on lamppost stress testing to hang flowers and bunting off, in this great year of the Queens Jubilee.</p>	<p>The Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme is one part of a much wider package of measures the county council is taking to protect the environment and to help nature recovery in Lancashire.</p> <p>The funding will recur every year. It also complements the Local Delivery Scheme for public rights of way that has been made available for parish councils for more than 10 years, and which was recently increased by £100,000 per year.</p> <p>The Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme aims to support micro biodiversity projects at the local level. It must be seen in the context of the broad range of other nature recovery measures taken by the county council. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The county council is in the process of recruiting three ecologists to manage the 1,200 Biological Heritage Sites in Lancashire. They will identify and protect the county's critical environmental capital: its ancient woodlands, peatlands, wetlands and species-rich grasslands. • Restoration projects have restored 755 hectares of our peatlands, and a bid is being prepared with partners to secure funding for more peatland restoration.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the last decade, over 149,000 trees have been planted by the county council. This has sequestered 37,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.• Work has commenced with partners to prepare a Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy which will address the biodiversity crisis and steer nature recovery.
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