

Thu 30/06/2022 12:06

Dear Colleagues,

### **Nature for Everyone Campaign**

One in three people in England live where they have no access to nature rich places. Some communities have no green space at all, neglected spaces or are losing what space they do have to development. Wildlife and Countryside Link are leading on a campaign to do something about this glaring disparity by making access to nature part of the levelling up agenda. It's smart use of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is currently at the committee stage. This sits very much with our own purpose of everyone being able to benefit from nature.

This bill will set the planning agenda for years to come so now is the time to get it right. To show MPs that people take this issue seriously, there is a petition that takes less than 30 seconds to fill in, so please feel free to [sign here](#). Currently work is being done to table an amendment that aims to secure a legal "right to nature".

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan**

The government have published a discussion paper as part of an [open consultation](#) into mental health and wellbeing. As with disparities in access to nature, the concern over disparities in mental health provision are also flagged up and will be part of the expanding remit of the levelling up agenda. Government asks for respondents to "challenge us to be ambitious in your responses and think beyond the status quo" so our response will focus on the benefits of nature connection to enhance wellbeing for all ages and setting out where government can expand and build on what is already known to work, rather than reinventing the wheel. It often takes organisations outside government to point these things out.

### **Wilder Connection**

FSC is to be involved in a new project near Lincoln. The [Doddington Estate 'Wilding Doddington project'](#) is the largest one of its kind in the East Midlands. The National Lottery Heritage Fund will be funding the development phase of the Wilder Connections project. Wilder Connections is about including everyone and maximising the social, educational, health, and wellbeing opportunities around the Wilder Doddington nature recovery project.

FSC want to help young people feel more connected to nature and to gain valuable skills while enjoying amazing experiences at Wilder Doddington. Our specific involvement will be developing a programme of visits from local primary and secondary schools; adult education; and Young Darwin bursaries for less advantaged learners. Publications are also producing bespoke fold out charts. Congratulations to all of you who have been involved so far.

### **Well Done to the Sales Team**

Beating their own previous record set at the start of May this year, the sales team added bookings and enquiries with a potential yield of £676k in a week. That they have broken their own record doesn't mean that any of it is easy, (it isn't), but it's good to see steady progress being made in our bookings for next year.

### **Trustee Changes**

Three Trustees are due to retire shortly: Jenifer White has been a Trustee since 2013 and has been Vice Chair since 2021 and chaired the Environment & Sustainability Working Group for the last few years. John Thomson has been a Trustee since 2012 and Chair of the Finance & Administration Committee since 2017. Rob Cooke has been a Trustee since 2016. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of them for their wise counsel and the time they have devoted to FSC over the

past years. Being a trustee is voluntary, but the responsibilities and the time commitment are significant. So we would like to acknowledge that and let them know how grateful we are.

**Welcome to FSC:**

Elaine Davies-Long who is joining Head Office as HR administrator

Ezra Tattersall and Sadie Sarvis are both joining Rhyd-y-creuau as Tutors

Milan Raynier and Solomon Raynier will be our new Hospitality and Catering Assistants at Slapton Ley

Victoria Moore at Castle Head, Sandra Davies at Margam Park and Lucy Lewis at Dale Fort are also joining us as Hospitality and Catering Assistants.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark