



# Pressures and Priorities Workshops 30<sup>th</sup> January - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Summary of attendance and feedback



## Summary of attendance of Pressures and Priorities workshops

### Attendance

Five full-day workshops were held at five different locations (Chilham, Ashford, Rainham, Gravesend and East Malling).

In total, 200 people attended, representing 137 different organisations, bodies, affiliations etc.

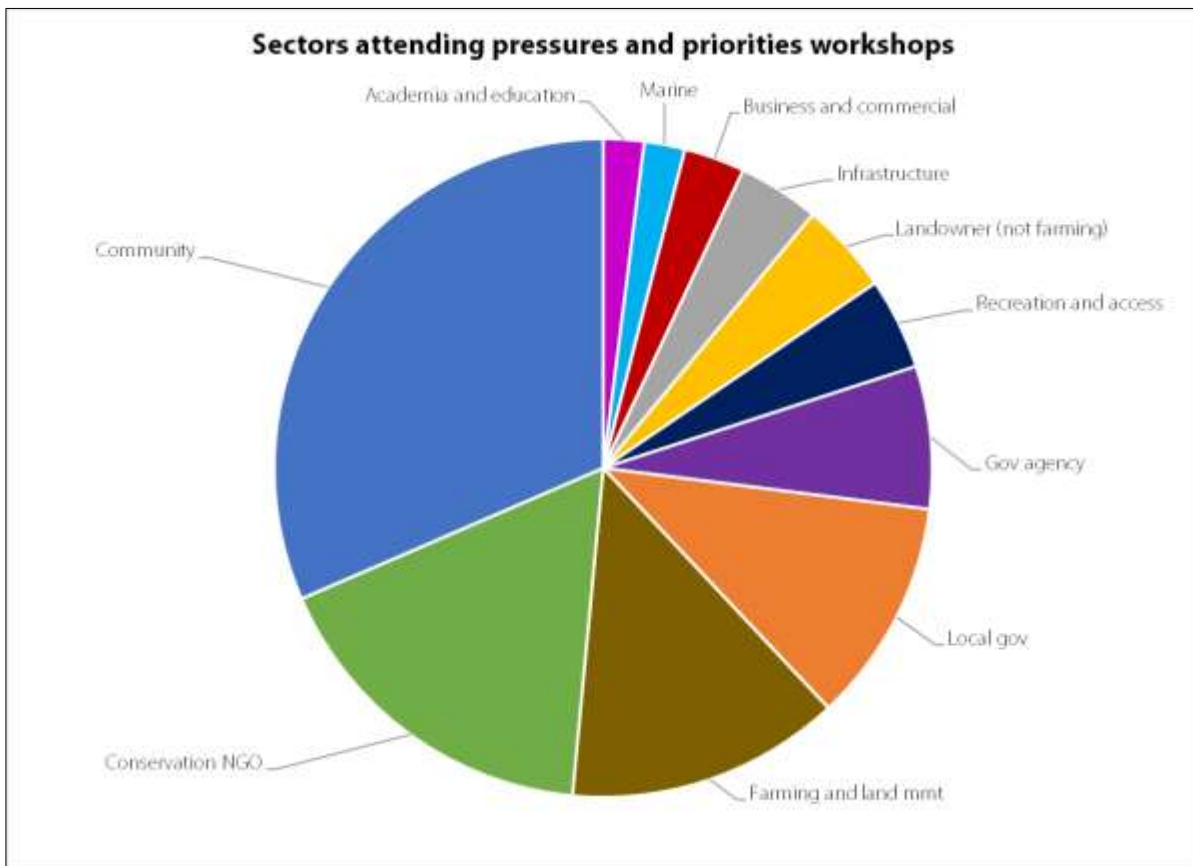
Location	Date	Number attending
Chilham	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	47
Ashford	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	31
Rainham	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	44
Gravesend	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	35
East Malling	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	43

## Sectors attending

All but the health sector has been represented across the four workshops, with community (friends of group, community groups, recorders and parish/town councils) the sector with the highest attendance (in total and at all but one workshop). There has been good representation from conservation NGOs, local government and farming/land management.

Infrastructure, recreation and access, academia and education, business and commercial and marine had the lowest representation.

Sector	Number attending	Percentage
Community	63	32%
Conservation NGO	34	17%
Farming and land mmt	27	14%
Local gov	22	11%
Gov agency	14	7%
Landowner (not farming)	9	5%
Recreation and access	9	5%
Infrastructure	8	4%
Business and commercial	6	3%
Academia and education	4	2%
Marine	4	2%



Organisations, bodies and businesses attending

Addington Parish Council  
Adonis Blue  
Affinity Water  
Alkham Parish Council  
Alkham Valley Society  
Ashford Borough Council  
Ashley  
Aylesford Parish Council  
Bearsted Climate Action Network  
Bird Wise East Kent  
Bird Wise North Kent  
Birling Estate  
British Horse Society  
BTO  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust  
Canterbury Christ Church University  
Canterbury City Council  
Canterbury District Biodiversity Network  
Canterbury Golf Club  
Canterbury Ramblers  
Chatham Eco Hub  
Chilham PC  
CLA  
Coastal Partnerships Network  
Communigrow  
CPRE Canterbury  
CPRE Kent  
CTS Forum Eco Group  
Darent Landscape Recovery  
Dartford Borough Council  
Deal & Walmer Town Council  
Dover District Council  
East Kent Catchment Partnership

EKWG  
Elham Environment Group  
Elmley Nature Reserve  
Environment Agency  
Explore Kent  
Fawkham Parish Council  
Folkestone & Hythe District Council  
Forager  
Forestry Commission  
Forestry England  
Freelance (economic dev)  
Freelance Artist  
Friends of Capstone Park  
Friends of Hillyfields, Gillingham  
Friends of Kingsmead Field  
Friends of Lower Halstow Brickfields  
Friends of Milton Creek Country Park  
Friends of Oaken Wood  
Friends of Old Park  
Friends of Reculver  
Friends of Victoria Park, Ashford  
Friends of Westbrook & Stonebridge Pond  
Gads Hill Farm  
Golding Homes  
Gravesham Borough Council  
Great Cheveney Farm (Marden Cluster)  
Growing Kent & Medway  
HE Hall & Son Ltd  
Heart's Delight Farm  
High Weald Swifts  
Hoad's Wood landowner  
Hoo Peninsula  
Hugh Lowe Farm Ltd  
Hunton Parish Council

Intra Project  
KCC Countryside Access & PROW  
Kent & East Sussex Railway  
Kent Bat Group  
Kent County Council  
Kent Downs National Landscape  
Kent Food Hubs  
Kent High Weald Partnership  
Kent Local Access Forum  
Kent Mammal Group  
Kent Nature Partnership  
Kent Ornithological Society  
Kent Ramblers  
Kent Wildlife Trust  
Kentish Stour Countryside Management Partnership  
Leeds Castle  
Lower Medway IDB  
Maidstone Climate Action Network  
Marden Famer Cluster  
Marden Wildlife  
MBLA (Landscape Architects)  
Medway Council  
Medway Valley C'side Partnership  
Ministry of Defence  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Nature Friendly Farming Network  
Network Rail  
NFU  
North West C'side Partnership  
Operation Turtle Dove  
Out of the Woods  
Peabody  
Port of Dover  
Port of London Authority  
Rainham Community Orchard  
Rainham Eco Hub

Raybel Charters CIC  
Rebel Farmer  
Resident/individual  
RSPB  
Rural Consultant  
SES Water  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Shorne Wildlife Community Group  
South East Rivers Trust  
Southern Housing  
Southern Water  
Staple Wildlife Friendly Village  
Swale Borough Council  
Tenterden Town Council  
Thames Estuary Partnership  
Thanet Coast Project  
Thanet District Council  
The Windmill, Willesborough  
Tonbridge & Malling BC  
Tree and Pond Wardens  
Trustee of Cement Fields  
Tunstall Parish Council  
University of Kent  
Valley Conservation Society  
Vineyard Farm Ltd  
West Kent Housing Association  
West Malling Parish Council  
White Cliffs C'side Partnership  
Wild About Rainham  
Wildwood Trust  
Winterwood Farms Ltd  
Wye with Hinxhill PC

## Summary of feedback from Pressures and Priorities workshops

### Common themes on what worked well

#### *Organisation and facilitation*

- Workshops were well organised.
- Strong facilitation was appreciated – keeping workshops on task and ensuring all get to speak.
- Facilitators were well prepared, well briefed and enabling.

#### *Format of workshops*

- The format/programme allowed good time for discussion during the two workshop sessions – very productive.
- The small groups for the workshops put people at ease to make suggestions and comments and therefore allowed participation from everyone – everyone had a say.
- Was good to mix people up so there was a diversity of views amongst the group.
- Workshop sessions allowing time to think and capture ideas, followed by facilitated discussion.
- Capturing thoughts on notes so everything was recorded.
- Feedback after workshop sessions was welcomed.

#### *Participants*

- Well attended.
- Good and wide range of experience and expertise from many different sectors.
- Variety of interests and perspectives.
- Opportunity to learn from each other.
- Comments on the brilliant spirit of cooperation.
- Enthusiasm for next steps and keeping involved.
- Even inspired a poem!

#### *Benefit of workshops*

- Timings on day allowed for good networking opportunities, as did broad mix of people attending.
- Stimulating discussion.
- Inspirational, informative and good fun.
- Participants said they saw benefits to involvement.

### Common themes on what could be improved

#### *Organisation and facilitation*

- Offer alternative formats (not just all digital) for information circulated before.
- Provide further examples of the sorts of things we're after, in terms of priorities and potential measures; and the ambitions, in terms of example visionary landscape wide plans/initiatives.

#### *Format of workshops*

- Limit lunch break to 1 hour.
- Aim for a shorter day.

#### *Participants*

- More involvement of residents/general public.
- Involvement of businesses.

### *Location, venue and catering*

- ☒ More veggie and vegan options – some suggestions all food should be non-meat and/or food of local origin.

### Lessons learnt

#### *Organisation and facilitation*

- \* Don't rely on people to have attended online briefings, watched recordings or read -pre-workshop information– always provide a relatively detailed introduction to project.
- \* Ensure introduction and/or briefing brings everyone to same place of understanding.
- \* Ensure sufficient time for Q&A.
- \* Make sure Delivery Group, Board, Supporting Authorities Group and Technical Advisory Groups are sharing details with their networks etc.
- \* Strong facilitation is appreciated – comes from good preparation and through briefing.
- \* Within process share examples of successful and visionary landscape wide plans/initiatives.
- \* Offer outputs in different formats – not just online.

#### *Format of workshops*

- \* Keep workshops sessions simple and easy to understand; do not have too many tasks.
- \* During workshop sessions, have slide up to remind of task.
- \* Ensure a mix of participants in breakout groups.
- \* Allow sufficient time for both workshop and networking.
- \* Shorter workshops so not such a commitment on attendees.

#### *Participants*

- \* After all workshops, review attending sectors and look at who we need to better target next time.

### *Location, venue and catering*

- \* Venue is important – needs to be sufficiently spacious; well-ventilated and heated; comfortable; and with good audio and visual.
- \* Good and hearty lunches are appreciated.
- \* Seek a balance between natural settings and public transport options.

# Social media

**Vanessa Hutchinson** · Ashford Green Party · Follow

Pat, Geoff and I all attended the Making Space for Nature workshop at Chatham Village Hall today. Extremely well organised by the team working on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. It was a really useful and thought-provoking day. Really engaging being in a room with 50+ people who all care about nature, brainstorming ideas and talking about how we can all work together. A big thanks to the whole Making Space for Nature team for a great day.



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4

0 shares

**South East Rivers Trust** @SE\_Rivers\_Trust · Follow

There was a brilliant first workshop for Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway - and it was so heartening to see how high up clean rivers with functioning floodplains with riparian corridors are on people's agenda. @Kent\_CC @M\_ClimateChange @Medway\_Council #Medway



1625 · 01/03/2024 from Earth · 181 Views

1 Repost 2 Likes

**Rebel Farmer is at Kent Inviata Chamber of Commerce** · Follow

Reunited on an inspirational day. #makingspacefornature have organised a series of workshops to help launch a #localnaturestrategy program. I was at #chamberofcommerce in #ashford with around 50 others to talk about the pressure and set priorities for a bottom up approach to helping nature recover in a collaborative locally led strategy. I met some lovely people @holkestonahythec @naturalengland @kentwildlife and many more nature lovers. Check out @makingspacefornature to get involved, find out more and to facilitate groups in your community.



**Bird Wise North Kent** @BirdwiseNK · Follow

Taking part in the Making Space for Nature workshop today. Fantastic conversations so far from a diverse community of nature lovers 🌿🐦🌳🌱🍄🍄🍄🍄

#MakeAnImpact #Medway



**thechathamcohub**



I've had an amazing morning at the LNRS meeting and have met some wonderful, knowledgeable people. I'm really hopeful about how this project will turn out.

Like Comment Share

Liked by makingspacefornature

thechathamcohub @makingspacefornature thank you for such an informative morning at riverside! I met great people from @naturalengland, @zsl, @uppermedwayidc, @delinkeynature and other places I can't remember. What an amazing group of individuals.

View 1 comment · 17 hours ago

**Wild about Rainham (Kent)** Leon Roskilly · 10 h · G

A few hours spent amongst so many people discussing concerns and working for positive outcomes at today's workshop at Riverside Country Park.

It was refreshing to be among so many people with the same concerns and the commitment to bring about positive change.

Another couple of workshops to follow, and further opportunities to contribute to the plans being developed.

Well worth a follow.

Making Space for Nature

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553790144911>

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**marinboswell** · G

A great session hearing about @makingspacefornature!



**The Rainham Eco Hub**

Whilst some of us missed it running the job others of the team had a great time thanks Leon Roskilly and Kerry Budge Biffitt can't wait to hear all about it... 🌿🌿🌿🌿

Leon Roskilly · Wild about Rainham (Kent)

A few hours spent amongst so many people discussing concerns and working for positive outcomes at today's workshop at Riverside Country Park. It was refreshing... See more

Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Leon Roskilly · The Rainham Eco Hub: Once all the workshops have finished we should be getting feedback on the priorities and plans for taking our combined views forward. You can sign up for the newsletter at <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk>

Making 5 for Nature in Kent and Medway · Homepage | Making Space for Nature Kent

Kerry Budge Biffitt · It was a very engaging, collaborative workshop with many ideas of what should be included in the Strategy. 🌿

The Rainham Eco Hub · Kerry Budge Biffitt what is in the plan?? With you and Leon Roskilly round the table, nature is in good hands 🌿🌿🌿

One of our Riverside workshop participants went away from the day and felt inspired to write a poem about what we were all there to do - we think it's absolutely brilliant, and wanted to share it with you - many thanks Rachael Nixon, for your beautiful words!  
(Just as a bit of background context, the Riverside workshop was almost scuppered by a sewage mains issue!)

Making Space for Nature Workshop at Riverside Country Park

Down by the river, a building stood,  
Crowned in clay tiles, with a heart of oak wood  
And inside, this day, under each beam and rafter  
The oak building thronged with chatter and laughter  
People gathered in joint endeavour  
Muttering "sadly it's now or it's never"

"It's The Garden of England, but the flowers have faded  
We can't let it get any further degraded"  
"Connecting today is really so great,  
It's a shame this action is thirty years late"  
Though oak joists and floorboards were subtly creaking  
The voice of the oak was drowned out by speaking

The oak timbers sighed: "these are nice enough folks,  
But none quite remembers to listen to oaks.  
Making Space for Nature is our strong suit:  
We make generous branches where oaks can hoot  
The bark of our trunks, with its nooks, cracks and niches  
Make bespoke little homes for hundreds of species"

From their winter sunbathing, up on the roof  
The clay tiles chimed in, to offer their truth: "if we  
may be bold, and speak up for soil,  
We think they forget it's more precious than oil,  
Soils are alive; we are far from inert  
For too long we soils have been treated like dirt"

A crow on the roof heard this lament  
And winged off over the carpark cement,  
Swooping down low where mudflats glistened  
"Caw Casawed" to the river, and the old river listened: "indeed",  
mused the river in deepest reflection,  
"People are losing their nature connection"

Life disconnected, will stagnate and wither  
To the black hooded messenger, whispered the river: "Help people remember what they already know,  
The nature of life is it All Needs To Flow.  
Take, in your beak, this kernel of wisdom:  
Show how things go when you obstruct the system"

Back flew the crow, and proclaimed, to the roof "The river says show them some first hand proof  
that connection and flow are key to the scheme" "And space for all lifeforms" creaked an oak beam  
"Put back what is missing, nurture, restore  
Use every spare corner to give nature more"

The clay tiles just stared at the toilet queue  
Pondering the untapped potential of poo  
"We've got it", they gasped, "we need some assistance  
From underground pipes and lavatory cisterns"

Inside now, somebody steps up to speak:  
"It's not great news, it's really quite bleak"

(This is it' thinks the oak, 'they do understand!')  
"We're so very sorry, it's not what we planned"  
(The crow stoops to listen; her feathered head cocked)  
"We just can't go on, the system is blocked  
It can't take any more and it's starting to stink  
It's a terrible mess, IT'S TIME TO RETHINK"





Making Space for Nature Workshop at Riverside Country Park, Rachael Noxon  
February 2024

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