

Comms & Engagement Working Group

26/02/2026, 15:00-16:00, Room 313 & MS Teams

Attendees:	Cllr Jo Asher (JA), John Bristow (JB), Roxsan Keilty (RK), Danny Smith (DS), Sam Valman (SV), Rachel Butler (RB), Martin Banham (MB).
Apologies:	Becky Nixon (BN), Ben Brown (BB), Rebecca Oakley (RO).
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous Minutes and Actions 2. Project Update 3. Update post council budget meeting. 4. Any Other Business

1. Previous minutes and Actions:

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be confirmed via email. This will be completed by 06/03/2026.

Working Group actions were reviewed, noting:

Ref	Opened	Action	Owner	Status
CE A001	15/12/2025	Investigate what limits/blockers may be in place on the land.	DS	Transitioned to project plan
CE A002	15/12/2025	Find some appropriate images to share of other Rewilding projects.	JB	In progress
CE A003	27/01/2026	Include both proposed roles on the project's roles & responsibilities matrix.	DS	Cancelled
CE A004	27/01/2026	Send an invite to the next meeting to every organisation in the MoU.	DS	Complete
CE A005	27/01/2026	Create a ½ page update on the progress to share with the WG.	RB/JB	In Progress

- CE A001 (Action) – Closed & transitioned to project plan to be completed as part of scoping ask with master planners.
- CE A002 (Action) - Difficulty in finding through the rewilding network, will continue to investigate.
- CE A003 (Action) - Cancelled due to funding decision from council. Any roles brought onto the project will be included in R&R Matrix as part of good project delivery.
- CE A004 (Action) - The offer was sent to all partners.
- CE A005 (Action) - Still working on drafting this.

2. Project Update:

DS gave a project run through updating on progress of the project focusing on the NLHF & Volunteer walks. He also advised that the temporary webpage on the HDC website has been created. We just need to draft some content for it to be launched.

Risks

The risk profile currently remains unchanged. Risk workshops will be held in the coming weeks to ensure we have a good spread of risk management.

Issues

Ref	Issue	Date logged	Owner	Priority
I001	<p>Opposition councillors tabled an amendment to the budget to remove additional funding required for project delivery. This amendment was voted through.</p> <p>As a result, the project has had a major setback in being able to progress a master plan. Without a master plan project delivery will be severely impacted.</p>	24/02/2026	CH	High

I001 has been opened because of the budget changes. We are currently awaiting cabinet on 02/03/2026 to review the report and business case to establish our next steps.

JA asked if the master planning can come out of the already allocated £50k PA capital funding for the project. CH advised that yes it could be used in the interim whilst other avenues are explored.

3. Any Other Business:

CH advised that she has received enquiries from several local community groups/schools who want to initiate their own rewilding project. Did the group feel comfortable with allowing these groups to use the 'Rewilding Harborough' badge? The group agreed that it would be a good thing to work on. RB suggested once comms have been agreed and we have an official website launched it would be good to include some information on how to get involved and affiliated with the project.

Date of next meeting: 25/03/2026.