



# Kent High Weald Partnership Annual Report 2010/11

“To link the local community and the countryside, by raising awareness and encouraging action”

*KHWP delivered 134 events and practical tasks during 2010/11 in the Tunbridge Wells Borough.*

This annual review is an opportunity for KHWP to celebrate the successes and highlights achieved in 2010/11.

An incredible amount has been achieved over the last year, by a dedicated team that is committed to providing a high quality, effective service. Ultimately however, KHWP can only function at this level through the commitment, goodwill, trust and integrity of everyone involved in its work. The year confirmed the strength of this support and we look forward to this continuing and developing as the partnership enters its 20th anniversary year.

Working with multiple partners, KHWP is responsible for landscape, recreation, access and habitat management; organising a wide range of public events and activities; managing Local Nature Reserves; advising on greenspaces and working closely with educational and community groups in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

Over the past year KHWP held **134** public events and practical volunteer task days. Time spent by the public on practical work and attending project events added up to an impressive **3651** days over the year. This equates on average to **70** people attending **2.5** events every week! In financial terms, equivalent to **£182,550** worth of volunteer labour. **This exceeds last years highest ever recorded figures for both participants and activities.**



KHWP has performed strongly in attracting funding, which has allowed us to work on a huge variety of projects across the partnership area. A strong performance has allowed us to build up a capital replacement fund, some of which was spent on a new vehicle and additional infrastructure for events. KHWP has been able to continue funding the Assistant Officer post, which has proved invaluable in helping expand the partnerships capacity and ability to deliver new schemes across the borough.

## *Positive actions to achieve positive results on a local level.*

Staff levels have increased as a full-time Education Officer was recruited and a Future Job Scheme Trainee joined KHWP. Staff have gained valuable experience and knowledge via new training and development of job roles. The Assistant Officer and Trainee roles have greatly helped, allowing Countryside Officers more time to deliver and plan new projects. The support and work of Volunteer Officers has been invaluable on practical task days, events, newsletter distribution, office admin and general project assistance, and to whom considerable thanks are due.

KHWP currently employ 6.2 staff



3651 people participated in KHWP activities in 2010/11

## Overview of some of the achievements in 2010/11

### Green Spaces

KHWP oversees the management of Barnett's Wood and Hilbert Wood's in Tunbridge Wells, as well as the Crane Valley in Cranbrook and Cinderhill Community Woodland in Matfield. Work on the reserves has continued at a great pace with; multiple grant bids, a growing events programme, thousands of hours of volunteer input and exciting new projects planned. Management plans and detailed work programmes are being implemented across all sites.

#### Outputs included:

- \* New Woodland Grant Schemes for Hilbert Wood and Barnett's Wood
- \* Community plug planting project at Barnett's Wood
- \* Runner-up award from Village of the Year for Cinderhill Wood
- \* Installation of interpretative panels and way markers at Cinderhill Wood
- \* Extension of new boardwalk at Crane Valley
- \* Sculptural seat installed at Crane Valley

Our influence and partnership working with other borough and community owned greenspaces has increased significantly, for example, Heritage Lottery funding to develop Lamberhurst Downs for the local community and wildlife. In TW Borough KHWP completed its commitment to deliver the National Indicator 197, 'bringing Local Wildlife Sites into positive management', a further four sites have had management plans and future works agreed, including Southborough Common.



### Educational work

Education projects remain innovative and ground breaking. In partnership with the High Weald AONB Unit we continue to deliver the highly successful High Weald Heroes Scheme, which aims to make children more aware of the environment, and specifically the unique local landscape of the High Weald. In total 22 schools

in the borough benefited directly from KHWP work, with many others able to use the resources created from the projects.

#### Outputs included:

- \* Parent & Toddler walks at eight locations – web pages, downloadable resources, walk booklet
- \* School Ground Green Health Checks – Advice on improving and developing school grounds; seven school projects undertaken
- \* Developing education cross-phase working forums with all Countryside Management Partnerships
- \* Kent Goes Wild Children's Art Competition and workshops
- \* Love Where We Live school wildlife activity days
- \* 75 educational visits were undertaken in the nature reserves.



### Encouraging Action

The Kent Free Tree Scheme offering 25 free trees to all residents in the county has continued to be incredibly popular. Tunbridge Wells borough received the most applications (165) and planted the highest number of trees (4298).

Working in partnership with Cranbrook in Bloom, KHWP helped to restore Forge Orchard, work included; installing an outdoor classroom, developing an education pack, provided training in orchard management and purchasing an apple press.



The Community toolkits with funding from KCC were completed and distributed, six kits are available from the Countryside Management Partnerships free of charge to borrow for any practical conservation event.

### Raising Awareness

Food4Thought a lottery funded three-year grow your own food project, had a great 1st year with the establishment of three 'hub allotment sites' at the Pepenbury Centre, Sherwood & Oakley Schools. New educational resources and a kitchen classroom were completed.



KHWP co-hosted the countywide 'Kent Goes Wild Event' at Dunorlan Park. With additional funding, Spike the Spotter workshops, an art competition and joint projects with Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group were possible.

The KHWP events programme was bigger than ever including new sites and activities to reach out to a wider audience.

We continue to work in partnership with the council to deliver the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and offer advice to landowners and farmers on biodiversity and conservation, which included two Higher Level Stewardship Schemes.

Our bi-annual newsletter which includes a pull-out six-month free public events guide, highlighting task days and activities has become well established. 20,000 paper copies have been distributed, including all primary schools in the Tunbridge Wells borough.

### Volunteering

At the core of KHWP delivery is working with volunteers in the Tunbridge Wells borough. In recognition of this KHWP has achieved the Investing in Volunteers Accreditation. Gaining the accreditation underlines how much hard work we put into looking after our volunteers.

With funding from KCC, KHWP coordinated the supply of volunteer kits to all the CMP's. The kits include branded clothing and safety equipment.

Without this volunteer work force much of the projects we are engaged in would not be possible. Much effort goes into recruiting volunteers and working with local



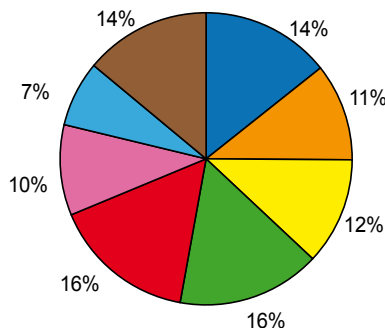
groups to make this possible.

We have a dedicated staff member, vehicle and workshop to support this key deliverable.

134 events delivered; on average 70 people attending 2.5 events every week!

## Budget Figures 2010/11

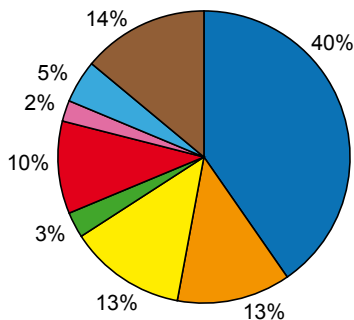
### Income 2010/11



- TWBC Core **£51,250**
- KCC Core/Support **£38,628**
- Roll Forward Income 2009/10 (Attached and unattached funding) **£42,559**
- Enhancing Natural Beauty (Nature Reserves, Green-spaces) **£56,817**
- Encouraging Action (Education, Volunteering, Community Projects) **£56,904**
- Raising Awareness (Access, Events, Food4Thought, EA) **£35,899**
- Capital Replacement Fund **£26,013**
- Reserve Fund **£50,000**

**TOTAL INCOME = £358,070**

### Expenditure 2010/11



- Core costs (Salaries) **£144,471**
- Overheads - (Occupancy, Vehicles, Admin, KCC support) **£45,050**
- Roll Forward Income 2010/11 (attached and unattached projects) **£46,376**
- Enhancing Natural Beauty (Nature Reserves, Greenspaces) **£10,194**
- Encouraging Action (Education, Volunteering, Community Projects) **£36,686**
- Raising Awareness (Access, Events, Food4Thought, EA) **£8,278**
- Capital Replacement Fund **£17,015**
- Reserve Fund **£50,000**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE – £358,070**

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KHWP could not operate without the support and core funding from Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.



Project funding from: Natural England; Tunbridge Wells Borough Council; Kent County Council; Big Lottery; Heritage Lottery Fund; Cranbrook Parish Council; Brenchley & Matfield Parish Council; Lamberhurst Parish Council; Southborough Town Council; AXA PPP; Goldman Sachs; Grassroots Fund; Network Rail; Environment Agency; WKPCT; Forestry Commission; Opal Fund; Future Job Fund; Town & Country Housing Group; LANTRA; DEFRA; Cranbrook in Bloom; Phillips Fund;