



Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) are seeking funding from Natural England's Species Recovery fund for a Beaver Advice and Support Team for three years. This fund was announced with a very short deadline, and the AWT requested the Town Council's support.

Beavers are a protected species, and the Town Council already undertakes some careful management related to them, for instance, installing tree guards on fruit trees near the river to protect from beaver damage. This fund may provide opportunities for further projects on Town Council land.

This is the AWT's request:

"Here are the three actions related to beavers outlines in the Threatened Species Recovery Actions (TSRA) dataset:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/species-recovery-programme-call-for-ideas-funding-opportunity>

Two of them (in bold) would be particularly relevant across the Bristol Avon catchment, and particularly for BoA Town Council:

- **Collaborate with beaver management groups to foster a positive, cooperative relationship between landowners and beavers, ensuring both coexistence and the maximisation of ecological and natural water management benefits. This may include educational workshops, practical support, and guidance on sustainable management strategies.**
- Conduct further licensed beaver reintroductions into the wild to expand their range and strengthen populations, with a particular focus on reinforcing established populations to support long-term viability and resilience.
- **Where appropriate enhance and expand riparian buffer zones strategically designed to support beaver populations and broader ecosystem restoration. Collaborate with landowners, conservationists, and government agencies to establish and sustain well-vegetated corridors along watercourses, optimising habitat suitability for beavers**



**while restoring natural hydrological functions and mitigating potential conflicts.**

The first action aligns perfectly with the work we are already undertaking with our Beaver Advice and Support Team, as well as the Beaver Advisory Group which we relaunched in June. If successful it would mean a further 3 years to continue the progress we're already making, ensuring our wild beaver populations can establish within our modified landscapes, providing the essential advice and support to all impacted and/or concerned landowners across the catchment.

The third action is the one we would be particularly keen to receive your support to achieve as we are not landowners with access to large amounts of riparian land, but in collaboration with yourselves and the other Unitary/Local Authorities across the catchment we think we could achieve major improvements along our riparian corridors. This would benefit not just beaver populations as they expand across the region, but all the species who benefit from beaver-created landscapes as well as the Natural Flood Management and drought resilience in key areas of the system.

At this stage, we're only looking for your agreement to be a supportive partner in the EOI. If our proposed idea is selected to move to the full application stage, we would hold more discussions with you to explore BoA Town Council's potential involvement and work with you on selecting possible sites which could benefit from this funding. This might also be looking to work with friendly landowners in the area who you have good relationships with.

Do you think you could let me know asap? Ideally tomorrow! (eek)"

BOATC response:

**We are happy to support your EOI for this project. As hosts of beavers on our land, and in support of the Town Council's declaration of an Ecological Emergency, we look forward to working with you on projects in our town to improve biodiversity and for the recovery of populations of key species.**

**Good luck with your application.**