**Greening Mortimer Group**

The Greening Mortimer group is a community led initiative which is currently an unconstituted group, although it is affiliated to and benefits from the support of the Mortimer Village Partnership.

The Greening Mortimer Group launched in January 2023 and prior to this had been following the ‘[Greening Campaign](https://greening-campaign.org/)’ model as a means of swift learning and not reinventing wheels.

1. **Achievements to date:**

**Launch event** and engagement with SMPC, WBDC, the local community, businesses and other community groups in January 2023.

**Energy initiative** Two thermal imaging cameras are now available to the Greening Mortimer group following generous support from the MVP and SMPC. In November 2023 the group trained 15 members of the community to carry out thermal imaging in the homes of local residents. Since then, 25 surveys have been carried out and evaluation measures built in from the outset.

**Nature and biodiversity initiative** Mapping of open spaces and nature corridors in Mortimer has been done and the group is beginning to engage with local landowners as a precursor to carrying out practical conservation activities that promote biodiversity.

1. **Future plans:**

We are holding an event in April 2024 to involve the community in progress so far and widen participation for the future.

At the event in April we will publicise our plan to hold ‘The Big Mortimer Nature Watch’ in May 2024 to raise awareness of local fauna and get community involvement in observing and recording local animals, insects, reptiles and birds. We plan to get the local schools involved in this.

We will continue to conduct thermal surveys, gather data and promote energy saving measures.

We want to get local people involved in practical conservation and biodiversity related tasks such as putting up owl boxes, managing gorse and clearing invasive non-native species such as Skunk Cabbage.

1. **Funding proposal to SMPC Climate and Environment Working Party**

Greening Mortimer Group are seeking funding to support their activities and would be very grateful for any contribution that can be made to the following:

**Barn Owl boxes**. The Berkshire Barn Owl group have surveyed appropriate sites for the boxes which would be installed in Autumn 2024.

Outcomes: Provide nesting sites for more Barn Owls; potential to involve local school children in the project; engage the community in the project.

3 boxes at £140/box **£420**

**School resources.** The group has researched existing climate action packs and materials for schools, including packs to send home for the ‘Big Mortimer Nature Watch’ and would like to print these.

Printing cost **£80**

**Equipment for monitoring water quality** in local rivers and streams (subject to confirmation that this is not already being carried out by others)

Water monitoring kit: **£500**

**Total £1,000**

Clare Stafford, Chair

On behalf of the Greening Mortimer Group.