

Partnership Agreement

The Ivers Parish Council and the Colne Valley Park Trust

April 2022 to March 2027

Shared Objectives:

The partners agree to work together in furtherance of the objectives of the Colne Valley Regional Park which are supported by the Council, namely:

1. To maintain and enhance the landscape, historic environment and waterscape of the park in terms of their scenic and conservation value and their overall amenity.
2. To safeguard the countryside of the Park from inappropriate development. Where development is permissible it will encourage the highest possible standards of design.
3. To conserve and enhance biodiversity within the Park through the protection and management of its species, habitats and geological features
4. To provide opportunities for countryside recreation and ensure that facilities are accessible to all.
5. To achieve a vibrant and sustainable rural economy, including farming and forestry, underpinning the value of the countryside.
6. To encourage community participation including volunteering and environmental education. To promote the health and social well-being benefits that access to high quality green space brings.

The partners will work together on these objectives for the benefit of residents of Iver Heath, Iver Village and Richings Park to protect, enhance and promote their local countryside.

This will help achieve the Parish Council's priorities relating to the green and wellbeing agendas.

Iver Parish will be the focus of the partnership work but opportunities to achieve the shared objectives will be pursued based on the landscape and its wildlife and the way these are perceived by local people.

The partners will:

Meet formally on a quarterly basis and as needed to consider spatial planning and project development opportunities

Attend an annual 'tour' of the parish to view and discuss issues and opportunities relating to the shared objectives.

Liaise on the preparation of responses to planning applications, informed by the Ivers Neighbourhood plan

Liaise at an early stage to co-ordinate demands for appropriate and meaningful environmental mitigation from developments. These will be informed by the Colne & Crane GI Strategy (or its successor documents) and the Plan U from of the Neighbourhood Plan *Existing GI Network and opportunities for its enhancement*.

Establish and maintain links between our respective websites. Share and comment on relevant website items and social media posts relating to the shared objectives in the Ivers.

Work together on Colne Valley Festival fortnight (or any similar initiative) to ensure a range of events take place throughout the Ivers. This work will take place only when there is funding available.

The Ivers Parish Council will:

Nominate the Chair or Vice Chair as the lead liaison point with the CVRP.

Actively promote the CVRP eg encouraging residents to join the 'Friends of the CVRP', locally-based businesses to become 'corporate supporters' and residents associations/community groups to join as members of the CVRP

Continue membership of the Colne Valley Regional Park as one of approximately 80 member organisations that between them represent tens of thousands of people

Make an annual contribution of £5,000+VAT to the Trust. Paid in one installment in September each year upon receipt of an invoice from the Trust. The contribution will increase in line with any RPI - increases each year starting from 2023/24.

Actively promote and champion the CVRP in dialogue with the local MP and Buckinghamshire Council.

Implement opportunities for 'proud to be in the CVRP' or 'part of the CVRP' branding at sites within the Parish. Ideally site interpretation to include CVRP logo and a map showing the site's context within the wider CVRP

The Colne Valley Park Trust will:

Nominate a lead individual (usually the Managing Agent) to act as the main liaison point with the Council

Nominate a trustee to have oversight of the partnership. This trustee will not be expected to engage with all activity but will liaise with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Parish Council on at least an annual basis. This is expected to be by attending one of the partnership meetings

Support the approval process and updates of the Ivers Neighbourhood Plan as relevant to the shared objectives.

Recognise and thank TIPC for its support on newsletters and the CVRP website

Actively promote a circular walk in the Ivers as part of a series of 15-20 short walks throughout the CVRP. Promote the Colne Valley Trail through the Ivers including the main north to south route and an east to west route through the parish connecting Hillingdon with Langley Park. Seek funding to enhance the routes over and above the statutory responsibilities for Public Rights of Way.

On a best endeavours basis, ensure that at least one Trustee/Director lives in the Ivers and/or has strong local knowledge of the geography, issues and opportunities of the Ivers

Involve the Parish Council in developing CVRP projects to achieve the shared objectives and applying for grants for their implementation. Priorities for 2022/23 are listed in appendix A.

The partners will expect from each other

- A delivery-focused approach
- Honesty and mutual trust
- Commitment to pursuing the shared objectives
- Clear Communication and general transparency
- To support each other's stance on areas of shared objectives and interest.
- In the event that there are any situations where views of the partners differ, to clearly identify these at an early stage and agree a communications strategy which will include a focus on areas of agreement.

APPENDIX A: Fundraising/grant application priorities for 2022/23 include:

- Securing a legacy for the Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant (which ends in 31/03/22) for a green team to a) undertake biodiversity, landscape, green space and path enhancements in the Iver part of the Colne Valley Park b) pursue training and employability skills for young people. Seek to continue for any newly funded green team to be based out of Iver Environment Centre
- Continuation of the Rivers Rangers programme once the Lottery Funding ceases in September 2022. To include river cleans ups, outfall safari, pollution monitoring, riverfly surveys, invasive species removal and habitat enhancement.
- Continuation of the events programme once the Lottery Funding ceases in September 2022. To include guided walks, talks and events for community groups, attending community events to raise awareness and engage residents with the countryside on their doorstep, Colne Valley Festival fortnight (or similar)
- Continuation of marketing and communications once the Lottery Funding ceases in September 2022. To include website maintenance, news articles, newsletters, social media posts etc
- Seeking grants or external funding to contribute to costs of responding to development proposals, lobbying national and local government to re-focus on the positive benefits the green belt brings, raising awareness amongst local residents, liaison with community groups locally and nationally through webinars on current issues.
- Securing a grant for a 'funding/development' officer that can secure core income for the CVRP via charitable giving, give as you live, legacies, corporate support, gift aid, administration and promotion of the 'Friends of the Colne Valley Park' etc
- Seek funding to produce a landscape/Green Infrastructure plan for the central part of the CVRP that is supported by Buckinghamshire Council, can be adopted and can be used to inform mitigation from developments. To be informed by Colne & Crane GI Strategy, Ivers Neighbourhood Plan, Ivers Active travel plan and Wildlife Recovery Group: The Ivers