

Plan to protect wildlife

By Karen McKeown

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A focused plan to safeguard the rich and diverse Angus wildlife will be fittingly launched at East Haven's annual BioBlitz this weekend.

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026 charts the way ahead in protecting the multitude of flora and fauna that flourishes across the county, as well as their habitats, as it brings together organisations, communities and individuals.

East Haven's 2016 BioBlitz on Friday and Saturday (August 26 and 27) demonstrates how local communities can play their part in protecting their wildlife heritage and nurturing it for future generations.

It is a partnership event between East Haven Together, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and Scottish Natural Heritage, supported with grant funding from the Angus Environmental Trust through the

Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

Councillor Jeanette Gaul, vice councillor of communities, said: "It is marvellous to see the pride and commitment demonstrated by the people of East Haven to the quality and sustainability of their wildlife and environment - not just for the here and now, but the future as well.

"The work they do shows others how the ambitions of the new Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be lifted from the page and made real.

"Angus has a diverse mix of natural and manmade habitats and we depend on the land around us for more than we sometimes recognise.

"It is important that we all work together to protect the environment for our enjoyment and wellbeing and for future generations.

"The Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan points the way supported by communities like East Haven who are leading the way for others to follow."

BioBlitz unites people of all ages with scientists, experts

and other interested parties, to work together and identify as many species of animals, insects, plants and marine life as possible over two days.

This will be the first comprehensive snapshot of local species - and is one of a number of activities the local community has undertaken towards the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity Outcomes.

East Haven Together's Anne Bancroft said: "BioBlitz will build on important conservation work in a planned and coordinated way.

"Everything we identify will be recorded and passed on to local and national databases that monitor our local wildlife.

"With interactive activities for kids, grown-ups, beginners and experts alike there is something for everybody at the BioBlitz."

Helping to launch the new action plan will be children from Carnoustie's Woodlands Primary School who will perform songs, poetry and art work before exploring the beach with the Angus Alive Rangers.



The biodiversity plan will be launched at East Haven's BioBlitz.



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