

RICKMANSWORTH AQUADROME STEERING GROUP

PARTNER UPDATE FOR 15 OCTOBER 2025

Partner organisation: Colne Valley Regional Park	Lead officer: Michelle Jones
Item name	Update
Colne Valley Regional Park: Colne Connections Update	<p>Colne Valley Regional Park has been successful in achieving £200k Development Round Funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with the potential for a £5.1m project should the Development Round Bid be successful. The Colne Connections Project hopes to work in partnership with the Lottery Funded project at the Aquadrome, with the aim of improving connections for wildlife and people within the Colne Valley Regional Park.</p> <p>Nb. The Colne Connections project is funded from a different National Lottery Heritage Fund Region (London & South East) to the Aquadrome Project.</p>
Parliamentary Debate	<p>An adjournment debate on the subject <i>Protection of the Colne Valley Regional Park</i> was held at the House of Commons on 11th July 2025, led by Joy Morrissey, MP for Beaconsfield.</p> <p>She called for stronger protection for the Colne Valley Regional Park, stating that despite its importance for wildlife and people, it lacks the formal protection enjoyed by other natural areas, such as National Parks and the Chilterns. She added this is an apolitical matter that appeals to all parties.</p> <p>In response, the Rt Hon Matthew Pennycook, Minister for Planning & Housing, pledged support for the Colne Valley Regional Park and offered to meet Joy Morrissey and other local MPs to discuss how this precious but fragile landscape on the western edge of London can best be protected, and given the status it needs to achieve this.</p> <p>We are briefing our local MPs from all the main political parties, including Gagan Monihdra, on the importance of the Colne Valley Regional Park for people and wildlife.</p>