

Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley Environmental Plan 2025

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Status: APPROVED

1. Introduction & Scope

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This duty has been reinforced under the Environment Act 2021, and **government guidance** asking for councils to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1st January 2024 and agree policies and objectives as soon as possible afterwards was published on 17th May 2023.

On 15th May 2023, Hatfield Peverel Parish Council approved their Environmental Policy which commits to continuously improve environmental performance, to prevent pollution and reduce the Council's impact on the environment and to comply with relevant environmental legislation. The policy can be read at <https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/assets/documents/environmental-policy-2023>.

This plan sets out the actions to be taken by Hatfield Peverel Parish Council during 2025 to address the five highest priority objectives set out in the Environmental Policy. It is anticipated that the remaining objectives will be addressed in future years.

The scope of the plan is the parish of Hatfield Peverel as defined in the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024 including the River Ter within these boundaries. See Appendix A.

2. Public Consultation

During the months of July and August 2023, residents of Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley, councillors and other interested parties were invited to help to prioritise the 20 objectives agreed in the policy and to brainstorm ideas to address the objectives via an online survey.

Residents were also invited to an open day at Hatfield Peverel Village Hall to discuss their ideas in person although no residents attended. A paper version of the survey was offered to residents who were not able to complete the survey online.

A total of 54 people responded to the survey, 94% of whom were Hatfield Peverel or Nounsley residents and 24% have children at the village schools. Respondents were aged 25 and upwards with a fairly even balance in the 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64 and 65+ groups. Unfortunately we did not reach any residents in the Under 18 or 18-24 groups.

The feedback from the survey can be viewed at <https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/assets/documents/wilder-village-survey-response>.

3. Development of Planned Actions

The feedback from the public consultation has been used as follows:

- The public consultation priority for each of the objectives has been used to decide which objectives should be addressed in 2025. The Parish Council's Environment Advisory Group (EAG) agreed to address the top 4 priorities identified during the public consultation plus Objective 8 which, although only given 8th priority by the public, they feel is essential to address the Council's duty to conserve biodiversity
- The actions suggested during the public consultation have been considered in developing the action plan in section 6 of this document.

4. Review & Reporting

This plan was approved at a meeting of the Hatfield Peverel Parish Council (HPPC) Environment Advisory Group (EAG) on 22nd April 2025. This was subsequently ratified by the full council on 2nd June 2025.

Progress against the plan will be reported to the HPPC EAG at their monthly meetings and the plan will be reviewed in detail annually by the HPPC/EAG. A report will be given at the first full council meeting following this annual appraisal.

The agreed plan and progress against it will be shared with the local community through the Village Voice, Parish Council social media posts, at the annual parish information event and at stands at community events such as Party in the Park and Christmas in the Park.

5. Administration & Enforcement

It is important to note the following:

1. Some actions outlined in the Action Plan are contingent upon their practicality for the Parish Council. Additionally, certain actions fall outside the Council's authority, making them non-enforceable
2. The Parish Council reserves the right to override the Action Plan if time constraints or practical limitations make it necessary
3. Availability of staff or volunteers to administer certain objectives may be limited at times.

6. Action Plan

The table below describe planned actions to address each of the top four objectives of the Environmental Policy as prioritised during public consultation plus Objective 8 which, although only given 8th priority by the public, the Parish Council assess as essential to address their duty to conserve biodiversity.

OBJECTIVE & PRIORITY	ACTION 2025
OBJECTIVE 1: HPPC will endeavour to comply with current relevant environmental legislation and regulations (Public Consultation priority 2)	Parish Clerk to monitor environmental legislation and regulations and notify PC of any new or changed requirements
	Air Quality readings taken by BDC and others to be made available to residents through Parish Council website
OBJECTIVE 7: HPPC will endeavour to respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management (Public Consultation priority 4)	Parish Council to conserve natural resources by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Paper Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go digital by using electronic documents and communications whenever possible ○ Print double-sided when printing is necessary • Recycling Properly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up recycling bins for paper, plastics and other recyclables in the office ○ Encourage employees to take responsibility for disposing of their waste correctly • Using Reusable Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opt for reusable mugs, water bottles and containers instead of single-use items • Conserving Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turn off lights, computers and other equipment when not in use ○ Use energy-efficient bulbs and encourage natural light whenever possible
	Village Hall Management Group/Coffee Lounge to consider how they might reduce the amount of waste generated at and around the Village Hall and ensure that all recyclable waste is recycled. Consider reusable cups, bottles, plates in the Coffee Lounge, provision of recycling bins and encouraging and enabling hall users to minimise waste
	Village Hall Management Group to insulate Village Hall roof and install solar panels
	Community Events Committee to consider how to minimise waste and maximise recycling at 2025 Community Events

	Village Hall / Café / Nursery cleaning fluids, polishes and glues etc should be as environmentally least damaging as possible. Bleach and solvents harmful to the environment should be avoided
	EAG to discuss water conservation with Allotment Association, Village Hall Management Group, Coffee Lounge, KBMG Liaison Group, Grounds Maintenance contractors
	EAG to promote setting up a repair café and/or a refill shop at the village hall (weekly/monthly)
	New tennis courts have been designed to have nature friendly and energy efficient lighting
OBJECTIVE 8: HPPC will endeavour to manage land, verges and other green spaces using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity and protect and enhance habitats for wildlife (Public Consultation priority 8)	Create a Parish Map charting places of biodiversity/wildlife interest. To include meadows, woodlands, trees, hedgerows, ponds & rivers. To be used to track progress e.g planting and loss of trees and hedgerows; addition of wildflower meadows and verges; hedgehog highways; wildlife corridors; etc
	Manage selected roadside green spaces as mini meadows enabling the growth of native wildflowers to provide habitats for pollinators. Increase wildflower mini meadow coverage in the parish in 2025
	Continue to manage the community land at Stone Path Meadow as wildflower meadows using guidance provided by Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) to provide habitats for pollinators and other wildlife and an easily accessible space for residents to connect with nature. Monitor the wildflower species in these meadows and report improvements.
	Continue to maintain and enhance the duck pond area as a quiet, reflective space for residents and a haven for wildlife
	Open the Community Park on Wickham Bishops Road for residents to connect with nature and where native plants and wildlife are allowed to thrive
	Explain benefits of allowing native wildflowers to grow and encourage residents to take part in No Mow May 2025
	Create new bee-friendly planters outside the Village Hall Coffee Lounge
	Install bird and bat boxes and insect and bee hotels in appropriate locations around the village. Plot on village map. Target to increase number of each in each calendar year
	Where appropriate and safe to do so, leave standing and fallen dead-wood as a habitat for invertebrates. Dead wood in watercourses also has significant biodiversity value so leave alone unless removal is essential for preventing flooding or it is diverting water-flow

	Where possible, leave leaf litter, moss, piles of stones and dead vegetation – they are all important micro-habitats for invertebrates
	Best wildlife-friendly garden photograph competition
OBJECTIVE 13: HPPC will endeavour to discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children (Public Consultation priority 1)	Environment Advisory Group (EAG) to consult with Parish litter pickers to ascertain areas where littering is most prevalent and dog walkers to ascertain areas where dog fouling is most prevalent. Consider whether further litter and dog waste bins are required and campaigns (possibly posters, social media, other?) to clean up Hatfield Peverel
	Work with local schools, Duke of Edinburgh group, Scouting groups on litter impact on wildlife and the environment
	Organise community clean ups in Stonepath Meadow, along River Ter, other areas? Choose areas that litter pickers don't go to
	Keith Bigden Memorial Ground (KBMG) Liaison Group to organise clean up with ground users. Discuss impact on nature and how they might prevent litter going forward
	Celebrate improvements
OBJECTIVE 17: HPCC will endeavour to engage with developers and Braintree District Council (BDC) to ensure that new builds in the parish deliver their environmental mitigation measures required in Planning Consents, ideally exceeding 10% biodiversity net gain (Public Consultation priority 3)	Ensure that biodiversity net gain / environmental mitigation actions set out in planning consents for all recent developments in the village are implemented (e.g. bird and bat boxes, hedgehog gates, tree planting and maintenance) with the assistance of Braintree District Council

Appendix A – Parish Boundary as defined in Neighbourhood Development Plan

