



Hatfield Peverel Wilder Village Brainstorm Survey Feedback

Summary

This document summarises feedback received from Hatfield Peverel residents and other interested parties through our wilder village brainstorm survey. The survey ran online throughout July and August 2023. Residents were also invited to an open day at the Village Hall to discuss 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. Sadly we did not reach any residents in the Under 18 or 18-24 groups.

The respondents were invited to prioritise the objectives set out in the Parish Council's Environmental Policy. The top three objectives were:

- 1 Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children
- 2 Comply with current relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- 3 Engage with developers and Braintree District Council to ensure that new builds in the parish deliver their environmental mitigation measures required in Planning Consents, ideally exceeding 10% biodiversity net gain

Respondents made some fantastic suggestions to contribute to Our Wilder Village Plan including:

- A 20mph speed limit throughout the village
- A better and more reliable bus service
- Involving villagers and particularly young people in projects around the village
- Undertaking site visits to new developments to ensure that planning conditions are met
- Improve the appearance of the village and biodiversity by creating flower displays for pollinators in the Street
- Educate villagers on effects of e.g. litter, fake grass, pesticides, patio heaters on the environment
- Improve recycling at the village hall and in public spaces

We are very grateful to all respondents for their input which we will now use to feed into Our Wilder Village Plan. The plan and its current status will be shared with all interested parties through the Parish Council's website at www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/wilder-village/.

All responses are detailed below.

DETAILED RESPONSES

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

Connections with Hatfield Peverel

Do you live in Hatfield Peverel or Nounsley?	51	94%
Are you a Hatfield Peverel Parish or Braintree District Councillor?	5	9%
Do you have children who attend one of the Hatfield Peverel schools?	13	24%
Do you work in Hatfield Peverel?	5	9%
Retired	1	2%
School Governor at HPIS	1	2%

Co-opted member to Parish Council	1	2%
Pensioner	1	2%
TOTAL	54	
Age		
Under 18	0	0%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	6	11%
35-44	13	24%
45-54	9	17%
55-64	11	20%
65+	15	28%
TOTAL	54	100%

PRIORITISATION OF OBJECTIVES

The objectives from the Environmental Policy are listed below. Respondents were asked help us to understand which are more important to them by allocating High Priority to the objectives that we should address first, Medium Priority to those that we should address in the next 1-2 years and Low Priority to those that could wait a little longer. The SCORE was calculated by multiplying the number of High Priority votes by 3, the number Medium Priority votes by 2 and the number of Low Priority votes by 1 and adding all together.

OBJECTIVE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	SCORE
Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children	45	7	2	151
Comply with current relevant environmental legislation and regulations	43	10	1	150
Engage with developers and Braintree District Council to ensure that new builds in the parish deliver their environmental mitigation measures required in Planning Consents, ideally exceeding 10% biodiversity net gain	42	11	1	149
Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management	42	9	3	147
Promote air quality and reduction of traffic emissions	40	11	3	145
Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods	39	13	1	144
Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible	39	12	3	144
Manage land, verges and other green spaces using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity and protect and enhance habitats for wildlife	37	14	2	141
Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources	33	19	2	139
Use pesticides infrequently and where unavoidable in an environmentally responsible manner, wherever possible using environmentally friendly alternatives	36	13	5	139

OBJECTIVE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	SCORE
Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment	33	16	5	136
Encourage and facilitate walking and cycling in the village	34	14	5	135
Increase and improve hedgerows in the village	33	15	6	135
Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times	31	19	3	134
Encourage land owners to ensure the quality of rivers, streams and ponds running through or on their land	29	21	4	133
Increase tree coverage in the village	30	16	8	130
Encourage a 'Plastic Free Hatfield Peverel Parish' by discouraging the use of single use plastics within the parish and encouraging businesses to use alternatives	28	19	7	129
Avoid, where possible, the creation of unnecessary waste and environmental damage by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing	21	29	4	125
Encourage the Parish Council's lease holders to be aware of and comply with the Council's Environmental Policy	25	21	7	124
Regularly update and make improvements in light of increased understanding and knowledge	19	32	2	123

SUGGESTIONS FROM RESPONDENTS TO ADDRESS ANY OF THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES

- Have stronger local policy for developments to adhere to.
- Engagement with young people and schools to be part of any initiative we develop
- Recycling bins/separate bins around the park and by the pond area. Share somehow footpaths/walks with local families.
- Improve the footpaths between Nounsley and Hatfield Peverel. These are either non existent, in poor condition or not wide enough
- LISTEN to residents and service providers - they know!!!!!!
- Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust may be able to advise on protection of our waterways.
- Planting of wild flower seeds
- Less new builds on wild flower meadows
- Making headgerows more environmentally friendly
- Cycle paths that are family friendly
- Plant native plants
- Ensure new developments have both footpaths and cycle paths - that link with existing footpaths and cycle paths in the village. Establish a footpath and cycle path to the Community Park
- I wonder if an open day/evening at the village hall would be appropriate, to allow residents to see plans and discuss ideas.
- We need a Parish Dog Warden - far too many dogs are let off leads in inappropriate areas and dog poo is very regularly left on the allotment site near the Church

- Promoting this initiative as 'our' Wilder Village Plan is important. In my view, the possessive pronoun 'our' encourages personal, collective and corporate responsibility
- Tree planting on green verges & green spaces within the built environment. Where people actually live
- Avoid litter bins and street furniture in the countryside it's just clutter that degrades landscape. Street furniture is often just clutter
- Air Quality readings taken by BDC and other should be made available to residents through PC website
- It will take time to implement all practices and policies above. The PC need the approach that they have a duty of care to all, and take necessary action even though it sometimes goes against policies. It is finding the right balance to promote biodiversity and a healthier, cleaner and sustainable environment for all
- I would welcome advice or information on how we can help achieve these objectives eg rewilding gardens or hoe to plant a wildflower meadow in part of our gardens
- A 20 mph speed limit through village and surrounding lanes to improve environment, safety for people and wildlife and encourage walkers
- Protect the green spaces we still have from further development
- Could we establish a regional energy hub using solar, ground source heat pumps and batteries
- Make sure any new housing has solar panels fitted as standard
- Encourage more uptake of allotments
- We need a better and more reliable bus service, perhaps a shuttle bus to Witham
- Partner with schools to educate children on the importance of maintaining the natural environment and involve them in community initiatives such as planting wildflowers and trees
- Try and engage the school and get the youngsters on board
- Encouraging solar panels to be used on new builds. Encourage less front gardens covered in block paving - to use more rain permeable ground cover
- Educate villagers on the effects of poor choices on local environment and wildlife, ie, using fake grass; use of herbicide/pesticides; paving front gardens; patio heaters and wood burners etc. People need to know that individuals DO make a difference for their local micro habitat
- Recycling of plastic etc at the village hall and cafe
- An extra bin specifically for plastic and cans etc for recycling outside the cafe alongside general waste
- Inform and encourage residents to get involved with improving our environment
- Make Hatfield Peveler as 'green' as possible by continued planting of trees and native species in all available and suitable pockets of land around the village
- It needs action, not excuse words (like policy, encourage, plan!)

OTHER SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS FROM RESPONDENTS TO HELP US TO DEVELOP OUR WILDER VILLAGE PLAN

- Really engage not just engage and ignore!
- I think involving villagers, and particularly young people in projects around the village would really make for a community feel and for us all to take pride in our environment
- Suggest everyone with a garden, designates an area to grow wild, and sows wild flowers

- Hedgehogs need to be able to move around freely between gardens, but fencing often prevents this. If a free service was offered that enables access through fencing (i.e. a hole the size of a CD cut into the fence/wood/concrete) with consent from the landowners either side, this would be really beneficial to our Hatfield Peverel hedgehogs
- Get local clubs involved, especially Guiding and Scouting, cricket club, allotment association
- For 2024, create a meadow area on the rec, with mown foot-paths through. Allow people to sign-up for no-mow May and Wilder Gardens on the Wildlife Champions page and give them a free bio-degradable sign to post in their garden
- Thank you so much for championing 'our' Wilder Village Plan. The Wilder Village Plan belongs to all of us. It exists to protect and enhance my life and that of my community
- Green buffer zones at village edge in NDP to be protected (and enhanced by tree planting if possible)
- Planning enforcement is not a statutory requirement so consideration should be given to Parish Council undertaking site visits to ensure planning conditions imposed are met. At the moment developers in the village are seemingly doing their own thing
- The PC have now started progress to achieve the above. Thank you
- So pleased to see this initiative
- I think it would help if the objectives were more specific as some of them are quite general
- Improve appearance of the village and biodiversity by creating flowers for pollinators in displays on The Street
- Please complete the long planned country park, speak with the fishing club that owns the lake towards the football club to allow a footpath so people can walk to the club and country park safely from the village
- Community clean ups on a regular basis so everyone can help
- Have a look at what other councils have done. No point in re-inventing the wheel!
- Just a thank you to everyone trying to better the village for wildlife - and humans
- Have a talk with children in the school to explain how damaging litter can be to wildlife and the environment and encourage them to use bins provided (especially on the rec). Maybe take a group over the rec so they can point out any litter
- Put more trees in the local park around the walkway. Turn cut through roads into closed off one end to add green space and trees and to also reduce traffic cutting through and speeding. Keep green areas, stop building on existing green spaces
- Every few years the parish council spends thousands (tens of thousands?) of pounds planting trees. Less than 20% survive vandalism. You need to plant half the number of trees and put PROTECTION around them. Likely 100% will then survive. Only an idiot keeps making the same mistakes! The PC keeps making this mistake many times!