

Policy Title:	Climate change and Biodiversity
Approved by:	Recreation & Leisure Committee
Date	April 2026
Minute Reference	RL.25.061
Date for review:	April 2029
Signed:	

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

To contribute to local biodiversity recovery and climate resilience by implementing and promoting pollinator friendly habitats and behaviours throughout Cam Parish.

BACKGROUND

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth, as defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems' by DEFRA.

Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains Rivers and the sea.

Cam Parish Council acknowledges the requirement under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and Environment Act 2006 and Environment Act 2021 to consider biodiversity in all decisions. As the Parish Council only owns or influences the management of small areas of land, any actions carried out directly by Cam Council can only go so far to improve levels of biodiversity.

THE LOCAL AREA

Cam Parish Council is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, and the River Cam. In addition, just on the border between Dursley is Holywell Orchard.

PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Cam Council own or have management responsibility for –

Recreation Areas - Jubilee Field, Cam Green Playing Field, Woodfields Playing Field

Amenity Land - Lark rise (2 parcels of land), Cam Pitch War memorial (2 sections), Jubilee Tree (3 sections),

Allotment sites - Westend, Woodfields, Upthorpe and Ashmead 1 & Ashmead 2

Hopton Village Green

Grass Keep & Ashmead

Rackleaze Nature Area (leased from Tesco)

Some roadside hedging

The Parish Council is also responsible for the provision and updating of the Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan.



COUNCIL WIDE ACTION PLAN

In its Council wide Action Plan, Cam Council has already committed to the following actions –

Environment, Climate Change & Sustainability

Objective: Promote green initiatives and sustainable practices.

Action	Responsible	Start Date	Deadline	Success Measure
Complete Parish Biodiversity audit	R&L	June 2025	March 2027	- Rackleaze audit completed August 2025
Introduce recycling and remove single use plastics from office	Clerk	September 2025	Continuous	- Glasses replace single use paper cups in office. - Recycling collection point in kitchen in use September 2025
Increase biodiversity across existing CPC owned sites	Clerk R&L	Summer 2025	2050	- Grass keep contract developed into a sustainable farming contract over a 5-year period – Start date July 2025 - Continue with no-mow zones throughout play areas - Continue wildflower planting at Jubilee Playing fields
Identify new green spaces	FC	Summer 2025	2025	- Cam Sports Ground secured through CIL funding.

WHAT CAM COUNCIL WILL DO

Action	Responsible	Start Date	Deadline	Success Measure
Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made by Council	FC P&H	September 2025	Continuous	- Identify best practise from other councils locally and nationally - Attend and encourage ongoing training and development or staff and councillors - Engage with the Local Plan and future developments regarding planning policies which support the environment, nature and biodiversity - Comments on planning applications now include biodiversity/ environmental points to consider.



Reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land	R&L	September 2025	Continuous	- Managed through handyperson contract
Review how it manages its land holdings and green spaces	R&L	April 2026	Continuous	- Reduce the number of cuts and allowing the grasses to grow. - Ensure that there is a margin of uncut grass around the hedges to allow longer grasses to grow - Expand wildflower planting. Hopton Green (May 2026)
Walking routes identified, advertised and maintained.	FC	January 2025	Continuous	- New snickets map published February 2025. Helpful to tourists and new residents. Supported through SDC Walking and Cycling funding. - Ongoing maintenance incorporated into handyperson contract
Encourage sustainable travel	FC P&H	Ongoing	Continuous	- Ongoing support and promotion of the Pedersen Way (formally the Greenway) - Continued work with GCC to complete the Pedersen Way from the station to the village center
Appropriate tree management and planting	R&L FC	Ongoing	Continuous	- Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required - Scheme of tree planting throughout the Parish in partnership with GCC
Encourage and support community engagement and wider participation	R&L FC	Ongoing	Continuous	- Promote the councils aims and action plan on social media and the website - Continued support of Blooming Cam and other community groups to implement butterfly-friendly gardening practices



				- Support participation in initiatives such as the Big Butterfly Count, Nature Day, World Bee Day etc. - Work with schools and community groups on education and projects and offer funding through Community Grants - Promote Wildlife Trusts' website particularly 'Help wildlife at home'.
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MONITORING & REVIEW

The Action Plan will be a flexible, working document that can be added to when required. The Council will monitor progress through periodic assessments. Feedback from the community will be encouraged through participation at Recreation & Leisure Committee.

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required.

