 

**Local Climate and Environment Action Plan 2020-2025**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Henfield Parish Council’s Climate and Environment Emergency Declaration, adopted in June 2019.**

Henfield Parish Council joins the UK Government, and many other parish, town and county councils in declaring a Climate and Environment Emergency. This will mean we always consider the climate and environmental impact of our decisions in the Parish Council’s areas of operation and influence.

The Parish Council will aim to reduce Henfield’s carbon footprint through significant improvements by 2030 and to encourage the whole community to act together on this issue.

This could involve:

a. A working group, chaired by a Parish Councillor, involving as wide a participation from local community as possible, to report in time for their recommendations to be funded in the next budget cycle.

b. The working group will help the Parish Council set interim targets and develop action plan for carbon reduction and increasing biodiversity in our Parish.

c. If relevant, supporting the disinvestment from fossil fuels in any banking or pension providers used by Henfield Parish Council

d. A call to Government to provide the necessary policy changes and make funding available for us to act locally.

e. Adoption of an ethical procurement framework to ensure Parish Council suppliers reduce their carbon footprint and reliance on plastics.

As a Parish Council, Henfield PC has several areas of local responsibility and influence where it can support carbon reduction and encourage the regeneration of the natural environment. However, we must recognise that there are limits to this power as much relevant local decision making is made at District and County Council level.

**Putting our Climate and Natural Environment at the heart of decision making**

**Henfield Parish Council will always consider the climate and environmental impact of our decisions in the Parish Council’s areas of operation and influence.**

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| 1 | Asking councillors to consider whether recommendations put to them would help or hinder climate, air pollution and nature plans. |
| 2 | Identifying a councillor as Climate and Nature Champion who will advise council on matters relating to climate and nature issues and monitor the Parish Council’s progress towards reducing Henfield’s Carbon Footprint and increased Biodiversity, through the local Climate and Environment Action Plan. |
| 3 | Promoting community engagement in decision-making processes concerning climate change and natural resource management. |
| 4 | Establishing relevant goals for Henfield Parish Council to achieve reductions in its carbon footprint and to support HDC with its Wilder Horsham initiative. |
| 5 | Gradually aligning all Henfield Parish Council’s plans and policies, including procurement, with the Local Climate and Environment Action Plan, as part of the ongoing policy and plan review process. |

**Raising Money**

Our goal is to have sufficient resource to invest in the changes needed to restore nature and meet climate goals, so that Henfield Parish Council can deliver on its ambitions to reduce carbon and increase biodiversity.

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| 6 | Taking advantage of any relevant grant funding or other initiatives to fund more sustainable local transport infrastructure. |
| 7 | Using legal and planning mechanisms such as Section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy and other mechanisms to fund projects which support carbon reduction and nature restoration. |

**Protect the most vulnerable**

Our goal is to ensure that those in our community most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are properly supported and protected.

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| 9 | Identifying the most vulnerable people in any areas at risk of flooding or affected by high heat levels, and target actions and spending to these areas. |

**Buildings**

While recognising that HPC does not directly manage housing, our goal is to support local measures which ensure community owned buildings are well insulated and efficiently heated.

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| 9 | Remaining aware of the importance of measures to increase energy efficiency at Plans Advisory Committee, and within the Planning Framework and local priorities. |
| 10 | Supporting local initiatives which improve overall heating and energy efficiency strategy for the area especially in relation to community owned buildings. |

**Transport**

Our goal is to support initiatives which minimise levels of air pollution in Henfield, by encouraging best practice in the use of buses, cycling and walking, and low and zero emission vehicles.

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| 11 | Prioritising any potential transport investment into cycling, walking, and public transport; support for electric buses or similar lower carbon options. |
| 12 | Enabling the rapid shift to electric vehicles by installing or supporting the installation of further Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. |
| 13 | Supporting opportunities to reduce car use locally through measures such as increasing footpath use, promoting car-sharing, cycling and increased bus services. |
| 14 | Aiming to transition the council’s vehicle(s) to electric powered as fast as possible. |
| 15 | Reducing the need for residents to own and use a car through supporting sustainable developments in the Neighbourhood Plan process and at Plans Advisory Committee. |

**Power**

Our goal is to enable and support the growth and use of green energy, ensure energy is not wasted, and prevent the development of new fossil fuel extraction.

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| 16 | Helping to identify areas and community buildings suitable for renewable energy and energy storage for potential community energy initiatives. |
| 17 | Switching lighting managed by the Parish Council to well-designed and well-directed LED lights as soon as practicable. |
| 18 | Reducing energy used by the Parish Council in its operations as far as is practicable. |
| 19 | Opposing applications for fracking and other fossil fuel extraction in the local area. |
| 20 | Aiming to disinvest council funds (including banking or pension providers) from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy projects wherever possible. |

**Waste**

Our goal is to be a zero waste area where all waste is minimised, recycled or reused as part of a circular economy approach.

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| 21 | Supporting measures which help Henfield send zero waste to landfill or incineration. |
| 22 | Reducing waste from single use items in the community by showing support for initiatives such as Plastic Free Henfield. Remove single-use plastic from council offices and premises. |
| 23 | Encouraging local recycling of waste not currently recycled by the District Council by supporting the placement of collection points in the village including on Parish Council owned land and offering storage space if possible |
| 24 | Promoting community sharing and reuse. |

**Influencing others**

Our goal is to encourage and support others with their contribution to the fight against the climate emergency.

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| 25 | Considering having signage at the village entrances which demonstrate the Parish Council’s commitments to   * carbon reduction * improving the natural environment |
| 26 | Considering installing signage that explains our commitment to reduced mowing, allowing some less ‘tidy’ areas on designated verges and promoting wildlife friendly corridors. |
| 27 | Making the public aware of its local Climate and Environment plan on the Parish Council Website. |

**Land-use**

Our goal is to restore nature to help draw down carbon pollution from the atmosphere and to ensure everyone has access to nature in nearby green spaces.

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| 28 | Taking account of advice that the right trees must be planted in the right place substantially increase tree cover on council-owned land: Ensure existing trees are properly protected in order to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. |
| 29 | Protecting existing local green spaces, dedicated wild areas and locally designated nature sites. |
| 30 | Managing council-owned land and road verges to increase biodiversity and draw down carbon pollution, including through reduced pesticide and herbicide use and increased planting of wildflowers. |
| 31 | Develop new quality green spaces in areas where they don’t exist, and enhance existing spaces. |
| 32 | Support nature and ecosystem restoration initiatives such as *Henfield Common Management Plan* to reverse and restore habitats and species and ecosystem quality and function. |

**Supporting Practical and Political change on the Climate and Nature Emergencies**

Our goal is to make our Parish Council’s voice heard

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| 33 | Working with other local councils (such as Horsham District Council’s Wilder Horsham project), our community allies (such as Henfield Community Partnership including SH2030), and all our local clubs and interest groups to deliver on our village’s climate and biodiversity aspirations, where relevant and possible. |
| 34 | Publicising our support for climate and environment action. |