

Eardisland Environment and Sustainability Group

Eardisland Parish Council Biodiversity Improvement Report 2022 – 2023

Parish Council Progress

As this is Eardisland's first Biodiversity Improvement Report it details all actions taken since the formation of the Environment and Sustainability Group in October 2021.

The Layout of the Report

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
The actions are taken from the current Eardisland Parish Council Environment & Sustainability Policy. They are grouped into six areas where the Parish Council has influence.	Any progress on the actions has been noted.	A record of problems encountered when trying to take action. Also, any actions taken that go against new policy.	Including suggestions for how to move forwards.

PC Activity

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.	The PC met Environmental Planning Regulations when arranging silt removal from the River Arrow.		Not sure what other legislation applies to PC activity.
Where appropriate, identify areas on PC owned and managed land for new planting of trees, hedgerows and creating wildlife friendly areas, and ensure the biodiversity of the land is both protected and	Tree audit carried out 2022. Wildflower area maintained on recreation ground, providing habitat and reducing impact of mowing. 3 trees planted for Diamond Jubilee.		Plan needs to be in place for management of new and existing trees and hedges.

improved by maintenance and enhancements.	6 trees planted with The Woodland Trust grant. 1 donated tree planted for coronation. 75 metres of wildlife friendly hedge planted with The Woodland Trust grant.		
Reduce flood risk in the parish including through maintenance of watercourses, drains and ditches within its responsibility and encouraging all other landowners within the parish to do the same.	The PC supports Eardisland Flood Response Group which reports issues. Ongoing work on management of silting and sluice gates on the River Arow.		PC works with the Lugg Internal Drainage Board but this is mainly about invasive species not flooding.

Procurement

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
The PC will give preference to options that are demonstrably environmentally friendly and low impact.	Lengthsman instructed to replace weedkiller with mechanical control.		Pre-empt requirement for materials and consumables for maintenance of assets. Decide on what can be used.
The PC will give preference to products that have been manufactured from natural and recycled materials, or that can be reused or disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.	The PC rejected the offer of recycled plastic (composite) benches. Hedge guards for new hedging are biodegradable.	The PC agreed to the purchase of (plastic) bunting.	Ensure that in the future decisions about purchases have enough information to make an informed choice.

Contractors

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
The PC will require that contractors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, assets or on other areas of the Parish at the request of the PC eliminate or minimise the use of harmful materials and products including pesticides and chemicals.	Lengthsman instructed to replace weedkiller with mechanical control.	Village Hall cleaning??	
The PC will require that contractors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, assets or on other areas of the Parish at the request of the PC eliminate or minimise adverse impacts on air, soil or water quality.		Use of petrol machinery by contractors.	Perhaps consult with contractors as to if use of electric equipment is a possibility.
The PC will require that contractors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, assets or on other areas of the Parish at the request of the PC ensure that, where practicable, the commissioned work considers, protects and enhances wildlife and the environment, preserving and protecting existing habitats.	New trees and hedges supported.		
The PC will require that contractors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, assets or on other areas of the Parish at the request of the PC use locally sourced plants, native,	New trees and hedges are all native species.	E-Team may be buying plants grown in peat.	Government ban on sales of peat containing compost to amateur gardeners by 2024 will reduce this. Sales of plants grown in peat containing compost commercially can carry on until 2030.

wildflower, and bee friendly grown in the UK, without peat.			Suggest to E-Team that a move towards peat free plants would be positive.
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Place shaping

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
The PC will support a planning assessment system that protects and enhances landscape, environment, biodiversity and historic assets and seeks to ensure that development is demonstrably sustainable across all elements of a development proposal.		Unclear if this has been carried out for past planning applications.	Look at possibility of drafting some standard responses to planning applications, to make sure comments on planning applications always stick to PC policy.
The PC will ensure that supported development proposals identify, protect and value existing habitats and where possible provide extra and enhanced habitats for wildlife.		Unclear if this has been carried out for past planning applications.	Look at possibility of drafting some standard responses to planning applications, to make sure comments on planning applications always stick to PC policy.

Partnerships

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
The PC will work with the Environment Agency, Herefordshire CC and all relevant and appropriate bodies to address water pollution issues within the parish, including pollution from agricultural businesses, local enterprise and residential properties.	The EA is working on consultations for The Arrow.	Slow progress.	Potential for 'citizen science' project to be set up in the future sampling water quality in The Arrow. PC to support this when confirmed.

<p>The PC will support and promote the actions of groups and organisations within and aligned to the parish, which share our aims of working to eliminate, reduce or mitigate negative environmental impacts and actively facilitate beneficial outcomes.</p>	<p>The PC has supported the E&S groups projects to increase wildlife habitats. The PC has signed the Greener Footprints pledge committing it to considering actions proposed by Herefordshire Council's Climate and Nature Partnership Board.</p>		
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Showcasing, engaging, and communicating

Action	Progress	Problems	Notes
<p>The PC will publicise its positive environmental actions and promote best practice.</p>	<p>The PC has a regular column in the Parish Magazine.</p>		<p>Need to ensure that positive environmental actions are included in each issue.</p>
<p>The PC will support the work of the E&S Group, including projects aiming to monitor and reduce carbon emissions and protect and enhance habitat diversity locally which could include the setting of targets and monitoring progress against agreed timeframes.</p>	<p>The PC has declared a biodiversity emergency and committed to produce this document.</p>		
<p>The PC will identify and engage with local and national experts such as the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Herefordshire Green Network.</p>	<p>Sarah King from HWT gave a 'Trees and Hedgerows' talk in June 2022. The PC is a member of HGN.</p>		<p>Look at setting up 'field trips' to positive projects in the parish, for example tree planting / rewilding.</p>
<p>The PC will seek and apply for opportunities for funding for environmental and sustainability actions on behalf of the parish,</p>	<p>The PC supported grant applications by the E&S group to Herefordshire Councils Climate and Nature grant in Jan 2022 (Tree Audit and Thermal</p>		

including supporting grant bids by others where sustainability is a core objective	Imaging) for £2275.50 and The Woodland Trust in Jan 2023 (Tree & Hedge planting) for £1606.50.		
The PC will share best practice that is recommended by the E&S Group with the local community and local businesses.	The PC has a regular column in the Parish Magazine.		Need to ensure that positive environmental actions are included in each issue. More use could be made of the MailChimp mailing list held by the PC as it provides a quicker method of communication than the PM.