



PILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Pilsley Parish Council Diversity and Climate Change Action Plan

PLAYING OUR PART IN THE WIDER CLIMATE EMERGENCY

PILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

This Action Plan is Annex A (Biodiversity & Climate Change) of the Council's 2025-2029 Business Plan (in development).

Background

There is now international scientific consensus on the fact that carbon emissions (alongside other greenhouse gases) are causing climate change. In the 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC warn that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. The IPCC stress the importance of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat, and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

North East Derbyshire District Council

North East Derbyshire District Council has declared a Climate Change emergency and given the go ahead for a wide range of tough-tackling measures intended to reduce the authority's impact on climate change.

The actions, which go beyond what the government have set, include a push for the reduction in energy consumption and changes to how new and existing developments can become more sustainable.

Pilsley Parish Council declared a climate emergency at a meeting of the Council on Monday 7 August 2023,

Key Goals for Pilsley Parish Council

Committing to the Climate Emergency

Show commitment to the community, support other local Councils, and join the body of Councils demanding meaningful action from Westminster.

Fulfil the Council's duties in the Environment Act 2021

Instigate actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity by:

- 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.

Form a Biodiversity and Climate Change Committee (BCCC) of the Parish Council

Include local councillors, experts, organisations, and representatives of the community to focus on addressing the emergency, explore ideas and prioritise actions, feeding back regularly to council meetings.

Take responsibility for the impact of Council decisions.

Engage with the community and ensure that all policies and decisions of the council are informed and led by the impact they will have on securing a safer and better future for the Parish within the context of a Climate Emergency.

Short-term actions (Quick Wins)

Instigate the actions that can be taken by the Parish Council almost immediately for little or no cost, and that will have an immediate impact.

Medium and longer-term goals

Agree to undertake policies and projects that may take more resources to achieve or need to be planned further in advance.

Short Term Actions (Quick Wins)

To be initiated ASAP by the Parish Council

- Pledge to support the target set out by North East Derbyshire District Council in its Climate Change Plan and set a target for the Parish to be net carbon neutral by 2050.
- Use information in the carbon footprint impact report of 7 December 2023 to benchmark current carbon output, identify targets for the Parish and track progress against these targets.
- Establish a Biodiversity and Climate Change Committee of the Parish Council, allocating lead Councillors, to work in the interest of the Parish.
- Conduct a village survey to establish what people know about climate change and to develop a realistic, achievable plan of action.
- Influence change through comments on planning applications, imposing requirements on developers to make homes and buildings more climate friendly, for example, inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Switch to a renewable energy supplier for all Parish Council-run buildings.
- Install LED/low energy bulbs in all Parish Council-run buildings.
- Actively work to reduce consumption, reduce waste, and recycle. Minimise the amount of printed matter and where this is essential use recycled paper and recycle all waste.
- Use recycled paper and environmentally friendly cleaning products in all Parish Council facilities.
- Stop the use of weedkillers and other chemicals in parks, green spaces, verges, and paths.
- Use public notice boards to promote awareness and environmental initiatives.
- Develop a page on the Council's website to promote awareness and environmental initiatives.
- Commit to using local suppliers wherever possible for the supply of goods and services and consider potential carbon emissions not just price when awarding contracts.
- Commit to minimising the impact of Parish Councillors' activities on the environment. E.g., avoid unnecessary travel.
- Maximise use of social media platforms to engage with the community. Accepting that not all parishioners will have access to social media, use printed matter sparingly and target those that will benefit most.

Medium to Longer-Term Goals

Goal 1. Engaging and Enabling the Community

The Parish Council will commit to engaging with and supporting the community, empowering it to take the actions required to become carbon neutral by 2050.

The Council will:

Include in the village consultation exercise 2023/24 engagement with local residents, to understand their concerns, priorities, and knowledge about biodiversity	Council	Achieved. Biodiversity and climate change suggestions to be considered by BCCC and recommendations for inclusion in Council's Business Plan to be put forward in March 2025.
Promote initiatives in the newsletter and social media and notice boards	Communications Officer	

Set up a Biodiversity and Climate Change page on the Council's website	Clerk	Done
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Goal 2: Promote Biodiversity

The Council will commit to deliver a positive the impact on biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of natural habitats.

The Council will:

Consider leaving standing and fallen dead wood leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates	BCCC	
Consider reducing the number of cuts in the Churchyard and allowing the grass to grow and be swathed in September.	BCCC	
Re-tender for the ground's maintenance works and requires the contractor to use foliar-applied herbicide, specifically Roundup Proactive 360, the replacement for Roundup Pro Bioactive.	Clerk	Achieved. Requirement included in contract 2024-2027

Goal 3. Reducing Consumption and Waste

The Parish Council will actively support and promote initiatives that seek to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill from the parish.

The Council will:

Locate clothes recycling unit at the Village Hall	Council	Achieved.
Community litter picking	BCCC	
Commemorate the actions of local resident who litter picks every day	Council	Achieved – Freedom of Parish granted June 2024

Goal 4. Reducing Energy Demand and Producing Clean Energy

The Parish Council will promote initiatives to reduce the use of energy originating from fossil fuels and encourage the generation of 'clean energy' within the parish.

The Council will:

Calculate Pilsley 's carbon footprint – both the scale of emissions and the main activities responsible for the emissions.	Council	Achieved – report published Dec 2023.
Declare a climate change emergency	Council	Approved 5/8/24 and on website
Encouraging households to check the energy efficiency of their homes.	BCCC	

Establish costs of installing solar panels on Council owned buildings	Councillor Watts	

Goal 5. Transforming Green Spaces

The Parish Council will work to conserve and enhance the natural environment, making space for nature and wildlife through the restoration of valued habitats, biodiversity and green spaces whilst protecting key landscape features.

The Council will:

Reduce the number of hedge cuts from twice to once a year (in October outside of the bird nesting season),	Council	Achieved
Establish corridors for wildlife and space for nature, for example, community orchard in unused area of football ground.	BCCC	
Request the grounds maintenance contractor to, wherever possible, segregate green waste that cannot be reused directly from non-green waste to facilitate the recycling of all remaining green and organic compostable-material and make every effort to reuse or recycle green waste arisings where possible.	Clerk	
Repair and repaint playground equipment to enhance its longevity	Warden/Groundsman	Achieved.
Recycle wood from old benches into village planters	Warden/Groundsman	Achieved
Regenerate Morton Road Recreation Group to enhance biodiversity and recreational facilities and apply for external funding to support the project.	BDCC	

Goal 6. Changing How We Move Around

The Parish Council will work to help reduce dependency on fossil fuels for travel and improve safety and accessibility of pedestrian routes.

The Council will:

Promote cycling and walking (including walk to school initiatives)	BCCC	
Lobby for safe road crossings particularly at the school entrances.	BCCC	

Encourage the use of electric cars and develop a project to install electric charging points	BCCC	

Goal 7. Support Local Businesses

The Parish Council will encourage the use of local services and products and work closely with local businesses to help them to reduce the environmental impact of their activities.

The Council will:

Revise the Council's Financial Regulations to give priority to local suppliers in its own procurement process.	Clerk	To be done for approval at Annual Meeting May 2025
Give priority to local businesses when promoting contracts and services	Council	To be included in financial regulations for approval at Annual Meeting May 2025

Goal 8. Building a Stronger, Healthier and More Resilient Community

The Parish Council recognises that many of the initiatives to tackle the Climate Emergency also reap benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. It will promote and encourage initiatives which help build a stronger and healthier and more resilient community.

The Council will:

Support events that bring the community together	Council	
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