

## Hambleden Parish Council – Biodiversity Survey Conclusions

The survey was completed by 70 people, and showed that the highest priority, was:

**Do more to help conserve, restore and improve natural habitats, including support for a wildlife corridor to link such efforts across the Hambleden Valley.**

Next highest was:

**Encourage BC to give more consideration to reducing the environmental impact of new developments**

The question that ranked the lowest in terms of priority was:

**Focus on local emergency planning of climate related events in conjunction with Bucks Council**

followed by:

**Do more to enable residents to make greener, climate friendly choices**

The survey also asked for any other feedback, and key themes included:

- **Practical Solutions:** Suggestions to collaborate with organisations like the National Trust.
- **Infrastructure Concerns:** Calls for road maintenance, managing vehicle impacts, and integrating sustainable energy solutions, concerns about the local primary school expansion. Highways and fixing of potholes falls to the Local Authority, Buckinghamshire Council and is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- **Engagement and Education:** Highlighting the importance of community-wide climate awareness and sustainable practices.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Emphasising the need for coordinated climate-focused policies and green transport measures. Again, transport is under Buckinghamshire Council but the Parish Council can work in conjunction with them.
- **Traffic and Road Safety:** - Multiple concerns about speeding vehicles, especially on narrow lanes, requests for 20mph speed limits in villages. Again, this is Buckinghamshire Council but the PC is in discussions about how to make our roads safer.

The results show that there is an interest in practical, local solutions to environmental challenges from parishioners. We are grateful for the community's input, which underscores the need for proactive climate and environmental measures. These insights will guide our collaborative efforts with Buckinghamshire Council and other stakeholders including neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure sustainable development and enhanced quality of life for all residents.

A selection of comments received in the survey, some of which whilst out of the remit of the Parish Council will be passed to the appropriate people at Buckinghamshire Council:

- *Work with National Trust to develop framework of energy and sustainability of homes with covenant, finding a pathway to make homes greener whilst keeping aesthetics of village. My own option shouldn't be a log burner!*

- *I really appreciate the responsible and pro-active approach HPC is taking on these interlinked emergencies, thank you.*
- *Take action where landowners are not being responsible with their land. The Hambleden valley never used to have any ragwort or creeping thistle, dock. Now it's everywhere. Those landowners who are being responsible are being impacted by seed from those who are not. Are the parish fearful of intervening as locals know who are responsible and those who aren't.*
- *All good ideas.*
- *Including Farmers and Landowners in any local plans & discussions. We'll all benefit if we're on the same page.*
- *I am not sure any of us have any influence in this government on planning and development. No pastures and rewilded brownfield sites should be available for planning, even if in Local plan - Golden Guff and Marlow film studios planning should not be allowed if we care about carbon capture and biodiversity.*
- *Keep local schools to encourage less car use.*
- *There are more pressing current issues - the outrageous expansion of Frieth School based wholly on out of catchment children, traffic and speeding in Frieth, the fate of the Prince Albert, to name but 3.*
- *Help educate and motivate next generation about how to transition to sustainable planet. Start in schools but also have a roving village hall campaign.*
- *School transport within the Parish boundaries needs to be more co-ordinated to reduce traffic & emissions.*
- *More joined up thinking is needed. I have highlighted conserving, restoring and enhancing habitats as my main concern, but that alone will be pointless unless far more is urgently done to rapidly reduce carbon emissions and change how we produce food. Higher temperatures, caused by burning fossil fuels will continue to impact nature, as will the use of chemicals in food production. The two are interlinked and we should be looking at a range of issues, including: Building environmentally friendly homes, greening transport, changing to renewable energy, changing lifestyles and food choices. It is too much for a Parish to accomplish on its own. That is why it is vital, in my opinion, to petition BC to do more, more rapidly and with genuine focus. Climate scientists in the latest IPCC Report have written: 'the world will become more dangerous with each increase in warming. Beyond 1.4C warming, we will see new risks associated with sea level rise, permafrost degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, more extreme weather, food insecurity.' I think that we should be doing all that we can to prevent this happening and listen to the scientists.*
- *Encourage people to compost themselves before adding to the brown bin.*
- *BC needs to follow the example of SODC and reduce the villages to a 20 as many are being used as a cut through with no consideration to cottages front doors opening straight onto the lane with speeding motorists.*
- *Need to review indigenous planting as we need to future proof planting as part of climate change. Some indigenous planting will not survive this change.*
- *Is there any way to restrict the size of vehicle using our single track lanes? Lorries are becoming every bigger, forcing their way along the narrow lanes and damaging verges and the bases of hedgerows.*
- *Fill in the potholes!!!!!! The roads are plain dangerous in their current state.*

- *CO2 reduction is paramount - if we don't address that then all the other efforts we make will be in vain. As national governments are failing to reduce CO2 sufficiently to meet the 1.5C target then we have to address it at a more local level. Can the HPC investigate, for example, village heating systems (ground source heat pumps), solar farms, electric car clubs, valley electric minibus link to Mill End bus stop, campaign to change 850 bus to electric, educate on and promote reduced carbon means of travel such as train not plane, negotiated discounts for increased insulation across multiple properties.*
- *Educate residents about the small things they can do.*
- *Sort the pot holes out.*
- *Climate patterns are cyclical, normally over 10's of years, so careful thought is needed prior to any "panic" driven decisions being taken. So called rewilding is a possible course of action but to be successful natural growth progression needs careful management eg. land cannot just be left to its own growth patterns. Please recall that The Chilterns were once covered in trees and thick bramble undergrowth, the strongest most invasive plants will always takeover any unmanaged land or natural area.*
- *I feel that the questionnaire misses the key point about the Hambleden Valley. It's not prone to overdevelopment due to its conservation and AONB classifications and the valley is pretty green. However we are bedevilled by speeding motorists on the A4155 and the Skirmett road an even worse Thames Water is messing up with its failure to handle sewage. This leads to tankers for months on end in Hambleden Village and Mill End. We need action on these basics before pie in the sky environmental stuff.*
- *Stop using climate to come down heavy on motorists & find more ways to fine motorists to make money for BC !!! There are MANY more intelligent, creative & more effective measures to take. Fix the Potholes !! Causing us thousands £££ in tyre damage !*
- *Whatever else faces UK citizens, and people across the world, the commonality of threat facing all is human made global warming. Related to this is the loss of biodiversity and in UK that is acute, as testified by the State of Nature Report published last year. Therefore, I believe that at every level of Government, from national government, through local authorities, and to the building block of governance, the Parish Council, decisions should be benchmarked against whether they make a contribution towards reducing global warming, and increasing biodiversity, or the opposite.*
- *Please review of the speed limits ... meeting a car travelling at perhaps 40mph on our narrow lanes in winter is dangerous.*