HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Climate & Ecological Emergency Plan

2026 / 27

Contents

Part One: Report on Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2025/26

This section summarises progress on the six goals set in the 2025/26 plan, drawing on the Annual Report of the Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group (April 2025 – March 2026) as well as Parish Council minutes/reports. The Eco Group is effectively acting as a working group for the Parish Council.

Goal 1: Communication and Community Engagement

Website and Newsletter: The Parish Council continued to use its website and newsletter to share information on climate, energy and biodiversity throughout the year. Policies on biodiversity and climate emergency are publicly available on the website. The Eco Group and the allotment society were among groups which contributed articles to the Parish Council Newsletter, covering topics such as Climate Emergency Action from the PC, Biodiversity at the Allotments, Haslingfield's 2nd Repair Café, and Community Energy, while the Council also shared information about leaving standing wood in the Wellhouse Meadow and the recycling bins at the Village Hall.

Public Events: With Council support, a public retrofitting event, 'Retrofitting for Every Budget – or None!', was held at the Village Hall in February 2026, covering low-cost home energy improvements alongside information on heat pumps, insulation grants and renewable technologies. Three Eco Group members completed thermal imaging training with Cambridge Carbon Footprint and began offering free thermal surveys to residents from January 2026 – this service will continue next winter on request, and could be featured at the appropriate time in the Parish Newsletter.

Engagement with MP/Consultations: The Eco Group engaged with MP Pippa Heylings through two South Cambs Climate and Nature Forum events (July 2025 at Foxton and February 2026 at Great Shelford) and a Westminster lobby day in July 2025 – this was reported to the PC. In August, 2025, Members of the Parish Council met with members of the Eco Group to discuss a response to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation and agreed on an approach which highlighted some areas not included in the strategy, impacts of East West Rail, and concerns about implementation and monitoring of the strategy and how these would be resourced. In March 2026, an Eco Group submission on the Cambridge Development Corporation, arguing that development must stay within planetary boundaries, was shared with the Parish Council and MP Heylings.

The East West Rail project continued to dominate environmental conversation in the Parish, with views being expressed that the railway will irreparably damage the local countryside and affect protected species such as Barbastelle bats. The PC has responded by continuing to question EWR Co. about their measures to protect the bats, as well as meeting with Pippa Heylings MP, Bridget Smith, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, Stephen Kelly Joint Director, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Mayor Paul Bristow and Rail Minister Peter Hendy to keep the issue at the forefront of the project.

Social Media: The PC Social Media page (Facebook) is averaging about one post a week. These include community and traffic/roadworks notices. There is scope for more active posting about climate and resilience, outcomes of PC decisions (such as the retrofitting of the Village Hall), and so forth. This is a resources issue within the PC – a dedicated environment/biodiversity officer could take this as one of their responsibilities.

Still Outstanding: appointment of a dedicated environment/biodiversity officer by the Parish Council. Carried forward.

Goal 2: New Buildings and Development Standards

A significant piece of work was completed in April 2025 with the adoption of the Haslingfield Design Guidance and Codes (prepared by AECOM for the Neighbourhood Plan process). This document sets out exactly the kinds of standards the 2025/26 plan called for: Passivhaus principles for new builds, permeable surfaces as standard, biodiversity net gain, EV charging in on-plot parking, and active travel connectivity. However, without an adopted Neighbourhood Plan to give it statutory weight, the document currently functions as guidance rather than enforceable policy. Parish councillors can and should reference it when commenting on planning applications but cannot *require* compliance with its codes. The priority for 2026/27 is therefore to progress the Neighbourhood Plan so that these standards acquire the teeth they currently lack.

Goal 3: Reduce Energy Demand from Existing Buildings

HUG2 grant information and Action on Energy Cambridgeshire resources were shared via the newsletter and website. A parish-wide survey to identify EPC ratings and heating types has not yet been conducted. Carried forward as a priority action for 2026/27.

Significant progress was made on the Village Hall, which was the subject of an Energy Audit commissioned by the Parish Council and conducted by a Cambridgeshire ACRE sustainability advisor in October 2025. The hall now has a clear and costed improvement roadmap. The Parish Council has agreed to proceed with:

- Full LED lighting upgrade in the main hall (est. saving £384/year, 5.7-year payback)
- Obtaining quotes for installation of a destratification fan in the main hall
- Obtaining quotes for loft insulation on the main hall and storage area

Further steps agreed for consideration:

- Bypassing the oversized hot water cylinder to use the combi boiler on demand (£52/year saving)
- Extension of the solar PV system: 6.6kWp on the east-facing roof plus 10kWh battery storage (est. saving £2,027/year, 6.4-year payback)
- Long-term: replacement of the gas boiler with an air source heat pump as part of the hall's net zero journey

Goal 4: Community Energy

As mentioned above, in February 2025 the Parish Newsletter carried an article on this subject, and a solar farm was mentioned in a Council convened meeting on possible "asks" from East West Rail. In addition, members of the council and the Badcock Trust met with Cllr John Fisher from the village of Shepreth to hear about their proposed community energy and village hall retrofitting (now complete) projects, and have maintained contact with him. Partly inspired by this meeting, the Village Hall energy audit (see Goal 3 above) has laid groundwork for a potential solar PV expansion with battery storage, which could form the basis of a community energy element in future. The Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy strand on land use for community energy. However, a community energy survey question was not included in any wider parish survey this year. Carried forward into the 2026/27 Village Hall goal.

Goal 5: Active Travel and Public Transport

The Tiger on Demand scheme is now available, which allows residents to book a bus journey within the travel zone using any of four bus stops within the village. The Parish Council has advertised the scheme through its communication channels. The 20mph zone proposal continued through the planning process. A community survey on transport options (lift share, e-bike hire, EV charging) was not carried out. Carried forward — active travel policies are now embedded in the Neighbourhood Plan goal in the 2026/27 plan.

Goal 6: Consumption and Waste

The Eco group's second Repair Café in June 2025, sponsored by the PC, was a significant success: 10 volunteer repairers and 7 helpers tackled 50 items, fixing 41 of them and preventing an estimated 470 kg of CO_2e and 95 kg of waste. A third Repair Café took place May 17th, 2026 at Harlton Village Hall. Recycling bins on the recreation ground continue to be available. After some problems with incorrect use, the Parish Council installed instructional signs on the general waste and recycling bins. We will continue to accept the offer of the temporary ewaste bin twice a year, or when offered.

Biodiversity — covered by the HPC Biodiversity Policy (not a standalone climate plan goal)

Biodiversity was not included as a goal in the 2025/26 climate plan, as it is covered by the separate HPC Biodiversity Policy (most recently updated April 2026). Nevertheless, it was an exceptional year for biodiversity work. Haslingfield was selected as one of just 25 Cambridgeshire parishes for the 'Nature Recovery From the Ground Up' four-year county project. An Environmental Appraisal and Biodiversity Enhancement Report on the village watercourse was completed, including eDNA testing of five village ponds (confirming Great Crested Newts at two sites). A productive meeting with SCDC's Geoff Clark resulted in assurances of nature-friendly management at Wisbey's Yard.

A detailed Parish Council/Eco Group response to the Cambridgeshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy was submitted, contributing ground-truthed habitat data and management proposals. A bioblitz at All Saints churchyard identified 110 species. The Wellhouse Meadow project continues, with slow but steady progress including wildflower colonisation expanding beyond the bonfire boundary. A wildflower seeding session with the Scouts took place on the verge opposite the pumping station, with funding for seeds from the Parish Council. Six swift boxes were installed on the village hall, co-funded by the Parish Council and the Eco Group.

Part Two: 2026/27 Plan

I. Introduction

In September 2021, Haslingfield Parish Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and committed to annual action plans to reduce local emissions and build community resilience. This plan for 2026/27 builds on five years of learning and action, and on evidence about our parish's emissions, energy use, biodiversity and flood risk.

This plan introduces two goals that did not appear as standalone items in 2025/26: Goal 4 (Flooding, Drainage and Water Resilience) and Goal 7 (Community Resilience: Food, Energy Costs and Overheating). Biodiversity, which featured in earlier plans, is now covered by the separate HPC Biodiversity Policy (adopted April 2026) and appears in this plan only as a bridging goal (Goal 5) noting the connections between biodiversity and climate resilience.

This year's plan places equal weight on two interconnected themes:

- Decarbonisation – reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change, including through home and building energy efficiency, low-carbon transport, sustainable consumption, and community energy.
- Resilience and preparedness – equipping our community to adapt to the climate changes already under way and intensifying. These include more frequent and severe flooding, periods of drought, food price volatility, and disruption to energy supply.

Resilience and decarbonisation are not separate agendas. Well-insulated homes reduce energy bills and protect residents from winter cold and summer heat extremes. Green spaces, trees and healthy soils absorb rainwater and store carbon. Community energy projects reduce household costs and improve local energy security. The goals in this plan reflect and reinforce these connections.

Two guiding principles

1. Local democratic leadership. Evidence across the UK shows that community-led approaches — rather than solutions imposed from outside — are most effective and durable. Haslingfield Parish Council has demonstrated this through the Neighbourhood Plan process and public engagement on East West Rail. The Parish Council agrees that climate and resilience action should follow the same participatory model: gathering information, consulting residents, and acting transparently.

2. Integration. Climate action is most powerful when embedded into the normal work of the parish: planning decisions, purchasing, management of green spaces, community

events, and communications. The Parish Council sees climate and resilience not as a separate agenda, but as a lens applied to everything it does.

II. Our Emissions

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) Impact Tool provides annual estimates of parish-level carbon emissions. The April 2026 Impact Report estimates Haslingfield's average per-household annual consumption footprint at 15 tCO_2e. This is a notable improvement from the July 2023 figure of 23 tCO_2e, driven in part by the national grid becoming greener and by reduced home energy use.

However, 15 tCO_2e per household remains well above the GB average of approximately 14 tCO_2e, and far above the level required to meet national climate targets. To reach net zero by 2050, British households will need to reduce emissions to around 2–3 tCO_2e per year.

2026 Emissions Snapshot – Haslingfield Parish

Per household per year (December 2024 CSE Impact Tool data, April 2026 report):

Consumption of goods and services	**4.1 tCO_2e**	28%	*– our single largest category*
Housing (energy use at home)	**4.0 tCO_2e**	27%	*– above GB average of 3.4*
Travel	**3.8 tCO_2e**	26%	*– above GB average of 3.0*
Food and diet	**2.5 tCO_2e**	17%	*– slightly below GB average*
Waste	**0.3 tCO_2e**	2%	

Our housing and travel emissions are the areas most above the national average. Our single largest category is consumption of goods and services. These three areas offer the greatest potential for reduction through collective action, and they shape the priorities of this plan.

III. Why Resilience Matters Now

Climate resilience means preparing communities to withstand and recover from the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of a changing climate. The Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (CCRA4-IA), titled *A Well-Adapted UK*, and published 20 May 2026, identified the following key risks to be mitigated (recommendations for actions are in the report):

- Risks to the lives of vulnerable people from extreme heat
- Risks of damage, disruption, and deaths from flooding
- Risks to water availability from drought
- Risks to the state of nature
- Risks to the viability of farming
- Risks of food insecurity and inflation
- Risks to the availability of insurance
- Risks of cascading impacts on infrastructure

For Haslingfield residents, the most immediate risks are surface flooding and water drainage overwhelm, heat stress in summer, drought affecting public spaces, gardens and allotments, and the financial impacts of rising energy and food costs. While decarbonisation is essential to limiting how much worse these risks become, resilience planning acknowledges that some change is already locked in and prepares us to cope.

Flooding in Haslingfield – what residents have told us

Informal community reporting gathered in 2025 identified the following ongoing or historic issues:

- Stearne's Yard – regularly floods in heavy rain; some improvement since High Street drains were cleared
- Butler Way – drains not maintained; standing water a regular occurrence
- Trinity Close stream – undersized culvert under a new development causing localised flooding, with knock-on effects to properties at the corner of Fountain Lane and New Road
- School Lane / Back Lane – surface water flooding in the past; an historic ditch that used to drain the area was lost during development of The Elms
- Harston Road (our side of Penn Farm) – floods regularly since Jesus College filled a ditch; loss of ditch has also removed a hedge and access to Clock Holt
- Chapel Hill – water runs off into Church Street during heavy rain
- Wellhouse Meadow – boggy ground in centre of meadow
- Button End (Harston) – sewage overflow on multiple occasions; though outside the parish, relevant to awareness

Some of these are private maintenance issues; others require engagement with the County Council, District Council or water authority. All deserve attention and systematic monitoring.

Resilience is also about social infrastructure: the networks, skills and community relationships that help people support each other in difficult times. Events/amenities like the Repair Café, the scything workgroup, the orchard pruning days, the monthly village market, the allotments, the shop and café, and the monthly Parish Council meetings all contribute to resilience by building skills, reducing waste, and knitting the community together. The Parish Council can reinforce this by supporting community events and ensuring that the village hall remains a resource available to all in emergencies.

Finally, resilience has a financial dimension. Retrofitting homes, switching to renewable energy, reducing car dependence, and growing more food locally all reduce vulnerability to energy and food price shocks. These are not just environmental concerns: they directly affect household budgets.

IV. Goals and Actions 2026/27

Actions are divided into Influence (ways the Parish Council can use its position and voice to encourage change by others) and Action (direct steps the Parish Council can take itself).

Goal 1: Communication, Leadership and Community Engagement

The Parish Council has a vital role in keeping residents informed, celebrating success, and demonstrating that climate and resilience are mainstream concerns — not a niche interest. Equally important is creating the conditions for community-led action to thrive.

Influence

- Continue to use the HPC website, newsletter and social media to share information about climate, energy, flooding, biodiversity and sustainability throughout the year.

- Communicate progress on this plan to residents at least twice yearly.
- Support the South Cambs Climate and Nature Forum and engagement with MP Pippa Heylings on local climate and nature issues, through attendance of at least one Parish Councillor.
- Support village group events which fulfil the intentions of this policy, such as repair cafés, retrofitting events, nature walks and film screenings, and where possible encourage groups to adopt low emissions/low waste practices.
- Share information from this plan and the Energy Audit with other parish councils in the area.

Action

- **Appoint a Parish Council environment, biodiversity and climate change officer, who will undertake training (e.g. NALC climate change training or equivalent) and take a lead on implementing this plan.**
- Use the CSE Impact Tool (impact-tool.org.uk) annually to track progress on emissions.
- Work with the village groups to run regular eco/resilience events, including repair cafés, educational events and community resilience activities.
- Explore hosting a village resilience event — a community conversation about local risks (flooding, energy costs, food security) and what collective responses might look like.

Goal 2: Village Hall: Completing the Energy Upgrade

The October 2025 Energy Audit (Cambridgeshire ACRE) gives the Parish Council and Village Hall trustees a clear, costed roadmap. Implementing it in stages — beginning with the low-cost measures already agreed — will reduce energy costs, cut carbon emissions, and improve comfort for users. The Village Hall should become a demonstrator of what is possible for community buildings.

Energy Audit recommended improvements (summary)

Low-cost measures (agreed for implementation):

- Full LED lighting upgrade (main hall, committee room) — estimated cost: £2,200, saving: £384/yr, payback: 5.7 yrs
- Destratification fan in main hall — estimated cost: £600, saving: £33/yr, payback: 18 yrs
- Bypass hot water cylinder (use combi boiler on demand) — estimated cost: £350, saving: £52/yr, payback: 6.7 yrs
- Upgrade ceiling insulation in main hall (300mm glass wool) — estimated cost: £2,400, saving: £84/yr, payback: 28 yrs

Medium-term capital measures:

- Install 6.6kWp solar PV (east roof) + 10kWh battery — cost: ~£13,000, saving: £2,027/yr, payback: 6.4 yrs
- Building Management System (heating zones, remote access) — cost: ~£3,500, saving: £260/yr, payback: 13 yrs

Long-term (net zero ambition):

- Replace gas boiler with air source heat pump (ASHP) — estimated cost ~£5,500 after £7,500 Boiler Upgrade Scheme grant; CO_2 saving: 2.82 tCO_2e/yr. Best phased with ceiling insulation and destratification fan already in place.

Action

- **Complete LED lighting upgrade and install destratification fan in the main hall this year.**
- **Bypass the hot water cylinder to use the combi boiler on demand.**
- Obtain quotes from MCS-certified installers for the 6.6kWp solar PV and 10kWh battery system. Identify relevant funding (see Appendix).
- Obtain quotes for loft insulation.
- Request that the Badcock Trust ensures the Village Hall's electricity tariff is from a 100% renewable supplier.
- Consider additional physical exterior shading to the hall and playground, such as a pergola or awning, to reduce heat in summer and provide outdoor shade.

Resilience dimension

A battery storage system on the Village Hall could, if properly configured, including an off-grid inverter, provide backup power during short outages — useful for community resilience in emergencies. A heat pump system could also provide cooling – most air source heat pumps are fitted with reversing valves which allow them to double as air-conditioning units in hot weather. This could prove very important should heat waves worsen, especially for those who don't have air conditioning or other cooling or can't afford to run them. The hall could be considered a community emergency hub and, in conjunction with the Badcock Trust, its resilience functions reflected in parish emergency planning.

Goal 3: Housing: Supporting Home Retrofit and Energy Transition

Housing accounts for 27% of Haslingfield's consumption footprint — 4.0 tCO_2e per household — above the national average. Many of the village's older homes are difficult to heat efficiently. Helping residents improve insulation, switch to renewable heating, and access available grant funding is both a climate and a cost-of-living priority.

Influence

- Share information on available grants and support in the newsletter and on the website, including:
  - Warm Homes: Local Grant: The WH:LG is a UK government home energy efficiency upgrade scheme aimed at reducing emissions and energy bills while improving health and comfort within the home. For lower income homes with low EPC ratings See: actiononenergycambs.org
  - Action on Energy Cambridgeshire pre-vetted retrofit contractors
  - Boiler Upgrade Scheme (up to £7,500 toward heat pump installation) https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme
  - District Council Zero Carbon Communities Fund
- Promote the free thermal imaging survey service offered by the Eco Group (cameras borrowed from Cambridge Carbon Footprint) via the newsletter and social media.
- Through the planning process, use the PC's consultee role to encourage high sustainability standards in extensions and new builds.
- Share information about the cooling effects of pergola/sunshades and green borders/trees over fully paved drives/front gardens.

Action

- **Conduct (or commission) a survey of EPC ratings and heating types across the parish, using parish online records, epc.opendatacommunities.org, and where needed, door-to-door visits.**

- Report survey findings to the Parish Council and community. Identify clusters of low-rated properties and heating types likely to benefit from coordinated action.
- Investigate whether there is appetite for a community retrofit scheme — a coordinated, neighbourhood-wide approach to insulation or solar installation that can reduce per-household costs.
- Provide information on how to find tradespeople and installers specialising in renewable energy and retrofit on the HPC website, as well as how to reduce household energy use. Not for profit sources like Cambridge Carbon Footprint (https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-you-can-do/take-action/act/home-energy/ and https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes/open-eco-homes-directory/), the Cambridge Retrofit Hub (https://www.cambridgeretrofithub.org/), the Green Heat Co-op (https://greenheatcoop.co.uk/) or the Centre for Sustainable Energy (https://www.cse.org.uk/) could be shared without overstepping the requirement to not advertise commercial enterprises.

Resilience dimension

Well-insulated homes are more resilient to both cold winters and hot summers. As climate change increases the frequency of heat waves and cold snaps, improving the thermal performance of homes directly protects residents' health. This is especially important for elderly and vulnerable residents.

Goal 4: Flooding, Drainage and Water Resilience

Several locations in the village experience regular surface flooding and standing water during heavy rain events. Encouraging maintenance of drains could be helpful. Long term the risk of serious flooding for our area remains low, but of growing concern is the overloading of our drainage system as more homes are built and more front gardens and driveways are hard paved. Even permeable paving is less absorptive than grass or natural soil — it generates no evapotranspiration, its sub-base is typically compacted, and it clogs over time — so the cumulative loss of absorptive front gardens across the village has a real effect on surface runoff. Overloaded drainage has contributed to sewage overflows at the Porkers Lane Pumping Station, particularly in 2021. Since that time, Anglian Water has carried out infrastructure improvements. This goal is new in emphasis and priority compared to previous years.

Permeable paving vs. grass and gravel

Permeable paving (block paving with gaps, resin-bound gravel, permeable asphalt, etc.) is designed to let water through, but in practice it typically performs significantly worse than natural surfaces:

- **Grass** is generally the gold standard for water absorption. Healthy turf with good soil structure can absorb rainfall quickly and hold large volumes of water, while also allowing evapotranspiration — water returning to the atmosphere through the grass and soil. It acts as a living sponge.
- **Natural gravel** (loose, uncompacted) is also very effective — water passes quickly through the gaps and into the soil below.
- **Permeable paving** allows water to pass through the surface layer, but it typically sits on a compacted sub-base, which dramatically reduces infiltration into the soil beneath. Much of the water is actually stored temporarily in the aggregate layer and then released slowly, rather than being genuinely absorbed.

The key differences in practice:

- **Evapotranspiration** — grass and planted surfaces return water to the atmosphere; paving of any kind does not. This is a significant loss of a natural climate regulation mechanism.
- **Clogging** — permeable paving clogs with silt, moss and debris over time, often becoming substantially less permeable within a few years unless actively maintained. Older installations in a village like Haslingfield are likely already significantly degraded.

- **Compaction of sub-base** — the ground underneath is usually compacted during installation, permanently reducing the soil's natural infiltration capacity even if the paving were removed later.
- **Urban heat island** — grass and gravel stay cooler than hard surfaces; paving absorbs and radiates heat, which matters for local microclimate.
- **Carbon and biodiversity** — grass and soil store carbon and support soil organisms, invertebrates and pollinators; paving does not.

Action – mapping and monitoring

- **Compile the community-reported flood locations into a formal flood risk register for the parish, noting the nature of the risk, responsible authorities (Highway Authority, water company, private landowners), and any existing mitigation.**
- Continue inviting residents to report flooding or drainage events; create a simple online form or email address for this purpose.
- Include mapping of damaged verges in the From the Ground Up mapping project. Consider options for natural flood management (NFM) such as swales, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, and strategic tree and hedge planting which would both regenerate these verges and reduce runoff.
- Map existing watercourses, ponds and ditches in the parish (building on the existing watercourse survey) to understand drainage pathways and identify points of failure.

Action – engagement with authorities *if community reported flooding continues*

- **Possible actions include:**
- Write to the County Council Highways team regarding the unmaintained drains on Butler Way and the surface water flooding on School Lane; request a drainage survey.
- Raise the Trinity Close culvert issue with the relevant planning authority, given the impact of recent development on downstream flooding.
- Engage with Cambridge Water or Anglian Water regarding the Button End sewage overflow (Harston) and monitor for any recurrence on the Haslingfield side of the boundary.
- Liaise with the County Council's flood risk team about the Harston Road / Penn Farm flooding, which appears to have been worsened by the filling of a drainage ditch.

Action – green infrastructure

- Explore opportunities to plant trees and hedgerows at strategic locations to slow surface runoff, and provide shade and cooling.
- Encourage residents with gardens to install water butts and create permeable surfaces; include guidance in the newsletter.
- Consider water storage features (water butts, outdoor sink, toilet-flushing systems) as part of any Village Hall upgrade.
- Investigate whether Wellhouse Meadow and other parish-owned green spaces can be managed to maximise water retention.

Resilience dimension

A parish flood risk register and clear channels of communication with authorities will mean that when flooding occurs, the Parish Council is prepared to act quickly: alerting residents, contacting emergency services, and coordinating support. The Village Hall should be considered a potential emergency shelter and the PC should be aware of vulnerable residents who may need assistance.

Relevant authorities and responsibilities

- **Surface water and highway drains:** Cambridgeshire County Council Highways
- **Ordinary watercourses (ditches, streams):** The landowner (usually); SCDC as Lead Local Flood Authority
- **Main rivers:** Environment Agency
- **Sewage overflow:** Anglian Water
- **Planning-related drainage:** Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Goal 5: Biodiversity and Green Spaces

The Parish Council adopted a standalone Biodiversity Policy in April 2026, which sets out detailed commitments on land management, species monitoring, planning decisions, allotments, watercourses, and a long-term framework aligned with the Natural Cambridgeshire Doubling Nature Strategy. That policy is the primary reference for biodiversity action and is not duplicated here. This climate plan notes the strong connections between biodiversity, climate resilience and flood management — healthy soils absorb water and store carbon; trees and vegetation slow runoff and provide shade; hedgerows and watercourses form ecological corridors — and cross-references the Biodiversity Policy accordingly. The note in the Biodiversity Policy (section 7) on surface impermeability as a driver of sewage overflows directly reinforces the actions in Goal 4 of this plan.

Action

- Include ecological corridor connections in the Neighbourhood Plan: linking churchyard, Wellhouse Meadow, the watercourse, Jubilee Wood and the River Rhee (see also Goal 9).
- Engage with local landowners and Jesus College regarding the Clock Holt access and the filling of the drainage ditch on Harston Road — raising both flood risk and biodiversity concerns (see also Goal 4).

Goal 6: Consumption and Waste

Consumption of goods and services is our single largest emissions category at 4.1 tCO_2e per household per year. While individual choices drive much of this, the Parish Council can help by making sustainable options more visible and accessible, and by modelling responsible procurement in its own operations.

Influence

- Continue to support Repair Cafés and encourage regular annual events.
- Work with the Badcock Trust to create guidance for village jumble sales to encourage sorting of recyclables, donation of goods to charity, and reduction of single-use plastics.
- Promote recycling and e-waste bins on the recreation ground via newsletter and social media.

Action

- Organise twice-yearly litter picks and use the recreation ground recycling bins.
- Address laminated poster proliferation by installing additional noticeboards and developing a parish communications policy.
- Continue to consider sustainability on procurement.

- Continue to follow the 5Rs hierarchy in HPC operations: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.

Goal 7: Community Resilience: Food, Energy Costs and Overheating

Rising food and energy prices are an immediate and growing risk for households across the parish, particularly for older residents, those on fixed incomes, and those in poorly insulated homes. These pressures are directly connected to climate change — through disruption to food supply chains, increased demand for heating and cooling, and energy market volatility — and are likely to intensify. Overheating in summer is an additional risk that will increase as average temperatures rise. Addressing these issues requires community-level responses as much as individual ones: shared knowledge, mutual support, and practical skills.

Action

- **Convene or support another village group to convene a community resilience group to focus on food security, energy cost pressures and overheating.** The group's remit could include: identifying households most at risk; mapping existing assets (allotments, food share schemes, warm spaces, community energy) and risk sites (streets with little tree cover, uncovered playground areas, etc); sharing practical skills and information; and developing recommendations for the 2027/28 action plan.

Goal 8: Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is one of the most powerful tools the Parish Council has to embed climate change, energy efficiency, biodiversity and resilience into the long-term future of the village. Four Eco Group members are engaged in the Neighbourhood Plan process, but a Parish Councillor is still required to move it forward. It is also the mechanism that will give statutory weight to the Design Guidance and Codes adopted in April 2025: until the Neighbourhood Plan is in place, those codes remain guidance that applicants are encouraged but not required to follow.

Action

- **Include policies on energy efficiency and net zero standards for new builds and major extensions.**
- Include policies requiring EV charging provision and high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure for new developments.
- Include policies on safe cycling routes, pedestrian infrastructure and signage to support active travel; explore a Harlton–Haslingfield footpath or cycle path as a Neighbourhood Plan priority.
- The PC applied for a village-wide 20mph limit in March. A response is due in October 2026.
- Include policies protecting and enhancing the village's ecological network: watercourse, ponds, meadows, woodlands and hedgerows.
- Include policies on land use for community energy (noting constraint: wind turbines not feasible near Lord's Bridge Radio Telescope Array, but solar farm or microgrid may be possible).
- Incorporate water-sensitive design standards: drainage, permeable surfaces, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for all new development.

V. Appendix: Resources and Funding

Funding sources

- District Council Zero Carbon Communities Fund – grants for community climate projects
- Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) – £7,500 toward air source heat pump installation
- Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) – insulation and heating for low-income homes: actiononenergycambs.org
- Community Energy England – investment platforms and guidance for community energy projects
- National Lottery Community Fund – biodiversity, community resilience and wellbeing projects
- Natural England / Natural Cambridgeshire – biodiversity net gain and nature recovery funding
- From the Ground Up (Cambridgeshire County Council) – Haslingfield is already selected; advice, expertise and fundraising support available for four years

Key resources

- CSE Impact Tool: impact-tool.org.uk – annual parish emissions data
- Energy Performance Certificates: epc.opendatacommunities.org
- Action on Energy Cambridgeshire: actiononenergycambs.org – HUG2 grants and vetted retrofit contractors
- Cambridge Carbon Footprint: cambridgecarbonfootprint.org – thermal imaging cameras (free loan), carbon footprint calculators, repair cafés
- NALC climate change resources: nalc.gov.uk – guidance and case studies for parish councils
- CSE Community Retrofit Guide: cse.org.uk/resource/community-retrofit-guide
- Friends of the Earth 20-step plan for parish councils: policy.friendsoftheearth.uk
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – community building energy advice; contact: oli.bachini@cambsacre.org.uk
- Tiger on Demand: transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/
- MCS certified renewable installers: mcscertified.com/find-an-installer/
- Community Energy England: communityenergyengland.org
- The Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (CCRA4-IA) https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/a-well-adapted-uk/
- https://energy.ecoflow.com/uk/blog/use-solar-panels-during-a-power-outage-in-the-uk

Further possible actions (longer term)

The following ideas are not included as goals for 2026/27 but may be worth exploring as the plan matures:

- Community solar microgrid or solar farm on or near the recreation ground or Village Hall, drawing on the Cambridgeshire County Council community energy framework.
- Grantchester Heat Network model — monitoring the ambitious zero-carbon district heating project in Grantchester as a possible inspiration.
- Protected Verge designations for qualifying verges.
- Community orchard expansion.
- Friends of the Rhee river restoration proposals — engaging with local landowners including Jesus College.

This plan was prepared by the Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group and submitted to Haslingfield Parish Council in June 2026. The Eco Group is happy to assist the Parish Council in implementing any of the actions described above.

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