



A greener Rodington parish

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VISION

Dear residents

In the spring 2022 edition of Village Voice, we put out a call to all residents in the parish to give us your ideas for how we can make Rodington, Longdon upon Tern and the spaces in between and around them better for the environment and the species and people that use them. This followed the parish council's declaration of a climate and nature emergency in December 2021 as we acknowledged the emergencies facing the world related to these issues.

We were delighted with the range of ideas you provided us with. These covered a full spectrum of environmental concerns, and a working group of parish residents have grouped them in this vision under 4 themes: Wildlife & Habitats, Energy & Carbon, Waste & Recycling and finally Access & Travel. Whether it's creating habitat for much-loved species such as hedgehogs, promoting renewable energy, increasing recycling or encouraging active travel, **everything represented in this vision comes from you, our community, and it is therefore truly your plan.**





This vision document is backed up by an action plan that will be managed by a Climate & Nature Steering Group. That group will work to develop the ideas put forward by you into deliverable projects, focusing on those ideas that the Parish Council has most ability to influence. Where necessary, they will seek funding and will reach out to other groups and organisations to help make these projects happen in the best way for our community.

We would love residents to put themselves forward to be on this steering group. To find out more, please go to the parish council's website. Under 'Local Information' you will see the Climate & Nature Steering Group and within that is a form to send your basic details. If you don't have access to the internet but would still like to be involved, please call Connor Furnival (Parish Clerk) on 07948 324085. We see this as a long-term plan for the parish, so there will also be other opportunities to be involved as this initiative progresses as some of the potential projects will need their own short-term working group to develop the idea.



Tom Hayek

Climate & Nature Champion
of Rodington Parish



Cllr Martin Holyoake

Chairman of
Rodington Parish Council

Wildlife & Habitats section

A parish where the species we love are thriving in healthy, well-connected habitats

The greatest response by far from the resident survey was around ideas for actions to help local wildlife recover and flourish, showing our community's love for nature. These have been grouped into 15 workstreams which are likely to be able to generate a large number of projects – the Steering Group will be very busy on this theme!

You picked out several species and species groups that you would like to see helped as a priority. Amongst the birds, this included swifts, swallows and house martins as well as owls. You also highlighted bats and hedgehogs as being mammals of real importance to you. There were also a number of suggestions for initiatives to help insects; often an essential element in the food chain to allow larger species to flourish.



You highlighted 2 areas within the landscape where you thought projects could be delivered that would provide a huge boost to wildlife. The workstream with the highest number of suggestions in the whole survey was for a wildlife gardening initiative. This could include a series of specialist talks, promotion of initiatives like No Mow May, providing residents with information on the best plants for wildlife, creating good insect habitats and could possibly even include an annual award/competition for the best wildlife-friendly garden in the parish. Close behind wildlife gardening as an area of interest was a large number of proposals for how to support wildlife-positive farming in our area.

You also selected several habitats that you wanted to see better represented in the parish, including to restore degraded habitats as well as creating new ones. Hedgerows, wildflower meadows and ponds featured high in this list. You highlighted Rodington Playing Fields as a community space where you would like to see more done for nature, and several responses stressed that this must be done in a way that retains the ability for people to continue to have this place for leisure use too.

Your passion for species and good places for wildlife came out very strongly from the community survey, so look out for some exciting initiatives in the coming months and years ahead.



Energy & Carbon

A parish where people are supported to lower their environmental footprint in cost-effective ways

The resident survey clearly indicated that you are concerned about the climate as well as the nature within our parish. A number of ideas for actions relating to energy consumption and reducing carbon footprints were put forward and these were collated into 3 main workstreams.

You made several suggestions relating to how we can support and encourage people to reduce the carbon footprint of their individual households. You wanted to see residents supported to be able to access government grants to make our homes more efficient as well as being provided with useful information on how to save energy. This could have the dual impact of saving people money, especially in the medium- to long-term.

There were several calls for the introduction of public charge points for electric vehicles; especially useful for those who have friends or family visiting who own electric cars. Both villages in our area have 'hubs' around their village halls which were highlighted as potential locations for this infrastructure.





It was also suggested that these community spaces could be used to generate renewable energy, such as wind or solar, for the benefit of the community. There are examples across the country of communities who have done this successfully, giving case studies that any such move could be based on.

Doing our bit to address climate change is clearly something that many of you take very seriously. The Steering Group will investigate how your ideas can be turned into projects that will help us to achieve this. Other ideas for this or any other area of the Climate & Nature Vision can be submitted at any time via the form on the Rodington Parish Website: **www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/climate-nature-action**

Waste and Recycling

A litter-free parish where people find it easier to reduce their own resource use

It is clear from the responses in this area that finding ways of reducing our footprint on litter and increasing our means to recycle is a high priority for many residents. Your suggestions in this theme have been organised into six main workstreams.

Litter remains a high priority for our community with suggestions including more organised litter picks for people to join as well as residents being given the equipment to be able to litter pick their own 'patch'. This was another area of work where having a 'champion' has been suggested as someone to lead the way.



Your input has shown that there is a desire for schemes to recycling difficult products such as Tetra Pak, plastic film, batteries and other items such as clothing, plant pots and crisp packets. There was suggestion of a parish Recycling Champion who could help to bring this together, learning from other areas who have successfully raised their ambition in this area.



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Your feedback has shown a desire for local food share projects such as community garden schemes (e.g. a 'veg swap'). As well as potentially providing sources of local, seasonal produce, this also helps to reduce plastic when compared to purchasing veg and fruit from local supermarket suppliers.

Residents also felt that being given guidance or advice from an expert could help them compost at home more often or more efficiently. This has the potential to allow residents to swap compost for produce if they don't have the space to grow much themselves.

Access and Travel

A parish where people feel safe and able to move around without relying on car use as the only option

The resident survey showed a real interest in creating and promoting safer cycling routes around the Parish and helping our community to feel confident to use them through events such as those organised by Bikeability. You also called for the installation of cycle stands at the village halls and traffic speed reduction measures. Both the Parish Council and Telford and Wrekin Council are key to any designation of new cycling routes (as achieved with a nationally designated route in nearby Upton Magna) and the process for achieving this can be explored.



The survey responses also showed concern for the ability of our rural community to reduce car journeys, including by car sharing, as one of the best contributions car drivers can make to carbon reduction. There are other distinct advantages to this, not least the saving of money and bringing people in the community together.

There were several responses relating to improving and promoting walking access in the parish. Most of these suggested actions will be passed to the existing Rodington Parish Paths Partnership (or RP3), which is a formal (funded) partnership in agreement with Rodington Parish Council and Telford and Wrekin Council. This group works in partnership to improve access and signage of our local public rights of way. They also work with local landowners and other interested parties. The work of this group, including its constitution, partnership agreement and minutes of meetings can be seen online at

www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/rodington-parish-pathways-group



This links to the final area suggested by our community: improving public transport to the parish. Whilst more regular buses were highlighted as being needed, this could also be achieved through better targeted provision; buses at the time they are most needed. Equally, it might be possible for providers to use smaller capacity buses which meet the needs but reduce cost. This would impact positively on the overall carbon footprint.

This is your vision for your area.

This vision document is only a starting point for our parish. It is based on the suggestions put forward by residents in the 2022 community survey, but any resident can put new ideas forward at any time. Please go to the project ideas form on the web page to let the Steering Group know what else they could be thinking about.

Anyone can sit on the Steering Group or get involved with the individual projects that will be developed over time. To put yourself forward to help drive this vision forward, please complete the basic form on the Parish Council website.

both links for above

<http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/climate-nature-action/>

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