
Twigworth Parish Council

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN



Adopted by Council: DRAFT

Next Review:

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Introduction

The Twigworth Parish Council (TPC) recognises that it has an important part to play in the global issue of climate change and wants to ensure that climate change is tackled locally to create a more climate friendly community.

It is therefore incumbent on TPC to develop a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan, to compliment and contribute to the delivery of the Pillar 1 Environment Plan (4-Year Plan 2024-28).

The objective is to safeguard and enhance the Parish environment and meet the needs of its residents and visitors, both now and in the future.

The TPC will examine biodiversity, carbon offsetting and reduction, climate change forums, community projects, greener housing, electric charging points, energy and heating, environmental improvement, flood assistance, green travel, plastic reduction and trees and tree management to determine whether we can make a positive change or enable others to do so.

The GI Plan therefore aims to develop a planned and managed network of accessible, sustainable and linked open spaces, which provide a wide range of environmental and recreational benefits for both the existing and future communities of the Parish.

The GI Plan will build on the existing network of open spaces and access opportunities that have already been created in the Parish and hopefully will link with plans and strategies of the Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and other Parish Councils to exploit and support those opportunities and to create a network of green spaces that work across administrative boundaries.

In preparing and developing the GI Plan, the TPC will consider the biodiversity studies that have already been completed by Developers (on file), as part of the planning application process.

The GI Plan will also consider the sustainability of environments important in the area and how to safeguard and improve biodiversity by avoiding the fragmentation of habitats and by maintaining, restoring and creating wildlife corridors.

It is also important to propose measures that continue to enhance biodiversity and green areas within the built environment, with new planting designed to enhance local distinctiveness.

Aims and Objectives

The TPC needs to understand residents views on climate change and what we can do to make our village greener and help reduce our carbon footprint.

The people of the local community can provide the biggest resource for meeting the GI objectives.

To improve our green spaces, enhance biodiversity and encourage improvements in green infrastructure where possible.

The TPC supports new developments, that manages habitats in a stable and sustainable way; supporting maintenance of existing valuable and unchanged areas, will be as important, as creating new environments, that support and increase native and appropriate species alongside modern rural living.

The TPC will:

- a) engage with the community, using various media to promote the GI message and provide guidance for changing, or maintaining, environments within the community such as gardens and spaces attached to businesses
- b) highlight opportunities for residents to make their own contributions in reducing waste and recycling more across our community
- c) aim to reduce the carbon footprint of Twigworth and improve the carbon rating wherever possible
- d) identify priorities and formulate a work plan that allocates appropriate resources to projects to enhance the biodiversity and sustainability of environments in the Parish
- e) provide information and guidance regarding its GI Plan and communicate this with stakeholders and residents
- f) use the information to provide opportunities to work alongside national organisations whilst effectively using Parish resources to target local issues
- g) encourage the use of “volunteer workforces’ to maintain and restore existing hedgerows and plant new, indigenous species hedges where opportunities allow
- h) engage with businesses, to map the understanding of the importance of wildlife within the community and confirm their support for the agenda will be one of the first actions necessary to get residential and business environments supporting one another
- i) look at projects to help identify existing nesting sites for wildlife, this will form the basis of providing further sites for species that need to be provided with appropriate sites and attracting new species that will benefit the environment
- j) ensure that any potential allotment sites that may arise, as part of the neighbourhood’s requirements, will not damage ecology interest, and are designed to benefit wildlife

Delivery of the GI Plan

The TPC will:

- a) will continue to identify elements that we have control and influence over
- b) seek residents support, for continual improvement throughout our TPC operations, to lessen our impact on the local and global environment by conserving energy, water and other natural resources; reducing waste generation; recycling and; reducing our use of toxic materials
- c) seek to support environmental projects which will contribute to a greener village, such as the Ash Die-Back project
- d) when reviewing planning applications, the Neighbourhood Development Plan review, will support the aims of our environmental policy, with particular consideration to the protection of green areas and risks to flooding
- e) investigate the possibility of creating a GI Plan and Map, which shall be included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan
- f) map current areas of 'wild' planting to inform plans to improve biodiversity
- g) review and re-adopt its policies and practices to ensure they are as 'green' as possible
- h) promote and support sustainable practices wherever possible
- i) host Community Climate events wherever possible
- j) create a list of sustainable 'must haves' for our village, such as a "dark sky" policy and other measures
- k) make every effort to enhance our village centre and try and create an attractive hub
- l) create a sense of place by defining the entrances to our village on the A38 Tewkesbury Road
- m) improve the appearance of our village by working with partner agencies and organisation to enhance the appearance of Tewkesbury Road
- n) when appropriate, look at setting up a working group that includes members of the public and businesses and the school
- o) make advice available for environmental initiatives to its residents through the TPC website and social media platforms
- p) identify specific actions through the 4-Year Plan action plans

How the GI Plan will be measured

- a) The TPC will seek to obtain data from Tewkesbury Borough Council waste management, on the level of garden waste, household recycling and kitchen waste recycling, to measure changes.
- b) Specific actions will be discussed in TPC meetings, recorded in the TPC minutes and published on our website
- c) The TPC will review the GI Plan annually and update the 4-Year Plan Pillar 1 accordingly.

Pillar 1 Environment - Part of 4-Year Plan

Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conduct Environmental Survey with residents ❖ Council to develop, agree and adopt Environment Policy ❖ Deliver Ash Die-Back project to the community ❖ Protect green spaces, and promote and instigate environmental enhancement schemes, for example: new tree and shrub planting, new ponds and water environments
Medium Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Define the A38 entrances to our village ❖ Enhance the A38 Tewkesbury Road appearance ❖ Council to consider developing a Green Infrastructure Plan and Map ❖ Create a list of sustainable “must haves” for our village ❖ Seek to safeguard the separate identities of the three villages and their environments, for example by: protecting green corridors to prevent coalescence and promoting distinctive characteristics and features of the individual villages ❖ Promote and provide opportunities for the reduction of waste and increase of recycling, for example by: upgrading litter bins to recycling bins ❖ Promoting the use of more sustainable materials within the Parish Council
Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enhance the Local Centre to create a focal point of our village ❖ Promote and support a Community Energy Scheme

Issues and Opportunities

TPC must ensure that developers are aware of the need to contribute to the Green Infrastructure Plan objectives for sustainable development and how critical it is that levels of biodiversity within the urban zone are maintained and where possible enhanced.

Safeguarding and improving biodiversity by avoiding the fragmentation of habitats and by maintaining, restoring and creating wildlife corridors, which could also be accessible for recreational purposes where appropriate.

The increase of trees benefits residents as they process harmful chemicals from the environment and wildlife benefit by having habitat that assists their lifecycle.

There has already been much new development in Twigworth and this is likely to continue for some time; it therefore important that Developers should contribute to biodiversity enhancement by:

- a) ensuring no net loss of biodiversity and providing a net gain wherever possible, whether on site or within the local ecological network by retaining and enhancing features of high nature conservation or landscape value, including mature trees, rivers, streams, ponds, existing areas of woodland and important species-rich hedgerows;
- b) providing habitat links, restoration and creation, and long term positive management for existing important habitats, in line with the emerging GI Plan;
- c) maintaining and, if possible, increasing priority species populations in line with the emerging GI Plan;
- d) replanting boundaries with species-rich hedgerows; maintaining and restoring existing hedgerows and plant new, indigenous species hedges where opportunities allow
- e) using original tree, plants and seed materials when creating new semi-natural habitats
- f) including and increasing trees, particularly indigenous species, where possible in new developments and existing areas
- g) submitting proposals at the planning application stage, to support the planting of an orchard that maintains heritage British species, many of which are threatened
- h) encouraging to include new bat and bird roosting and nesting features in both existing environments and new developments
- i) looking at opportunities to include new or retro-fitted sustainable drainage systems such as ponds, swales and wetlands, permeable surfaces and water butts should be sought, this will ensure that a diverse wildlife population is supported
- j) considering opportunities of existing green areas, that could be used to enrich the environment available to wildlife and residents, areas planted with wildflower seeds will provide flowers for pollinating insects and visual enhancement for residents

Notes!

Nesting boxes were proposed within the existing development plans, confirmation should be sought that they have been provided and their locations identified.

Within the new developments, many 'trees and shrubs' have been planted, these are documented on the files held within the planning applications... these should be openly identified within the Parish so that we have an understanding of types and quantity we have initially.

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Policy Management

The Green Infrastructure Plan will be reviewed annually by the TPC.

