

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	6 th January 2026
Report Title	Wildflower, Trees, Bulbs and Climate Control
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Wildflower, Trees, Bulbs and Climate Control Working Party

Working Party Recommendations:

1. To note the report.
2. To consider:
 - a. Reseeding the wildflower area near Catherine Way to see if this flourishes for next season.
 - b. Leave the Blunsdon Road wildflower area untouched to allow a comparison of outcomes.
- 3.

Wildflower, Trees, Bulbs & Climate Change Working Party

Overview

The Wildflower, Trees, Bulbs & Climate Change Working Party met on Tuesday 11th November 2025, to review current projects and discuss future initiatives relating to planting, biodiversity, and climate change actions within the parish. The discussion covered planters, wildflower areas, tree planting, community involvement, climate change funding, and existing sustainability measures.

Key Discussions:

1. Tree Maintenance and Power Lines

Members discussed the need for ongoing tree maintenance, particularly where trees may be close to power lines. It was agreed that further investigation is required, including gathering evidence and potentially contacting the National Grid if necessary.

2. Upgrading Parish Planters

The group discussed the condition and suitability of existing planters, particularly at the main gateways into Haydon Wick.

- It was noted that neighbouring parishes now have more modern and attractive displays.
- Options discussed included:
 - Replacing existing planters with larger, purpose-built cascading planters.
 - Constructing timber-framed planters similar to those used in Covingham.
- Members acknowledged that the current planters are heavy and difficult to move, often requiring two people.
- It was suggested that upgrades could be phased over several years rather than completed in one year.
- Priority locations identified included main entrances such as Blunsdon Road and near the Toby Carvery/ Abbey Meads Junction.
- The importance of volunteer involvement for watering and maintenance, especially during summer months, was emphasised.



- The Working Party will submit suggestions to the POS Operations & Facility Manager so that he can establish costs for budget setting and consider logistics of planting and maintaining.

3. Wildflower Areas – Review and Management

The status of existing wildflower areas was reviewed, including locations at Catherine Way, Blunsdon Road and Haydon End Lane.

- Some areas, such as the hyssop and brook locations, were noted as largely self-maintaining and successful.
- It was agreed to:
 - Reseed the wildflower area near Catherine Way.
 - Leave the Blunsdon Road wildflower area untouched to allow a comparison of outcomes.
- Members highlighted the need for additional funding for bulb planting in the next financial year, with a focus on community and child involvement.

4. Potential New Wildflower Locations

Members discussed expanding wildflower planting to new areas, including:

- The upper section of Voyager.
- Church Walk North.
- Areas alongside the cycle track.

It was noted that increased footfall in some locations may help reduce anti-social behaviour. The group also agreed that previously submitted wilding and tree planting proposals need to be followed up.

5. Climate Change Activities and Budget

Members noted that **£750 is available in the budget** for climate change activities, not limited solely to tree planting.

Ideas discussed included:

- Tree planting as a long-term climate mitigation measure.
- Installing insect hotels, bat boxes, and bird boxes around play parks and green spaces.
- Using recycled materials, such as Euro pallets, for bug hotels.
- Working with local schools and the wider community to design and build wildlife structures.

6. Awareness, Education, and Biodiversity

The group discussed the importance of improving public awareness of local wildlife, particularly in brooks and pond areas.

- Concerns were raised about littering and its impact on biodiversity.
- Members noted the creation of new ponds and the need to educate residents about their ecological value.
- It was suggested that a guest speaker could be invited to talk about biodiversity, climate change, and simple actions residents can take.
- Existing sustainability measures, such as solar panels and water collection systems, were acknowledged.

7. Solar Panels

The group discussed the solar panels installed at the parish office approximately 20 years ago.

- It was agreed that further information is required regarding:
 - The age and condition of the panels.
 - The remaining duration of the feed-in tariff.
 - The potential for upgrading or replacing the system.

Action Items

- Explore options for installing insect hotels, bat boxes, and bird boxes, involving the community and local schools where possible.



- Share ideas and images of potential planter designs with POS Operations & Facility Manager to obtain pricing and cost estimates.
- Reseed the wildflower area at Catherine Way.
- Leave the Blunsdon Road wildflower area unchanged to compare results with reseeded areas.
- Chase the status of the oak tree planting scheme and previously submitted wilding proposals.
- Investigate the current status of the parish office solar panels, including age, feed-in tariff, and upgrade potential.

Conclusion

The meeting covered a wide range of environmental and climate-related initiatives, with a strong emphasis on community involvement, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability. Members agreed on several practical next steps and noted the importance of continued monitoring, funding allocation, and volunteer engagement.