

Green agenda items for October 2024 Parish Council meeting

Biodiversity action plan items:

1. Identify local community groups we can approach to support/aid biodiversity.
2. PC to consider making it Parish policy not to use any herbicides or pesticides on land they own or manage. [See following paper - 'Proposal to ban the use of pesticides on land owned and managed by the Badgworth Parish Council'](#)
3. Review maintenance management of Jubilee and Memorial fields, including cutting, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work. [Helen and Kate have reviewed the current contract and note it is sufficient to review and report back if any changes are required.](#)

Further to Councillor Dixie Darch presentation at the LCN and handout 'Action on Climate Change and Building Resilience – What can you do as a community and a parish council?' the below items have been added to the Biodiversity Action Plan. These are to be discussed and approved/rejected by the council.

- Encourage tree and hedge planting - right tree right place. Can help prevent soil erosion and contribute to flood mitigation.
- Encourage gardening clubs to raise awareness of wildlife friendly gardening.
- Run and open gardens for wildlife day.

Proposal to ban the use of pesticides on land owned and managed by Badgworth Parish Council

As far as I am aware pesticides are not currently used on land owned or managed by the council. The purpose of this discussion document is to agree a policy that would enable us to respond in a timely manner if we are asked to deal with problem pests or vegetation.

The proposal is to amend the Parish Council's Biodiversity Policy - Land and Property Management section, the following options are suggested:

- Pesticides, including herbicides, shall not be used on land owned or managed by the Parish Council.

Or

- Pesticides, including herbicides, shall not be used on land owned or managed by the Parish Council, except with the consent of the council in extreme circumstances.

Background information

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are used to control, kill or repel pests, weeds and diseases. These pests include insects, rodents, unwanted plants and fungi. Pesticide examples include insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides, and plant growth regulators. Reference: [Pesticides: The basics \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/)

Pesticide Action Network has created [Pesticide-Free Towns - A Guide for Local Authorities by PAN UK - Issuu](#)

RSPB ([Pesticides – it's time for a rethink \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk/))

3 reasons that pesticides are bad for wildlife:

- Pesticides can't distinguish

These are chemicals designed to kill living things. Chemicals might be advertised to target specific pests, but most can't tell them apart from other bugs, bees, and birds. Because there's little research, we can't be sure how each species that encounters them reacts.

- Pesticides linger

These deadly concoctions have staying power. They can stick in the environment for weeks, months or even years. In which time, any of our wonderful wildlife can find them, digest them, or carry them.

- Pesticides spread

These harmful chemicals don't stay in one place. They can be eaten, drift in wind, or drain into water sources. Through this process, they seep into food webs far beyond insects. We've found build-ups of toxins in the livers of birds.

Below is an extract from the Pesticide Action Network UK - [Key Issues - Pesticide Action Network UK \(pan-uk.org\)](#)

The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) estimates that over [350,000 people](#) die every year from acute pesticide poisoning. Moreover, this figure does not include deaths from cancer or other chronic diseases caused by pesticide exposure. In addition, the WHO estimates that long-term exposure may result in upwards of 750,000 people suffering from specific chronic defects and cancers each year. This number refers to developing countries alone. Additionally, the [Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention \(CPSP\)](#) states that [15-20% of all suicides is by pesticide self-poisoning](#).

There are many routes of exposure to pesticides. They are in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the [food we consume](#). We can also come into contact with them by being close to areas where they are being used. Rural residents can suffer the effects of agricultural pesticide drift, and people in towns and cities can be exposed as a result of spraying in public spaces, and areas such as streets, pavements and parks.

Kate Spooner 02/10/2024