

Sustainable Brailes

Local climate and
nature action plan
2026 – 2029



Introduction

Human activity has significantly altered our planet, leading to rising temperatures in the atmosphere, oceans, and land. Scientific research confirms that human-driven climate change is already causing extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts (gov.uk, 2019). To address these challenges, Sustainable Brailes is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting the community to reduce its carbon footprint by fostering collaboration, promoting green energy solutions, and encouraging sustainable travel.

Beyond this, the climate crisis is accelerating species decline and habitat destruction with the UK seeing a decline in wildlife population of 41% since the 1970s (State of Nature Report, 2019), primarily due to habitat loss, fragmentation, climate-related pressures, and road fatalities.

Following the climate emergency declared by Brailes & Winderton Parish Council back in 2020, Sustainable Brailes has developed a Local Climate and Nature Action Plan designed to counteract the effects outlined above, driving meaningful change across the Parish.

Working in collaboration with our community

In order to tackle climate change, it's important we set goals together, working as a community to identify our priorities.

With this in mind, Sustainable Brailes hosted the 'Tomorrow's Brailes' event where attendees brainstormed several activities that the village could do to be more sustainable. Alongside this, the Parish Council sent a survey out to all villagers to understand what was most important to parishioners.

The feedback and suggestions from these activities have been collated and form the backbone of this document, ensuring we have a clear, and community supported sustainability mandate, focussing efforts on delivering initiatives that everyone within the village supports.

Only with the help and support of individuals, families, businesses, organisations, landowners, Warwickshire County Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and other community groups, are we

able to empower communities to create the sustainable Parish of the future.

Aims and objectives

To safeguard and enhance the local environment, Sustainable Brailes¹ has developed this Climate and Nature Action Plan with the co-operation of Brailes Parish Council, with the following key objectives:

- Lower the community's carbon footprint
- Promote and encourage waste reduction across the Parish
- Strengthen ecological connections by establishing wildlife corridors and habitats
- Foster closer collaboration with key stakeholders from across the Parish and County
- Improve our understanding of local species and habitats through research and monitoring
- Boost community involvement and communication around sustainability efforts
- Integrate climate and environmental considerations into all council decisions

Our pillars of sustainability

To focus our efforts and ensure we are delivering against our objectives, the Parish has voted on three key pillars that will become our focus for sustainable initiatives. These are as follows:

- **Energy use and management** - having sustainable energy sources, saving energy, minimising use of energy
- **Behavioural change and education** - helping people understand what the issues are, what they can do and involving younger residents.
- **Biodiversity** - promoting variety of plants and animals, ensuring environment remains in harmony

¹ Sustainable Brailes is a community group. Whilst Brailes Parish Council are one of our most important stakeholders and support our efforts, we remain an independent group by mutual agreement.

Our purpose, vision, mission and values

In partnership with the residents of the Parish, Sustainable Brailes has developed a purpose, vision, mission and values to help align and focus our efforts and the community.

Our purpose, vision, mission and values define in clear, precise and inspiring terms our reason for existing, where we are going, how we are going to activate that and how we will be successful now and in the future.

Our purpose

- To build a greener, brighter and more sustainable future together

Our vision

- To empower communities to create a blueprint for the sustainable Parish of the future

Our mission

- To unite people and communities behind a shared commitment to live more sustainable lives

Our values

- The four C's of the Parish



Committed

We have an unwavering dedication to doing the best for the Parish, the community; and the planet



Collaborative

We value collaboration, working and learning together as a community



Connected

We build and foster valuable connections that bring about positive change



Creative

We solve challenges through creative problem solving

Partnerships and stakeholders

Role and contact details

To achieve our goals, we will need support from a wide range of stakeholders. Below is a list of key stakeholders, the role they will play in developing and delivering sustainability initiatives, and their contact details for future communications.

Organisation	Role	Contact
Brailes & Winderton Parish Council	The key body for matters in Brailes and Winderton	Parish Councillors
Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN)	Knowledge network, sharing case studies	lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com
Warwickshire County Council	Stakeholder	Matt Whitehead (Professional Lead: Sustainability) Jo Barker (Councillor)
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	Stakeholder	Sarah Whalley Hoggins (Councillor) Susan Juned (Leader)
Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils	Knowledge network, sharing case studies	Claudine Pearson (climate officer)

Stakeholder engagement

When delivering sustainability initiatives, we will be sure to engage local stakeholders for both support, ideas and for wider consultation. Below is a list of stakeholders within the parish whom we have identified:

- Residents
- Local farmers
- Brailes School
- Brailes Brownies
- St George Church
- Housing developers
- Local landowners

- Local businesses (e.g. Paddock Farm, The George, Essence, the Forge Garage, Cotswold Marquees)
- Local MP – Manuela Perteghella
- Volunteers, groups and local societies

Communications plan

As well as developing and delivering sustainability initiatives and projects, we will need to share our journey with stakeholders, ensuring everyone across the Parish is helping support our goals, embracing sustainable living.

Everything we deliver against the Climate and Nature Action Plan needs to be shared with the wider community, communicating in the right way through the right channel. Below is a communications plan that outlines how we will communicate with our stakeholders.

Organisation	Message	Action
Brailes & Winderton Parish Council	Update and engagement	Support and socialise plan
Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils	Request support from Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils for support	Access funding streams and assistance from the climate support officer
Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN)	Requests for support for initiatives within the Parish	Event sponsorship, networking and sharing ideas and best practice
Warwickshire County Council	Investigate community energy options	Access funding and support
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	Establish opportunities to engage with local initiatives	Access funding and support
Wider community stakeholders	Ideas sharing, invites to repair cafes, authored articles in parish news, social media, and website updates	Updates on Sustainable Brailes activity and request for support

Activities and Achievements to date

Sustainable Brailes with the support of the Parish Council has been working to address climate and environmental challenges and has implemented many climate and nature projects over the past two years. Below is a list of initiatives completed to date:

Highlights:

- Parish Council passed a Motion on Climate Change
- Seed swap 2021-2024:
 - Brownies coffee morning (2024)
 - Brailes Primary School – 2022, 2023
- Brailes Primary School visit to community allotment – April 22 and “Sow, Grow, Farm” Topic 2024
- Community Allotment Group – started March 21, unfortunately ended Oct 24
- Planter on Castle Hill Lane maintained
- Crisp Packet Project – Feb 21-Mar 22 – 10,462 packets collected and recycled
- Monthly column in Feldon (Parish Magazine)
- Planting for Pollinators Competition summer 21
- Two trees planted top of playing fields – March 21
- No Mow May – 2021 part of verge in village not mowed. Survey of area carried out by school children. 2024 two areas highlighted and surveys carried out.
- Brailes Restart event – Sept 21
- Food Waste Event Feb/Mar 22 – with Katie Haycock. Supported by Primary School, Brownies, Guides
- Energy Event – Saturday 28th Jan 2023 “Tomorrow’s Brailes”
- Thermal Imaging Cameras 2023 – x 2 funded and supported by Parish Council. Around 25 households have used the cameras to date
- Parish Council Survey 2023 – included views on Green Initiatives.
- Workshop – “How to have Climate Conversations” – September 2023

2024:

- Thermal camera – continue to loan out
- No Mow May – areas on Upper and Lower Green not cut for a few months of the year and initiated flower counts

- Joint Event with Parish Council
- Applied successfully for Ofgem-funded REACH (Rural Energy and Community Heat) project and taken through to final stages as a selected community – report on future grid requirements and recommended next steps received
- Stall at Brailes Show 2024, reusing clothes, books and plants
- Action Plan Event – Action Plan presented
- Joined SWAN (South Warwickshire Action Network – in conjunction with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)
- Water testing started end Oct 24 – joined Safe Avon Project. Kit kindly funded by Brailes Show
- Delivered one repair cafe
- Recycling map published. Recycling station at Brailes Village Hall
- First “Sustainable Brailes Saturday” – Repair Cafe

2025:

- Thermal Cameras continue
- Delivered five Repair Cafes
- Continue with recycling centre – blister packs, cans, batteries and cables
- No Mow May and flower counts
- Launched Bee Squared Project at Repair Cafe 08.02.25. Over 60 packets handed out to residents, groups, organisations and businesses across the parish
- Used REACH project funding to co-fund village hall energy survey
- Building climate and nature action plan for everyone to deliver against
- Developed a biodiversity tracker and map
- Weekly Water Testing continued at two locations. Kit kindly funded by Parish Council
- Developed contacts with Warwickshire County Council

2026:

- Thermal Cameras loan scheme continues – 7 requests in Jan 2026
- Delivered one repair cafe, with 4 others planned for the rest for year
- Water Testing continued – now at one location following assessment of local data, discussion with Safe Avon Project and Stratford District Catchment area

Three-year plan (2026–2029)

Following discussions and consultations with the wider community, Sustainable Brailes has planned an initial set of projects for this three-year plan which is outlined in the table below. This list is not definitive, as new opportunities may emerge over time, but it outlines our key commitments and the timelines around these.

It's important to note that each project will undergo careful evaluation (including feasibility assessments and cost analysis), before implementation.

The list has been grouped according to our core sustainability pillars (energy use and management, behavioural change and education and biodiversity).

Year 1 priorities – March 2026 to March 2027

Project	Details	Measure of success	Delivered by	Sustainability pillar	Funding source
Thermal cameras	Expand the use of thermal cameras across the Parish	12x thermal camera surveys delivered	March 2027	Energy use & management	Initially funded by PC (2023). No further ongoing cost
Energy efficiency in public buildings	Review feasibility of fitting the village hall and other public buildings with latest generation energy-saving measures such as insulation and heat pumps	Proposal developed and funding secured	December 2026	Energy use & management	Jointly funded between Village Hall and REACH project funds
Community heat & energy	Explore opportunities with WCC such as community hackathon.	Clear brief for village feasibility study and funding options	March 2027	Energy use & management	Identifying external funding from local / national government

	Register Eol with Local Power Plan Look for continued collaboration opportunities across LCWN and with other local groups.	identified. Recommendation on future group status including considering CIC (community interest company) if appropriate			and how to manage this is a key part of activity.
Repair café	Conduct repair cafés on a bi-monthly basis	5 x repair cafes delivered in 2025.. Increase in attendance by 20% 24 items repaired from Dec 24-Feb 26 (over 7 cafes)	March 2027	Behavioural change and education	Self funded (donations cover Pavilion Hire)
Litter picking program (Adopt a road)	Explore different litter picking initiatives across the Parish	First litter picking day delivered	December 2026	Behavioural change and education	Waiting for supply of equipment through Stratford District Council
Community recycling program	Recycle soft plastics	30x bins emptied	December 2026	Behavioural change and education	Initially funded by PC (2024). No further ongoing cost
South Warwickshire Area Network (SWAN)	Engage the community in environmental monitoring and conservation	Attend 4x SWAN meetings in 2026	December 2026	Biodiversity	Currently no cost just volunteer time
Water testing program (Safe Avon)	Conduct regular water testing	Conduct 52x water tests in 2026	Water being tested weekly	Biodiversity	Initially funded by Brailes Show donation,

					ongoing cost of testing strips etc supported by PC until Jan 2027, when we may ask for further support.
No Mow May, Wildflower and meadow planting (BeeSquare d)	Record data from No Mow May areas with PC Councillor and report findings to PC. Promote the seeding of flowers and wild meadows in repair cafes and conduct an update to the biodiversity tracker map	2x promotions in Feldon News 2x promotions at repair cafes	May 2026	Biodiversity	Seeds donated by a member of Sustainable Brailes. Some seed collected from seedheads and ready for distribution in 2026

Year 2 and 3 activities - April 2027 to April 2029

In addition to the ongoing activity outlined above, the following activity is on our sustainability roadmap and will potentially be delivered in years 2 and 3 of the plan:

Project	Details	Measure of success	Delivered by	Sustainability pillar	Funding source
Retrofit skills	Enable people to upgrade houses to make more heat efficient (roadshow and village-supported assessor)	Train up assessor to appropriate level Mid 2027 First roadshow end of 2027	2027	Energy use & management	Aim to secure grant funding from external body (or as part of larger energy projects)
Act on Energy training	Building on the activity above, offer ongoing	Programme of activities	2028	Energy use & management	Minimal cost to running

	training / support to the community on energy use	developed and in place. Pipeline of assessors.			workshops in village
Community heat and energy	Continue to explore locations and opportunities for heat networks and other community energy ideas eg on-street EV charging. Build on assessment from REACH report	Feasibility study secured by 2027. Proposal developed for significant project by 2028.	2028	Energy use & management	Would require full business model
Promoting Sustainable transport	Encourage cycling and walking with better infrastructure and signage	Engaging with local groups, school, to promote cycling and walking and continued focus on bikes in repair cafes More children cycling to school Promoted local footpaths in Feldon News	2028	Behaviour change	Explore grants for cycling proficiency / bike safety or bike maintenance workshops
South Warwickshire Area Network (SWAN)	Engage the community in environmental monitoring and conservation	Continue links with the wider network	Ongoing - 2027 to 2028	Biodiversity	No funding required from Sustainable Brailles for the SWAN project

Water testing program (Safe Avon)	To continue testing and monitoring local water quality.	Review results in Jan 2027 and report to PC for any continued funding for strips etc. Water being tested weekly	Ongoing - 2027 to 2028	Biodiversity	Possible support from PC. Current cost for one year = £90.75
No Mow May, Wildflower and meadow planting (BeeSquare d)	Continue with recording of data to show the benefit of no mowing. Encourage the seeding of flowers and wild meadows to support pollination	Continue links with the wider community, promote seed sharing throughout the Parish	Ongoing - 2027 to 2028	Biodiversity	No cost at present - volunteer time
Biodiversity tracker/impact map	Produce a map that tracks where biodiversity activity has taken place	Explore how this can be presented	Jan 2027	Biodiversity	No cost at present - using online tools and volunteer time
Mapping Brailes	Identify local environmental assets and opportunities for enhancement	Explore tools	Jan 2028 available from WCC	Biodiversity	No cost at present - using online tools and volunteer time
Tree planting and habitat restoration	Expand tree cover and wildlife corridors to support biodiversity (following mapping above and record in the tracker/impact map)	Explore opportunities and external funding sources	Jan 2028	Biodiversity	Not currently known - hope to be able to secure external funding

Contact and get involved

If you have any suggestions, comments or would like to get involved in any of the projects proposed in this plan, please contact sustainable.brailes@gmail.com

Our core group meetings are held on a monthly basis in the village and all are welcome. Our repair cafes are also well attended by group members and volunteers and are another way to drop in and connect with us.

April 2026