

Environment & Assets Committee

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| Report Title: | Green Living Plan Update |
| Meeting Date: | 15 July 2025 |
| Contact Officer: | Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on action taken against Thame’s Green Living Plan since last report to Environment & Assets Committee on 28 January 2025 and the plans for the next quarter.

2. Green Living Plan Working Group (GLPWG)

- 2.1. Following the last committee meeting there have been two meetings of the GLPWG, in March 2025 and June 2025.
- 2.2. At each of these meetings, actions that the Environmental Project Officer (EPO) deemed to be completed were presented for ratification by the working group.
- 2.3. Prior to the meetings the EPO investigated each action to be presented, talking to relevant partners involved, creating a public-facing webpage to show details of how the action had been achieved and confirming with Thame Green Living (authors of the plan) that they were in agreement that the actions have been completed. This same approach will also be taken with all future actions
- 2.4. GLPWG members are asked to identify the actions as one of the following:
 - Fully completed,
 - Complete, but needing to be repeated (either on a regular basis, or in future editions of the plan),
 - Needing further action and therefore not yet completed.

3. Actions ratified as ‘Complete’ since last report

- 3.1 At the meetings, the following actions have been deemed as ‘Fully completed’, or ‘Completed but ongoing’ (needing either ongoing action, or to be included in future updates of the GLP if there are any):

| Actions | Completion status | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | Fully completed | Complete, but ongoing |
| 1.2 OBJECTIVE: Seek community input into new proposals. ACTIONS (6 actions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop community planting schemes. • Help to identify suitable sites and species to support 21 Century Thame tree-planting initiative. • Work on enhancement proposals with partners (e.g. Residents’ Associations (RAs), District and County Councils, 21 Century Thame). | x | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise public events on biodiversity enhancement in gardens etc. as part of education and awareness raising. Explore a Mayoral commendation scheme. Badge instead of this. Link Seek school and youth involvement with projects <p>https://thamegreenliving.org.uk/open-spaces-green-routes-and-biodiversity/</p> | | x |
| <p>Objectives</p> <p>1.5 Encourage increased landowner focus on biodiversity and conservation measures to improve soil fertility, reduce pollution and foster wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: In conjunction with RTCT and Wild Oxfordshire explore potential for a loose-knit local landowners' network to work with the community for mutual benefit. <p>1.5 Recognise importance of landscape scale conservation work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Consider a "Nature-loving landowner" scheme as a forum for sharing best practice and celebrating success in association with appropriate bodies <p>https://thamegreenliving.org.uk/open-spaces-green-routes-and-biodiversity/</p> <p>2.4 Reduced flooding and run-off pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Encourage support for local landowners in cutting back on agricultural chemicals to reduce polluting run-off and improve water quality. <p>https://thamegreenliving.org.uk/water-and-flood-protection-2/?preview_id=2250&preview_nonce=914f5450f9&preview=true</p> | x | |
| <p>1.4 OBJECTIVE: Enhance the role of the River Thames and its tributaries as valuable biodiversity reserves, recognising in some areas that biodiversity and local nature may need exclusive space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Liaise with relevant parties including neighbours, CBCV and others to develop and implement a landscape, planting and public footpath plan for Rycote Meadow. (Also partially 1.13) Link | x | |
| <p>Objectives</p> <p>1.5 Maintain momentum, celebrate successes, share best practices and engage the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Identify opportunities under new legislation link | x | |
| <p>1.8 Objective: Make the town centre more pedestrian and cycle-friendly; Maintain and improve the safety and air quality of the town centre to keep Thames a desirable and vibrant place to visit, live and work; Reduction of vehicle through-traffic in town centre to help towards above objectives and reduce noise and impact/ vibration damage to roads and buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Consider and consult on a 20mph speed limit across Thames town centre. https://thamegreenliving.org.uk/open-spaces-green-routes-and-biodiversity/ | x | |
| <p>1.9 OBJECTIVE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> More short-distance travel by cycle rather than by car (for those able to do so), for example from homes within Thames. Clearer connections and route signage into town centre, with cycle route continuity – without gaps Good surfaces, without obstructions, with safe road crossings for all levels of mobility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1.9 Undertake a bike rack audit of potential locations to provide more racks and their spread around the town, including near social destinations, such as cafes and the library. | x | |
| <p>4.3 OBJECTIVE: Encourage businesses to improve their energy efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: link with TTC Business Forum to raise awareness of free energy audits and grants for making energy improvements. e.g. at a Business Breakfast event. Link | | x |

4. Monitoring progress against the Green Living Plan

4.1 The tables below show overall progress against the plan@

Overall

| | Last meeting | Current status |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Not started | 66 | 66 |
| In progress | 111 | 99 |
| Completed | 15 | 27 |

By section of the plan

| | Biodiversity | Water | Air | Energy | Waste |
|--------------------|--------------|-------|-----|--------|-------|
| Not started | 18 | 10 | 20 | 7 | 11 |
| In progress | 38 | 3 | 8 | 40 | 10 |
| Completed | 23 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

5. Current Focus

- 5.1. **Air Quality Project** has delivered lessons to Barley Hill School and as part of Thame Sustainability Awards. Struggling to get feedback from SODC on content, which is part of the legal agreement for Section 106 funds, so Environmental Project Officer is chasing this.
- 5.2. **Thame Business Sustainability Award** Launched in May 2025 with 16 businesses/ community groups signed up. 2 of these have had to withdraw due to other commitments. Some thought will have to be put in to how to engage community groups more effectively and Thame Players are happy to help shape this as they are part of this year's cohort.
- 5.3. **The Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** Currently in consultation phase so this is being promoted locally. Work is also being taken to ensure that the proposal is and ensure that it aligns with the Thame Neighbourhood Plan 2 and the Green Living Plan.
- 5.4. **Plastic Free Communities:** This initiative is being launched properly at the Business Waste event that is part of the Thame Sustainability Champions. From there, work will be done to recruit community stakeholders to a steering group to move it forward.
- 5.5. **Public Art for wayfinding and Cuttle Brook NR:** As outlined in the Public Art Working Group report to this meeting, there is a proposal to install artistic educational panels across the Nature Reserve using Section 106 funds.
- 5.6. **Thame Biodiversity Officer:** Developing proposal for use of Section 106 funds for a strategic approach to managing Thame's biodiversity, including revenue funding for a Biodiversity Officer. This work is still in progress.
- 5.7. **Hiya Car to be progressed:** Hiya Car is a peer-to-peer car sharing company that helps the environment by promoting car sharing, which reduces the number of privately owned vehicles on the road, leading to lower overall emissions and reduced traffic congestion. By optimizing vehicle use and offering access to a variety of vehicles, including EVs, they encourage more sustainable transportation options. Work to explore a possible implementation of this scheme will be explored over the next months.

6. Action required:

- i) **To note the report.**