



Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
5-Year Green Living and Biodiversity Report
(Prepared under Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021)

Reporting Period January 2025- January 2026

Context

Under the Environment Act 2021, public authorities – including town and parish councils – are required to consider what actions they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity within their area.

In response, Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council has adopted a Biodiversity Policy and introduced a 5-Year Green Living and Biodiversity Action Plan with the following objectives:

Objectives

- Enhance and protect existing green spaces to promote ecological diversity
- Promote habitat creation and species conservation
- Encourage nature-friendly community practices
- Raise awareness of biodiversity and climate change issues
- Monitor and regularly evaluate biodiversity improvements

This report outlines the achievements of Year 1 (2025–2026) of the Council’s 5-Year Green Living and Biodiversity Action Plan.

Laying the Foundations for Biodiversity

1. Policy and Strategy Development

The Council has finalised and formally adopted its 5-Year Green Living and Biodiversity Action Plan, establishing clear objectives and priorities.

Council-owned assets have been reviewed to identify opportunities to further support local biodiversity. Actions are now progressing as follows:

Community Orchard

Further planting of trees and wild flower seed took place in the Spring 2025.

Millennium Wood

Work has commenced to improve the site, including the safe removal of asbestos, demolition of disused sheds, and general clearance of accumulated rubbish.

Allotments

The Council is exploring opportunities for improved water capture and sustainable water management on allotment sites.

Neighbourhood Plan (2017) Review

The Neighbourhood Plan is currently under review, with an increased focus on biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Two public engagement events have been held to inform the review process. The final draft is expected to be completed by March 2026.

Net Zero Leiston

The Council has developed a commitment to “Net Zero Leiston” to ensure that Net Zero aspirations are embedded across Council activity. This commitment will be reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan review, planning consultation responses, and the emerging traffic and transport strategy.

Consideration is also being given to flood resilience measures, including improved water capture on King George’s Avenue and within allotment areas.

Contractors

The Council is satisfied that its grounds maintenance contractor operates using environmentally friendly practices that support and promote biodiversity.

2. Surveys and Audits

Mapping work has been completed to identify wildlife corridors and ecological connectivity within the Neighbourhood Plan area. This information will help guide future planning decisions and biodiversity enhancements.

3. Community Engagement

Community involvement has been central to Year 1 activities:

- The Council organised a community litter pick in memory of Councillor Harle, supported by over 30 volunteers.
- A successful Neighbourhood Plan engagement event was held, attended by more than 50 residents.
- A detailed Open Spaces survey has been undertaken, and the outcomes are currently being reviewed.
- The Council is seeking to engage further with allotment holders to develop ideas for enhancing biodiversity across allotment sites.

4. Progress Towards Infrastructure Delivery

Cycling and Walking Strategy

The Council continues to work with Sizewell C (SZC) on delivery of the Cycling and Walking Strategy as part of the SZC Deed of Obligation works. This aims to create safe, accessible routes that encourage active travel.

Route 3 Cycle and Walking Route

Improvement works on Route 3 have commenced, with further phases planned.

King George's Avenue Recreation Ground

A working group has been established to develop proposals for a Flood Attenuation and Nature Space project at the recreation ground.

Conclusion

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council remains committed to fulfilling its Biodiversity Policy and delivering the aims of its 5-Year Green Living and Biodiversity Action Plan.

In the coming year, the Council will focus on meeting its Year 2 objectives by implementing and expanding activities that further increase green living opportunities and enhance biodiversity across the parish.

Ends