



Kington Town Council

Email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Web site: www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Planning and Environment Committee

On Monday 13th January 2025 at 6.00pm or on the rising of the meeting of
Kington Recreation Ground Trust, if later

at

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington
for the purpose of transacting the following business

Committee Members: Cllrs. E. Banks, B. Bishop, T. Bounds,
N. Cornish, M. Fitton, E. Rolls, P. Sell, M. Woolford & R. Widdowson

Agenda

1. To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation
2. Minutes: To approve Minutes of the meeting held on [2nd December 2024](#)
3. Planning & Licensing Matters:
 - a) To consider planning applications now due for consideration:
 - Ref: [241348](#)
 - Site: The Laburnams, 32a High Street, Kington
 - Dev: Garage with store area and a study above (retrospective)
 - b) To note planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting
 - c) To note planning enforcement activity by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting
 - d) To consider implications of new [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and potential impact on Kington, as advised by Herefordshire Council, and agree any further action
4. Environmental Matters:
 - a) To note Herefordshire Council proposals for Electric Vehicle Charging point installation on Common Close
 - b) To note proposal for upgrade of electrical sub station by National Grid on Prospect Place
 - c) To note webinar on Nature Recovery Mapping in Herefordshire and confirm attendance on behalf of Kington Town Council
 - d) To consider appointment of lead councillor/working party members for projects currently in progress and confirm procedures going forward
 - e) To consider draft Biodiversity Policy with a view to recommending adoption by the Town Council
 - f) Standing Items:
 - Town Centre
 - Planters and floral displays
 - Allotments
 - Footpath and Highway matters
 - War Memorial

- Trees
 - Churchyard
 - Review of outstanding work requirements
 - To note quotations for additional tree safety survey
 - Update on progress of faculty application for repairs to Lych Gate
 - Litter and pavement sweeping
 - Update from environment working party
5. Date and time for the next meeting and items for the agenda

Issued: 8.1.2025 by

Liz Kelso

Clerk, Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington, HR5 3DP

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Email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

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clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

From: Riddle, Siobhan <Siobhan.Riddle@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 December 2024 17:03
Subject: Latest Planning advice from National to Local

Dear Parish and Town Councillors,

As you may be aware the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) was issued on 12 December 2024. At the time of its publication there was quite a lot of news circulating about the Government's plan to deliver 1.5 million homes across England. The NPPF has implications for Local Plan making as well as Neighbourhood Planning which we are currently working through to understand. In the first instance I want to make you aware of some of the higher level changes in the NPPF.

The Government has set mandatory housing targets for councils across England. Targets are no longer advisory and this level of growth must be accommodated. Contrary to the council's feedback in September 2024 to the NPPF consultation to substantially reduce the proposed housing target, this figure remains high at 27,260 homes (240 homes lower than the 27,500 proposed in the draft NPPF). The current emerging Draft Local Plan passed Regulation 18 but it only had provision for 16,100 new homes, the new NPPF requires an additional 11,160 homes over the 20 year plan period. The NPPF makes clear that all growth should be accommodated in sustainable locations.

For Development Management decisions, the new NPPF takes immediate effect from 12 December 2024, and this has a significant impact upon 5 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS). Prior to the publication of the NPPF Herefordshire had a 5YHLS of 5.79 Years. The application of the new NPPF reduces the 5YHLS down to **3.09 years**. The revised housing target for the county now results in a lack of a 5YHLS. Therefore there is a *Presumption in Favour* of development and deviation away from the plan led process where a 5 year supply cannot be demonstrated. In the absence of a 5YHLS it is anticipated that there will be an increase in speculative applications which would not have otherwise come forward.

Where Neighbourhood Development Plans are concerned, the age of the plan is important in decision making. This means that for plans that contain policies to meet their identified housing requirement, and which are not more than five years old, paragraph 14 of the NPPF allows the decision maker to attach significant weight to the neighbourhood plan even when the council cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply. For parish groups with plans that are less than 5 years old; both *a* and *b* of paragraph 14 is applicable and will be a material planning consideration when assessing the principle of speculative housing developments in the Designated Neighbourhood Area. Where NDPs are older than 5 years from December 2024, then the NDP is out-of-date and paragraph 11d of the NPPF is what the decision maker must determine the application against particularly for housing provision.

The significant increase in housing numbers cannot be accommodated by the current Regulation 18 Local Plan as consulted upon in March 2024. The LPA must accommodate this mandatory housing target. The current Draft Plan cannot progress in its current form as it does not take the additional 43% housing increase into account. The current evidence to support the Local Plan that makes provision for 16,100 dwellings would not support this level of growth. As a result, the Council must decide how it wishes to proceed with Local Plan making. Consequently, this will affect how Neighbourhood Plans also wish to proceed as they will need to meet the 'basic conditions' and be in conformity with an adopted local plan when embarking on progressing with a new or reviewed NDP.

Given the significance of the changes proposed in the NPPF, further clarification is being sought in respect of a number of matters and these may need to be reported at a later date.

Please note that due to timing of this information, staff may not be available to answer queries over the Christmas and New Year break but will be available in early January 2025.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year

Siobhan

Siobhan Riddle

Acting Strategic & Neighbourhood Planning Manager
Strategic & Neighbourhood Planning Team
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clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

From: Electric Vehicles <ElectricVehicles@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 December 2024 15:24
To: James, Terry (Cllr)
Cc: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk; Price, Philip
Subject: Electric Vehicle On-Street Chargepoint Install
Attachments: The Square Mock Up V1.pdf

Dear Cllr James,

We are contacting you on behalf of the Council's Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Board about proposed on-street EV chargepoint installations as part of the LEVI pilot project. Please find attached a mock up for a proposed install in your ward that has been provisionally approved by officers internally.

The mock-up is only intended as an initial indication of the approximate location for the charger and is not an accurate representation of measurements. The green box represents the feeder pillar, which houses the new electricity supply, and the blue box represents the chargepoint unit. The schematic design on page 5 of the attachment shows the standard design that will be followed for locations such as this where the chargepoint will be installed within an existing parking bay on the highway. This is a very similar design to chargepoints installed in our car parks by Wenea.

This installation has been sited in the highway, with the hatching between bays, to make the charge point more accessible and keep the pavement clear. Highways have been consulted on the design and will be checking the installation as part of the permitting for this site.

With any changes to our local roads and streets there can be concerns, but the proposed infrastructure is designed to be as unobtrusive as possible and there are no plans to impose any parking restrictions in the near term. While we anticipate usage may be low in the early years, it will help to give confidence to people who are thinking of making the switch to an electric vehicle that they will be able to charge it.

As we progress towards the government's target of no new petrol or diesel vehicles to be sold after 2035, the importance of a robust public EV charging infrastructure will become essential and the council has a key role in providing this. The proposed chargers will be 7kW low power units which are ideal for residents with no off-street parking as they provide enough power to give a full charge overnight for most cars and a top up charge for cars parked for a few hours during the day.

We welcome any feedback from yourself in relation to the attached proposal. Please send this to us by **Wednesday 15th January 2025**, as we plan to contact nearby residents to make them aware of the plans soon after this date.

If you need any extra information to respond to resident queries, please do let us know.

Kind regards,
Belinda

Herefordshire.gov.uk

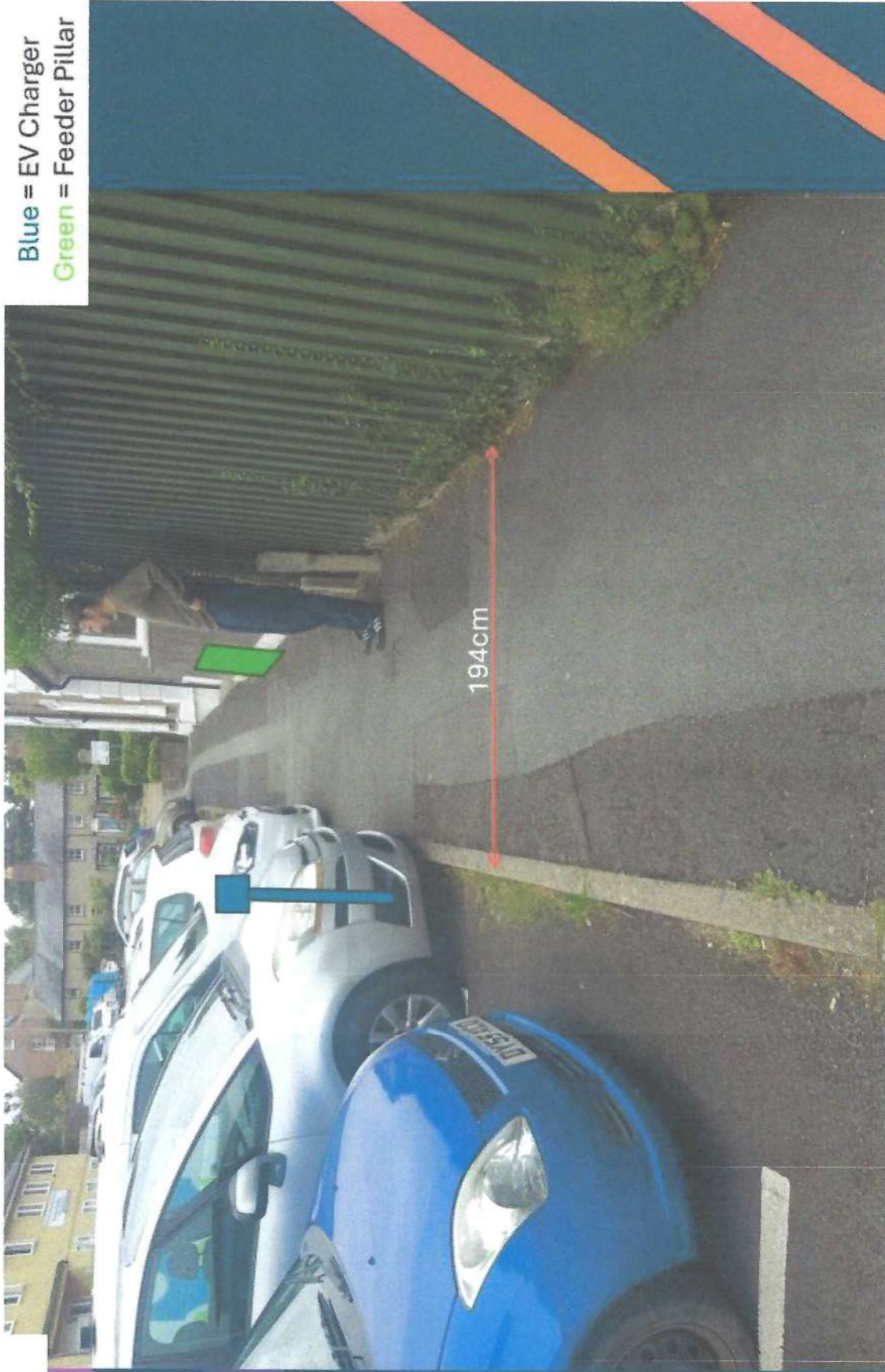
Belinda Wilson
Principal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Officer
Sustainability and Climate Change
Tel: 01432 260610

Economy and Environment
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0LE

The Square



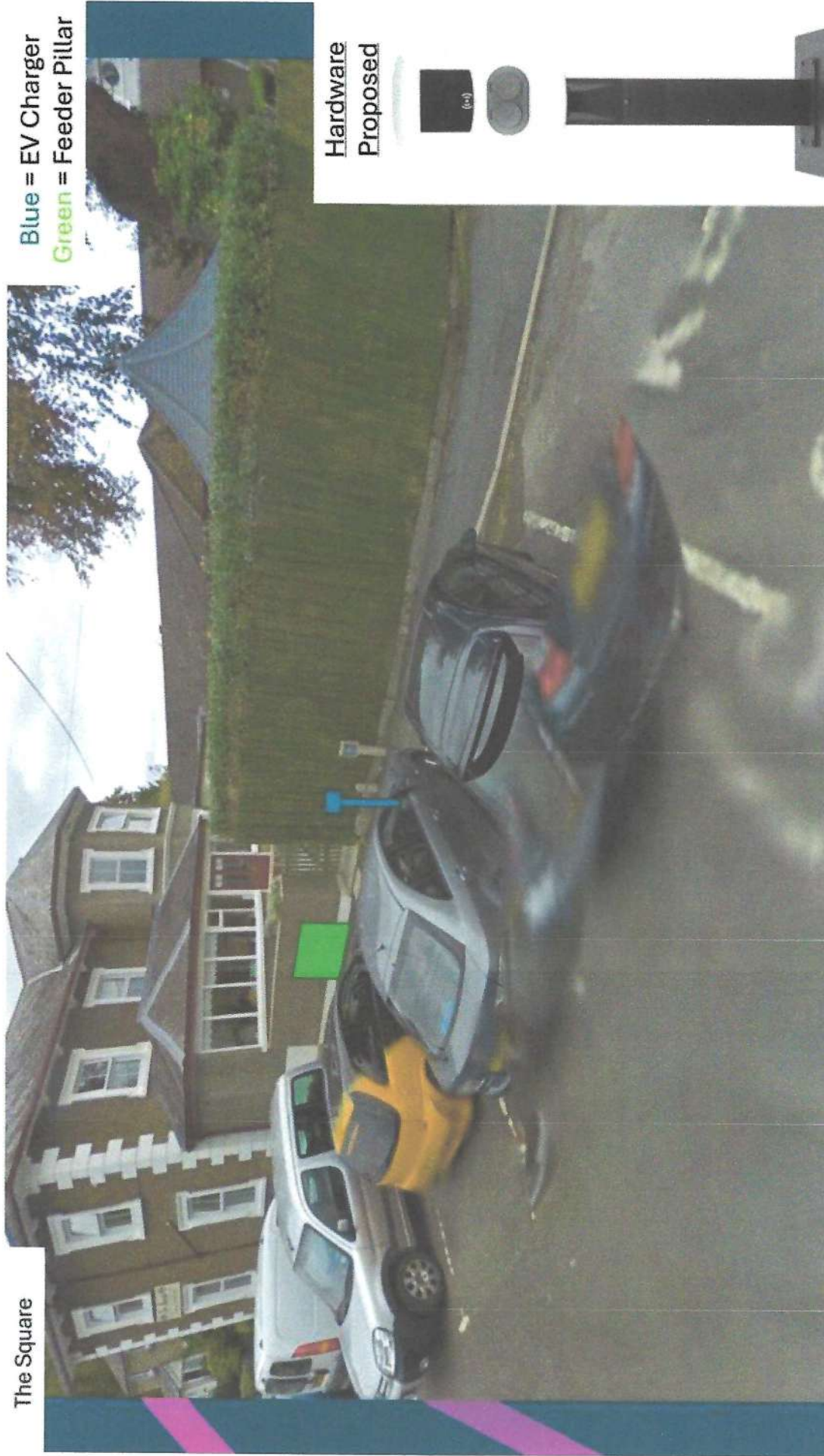
The Square



Blue = EV Charger
Green = Feeder Pillar

194cm

The Square



Blue = EV Charger
Green = Feeder Pillar

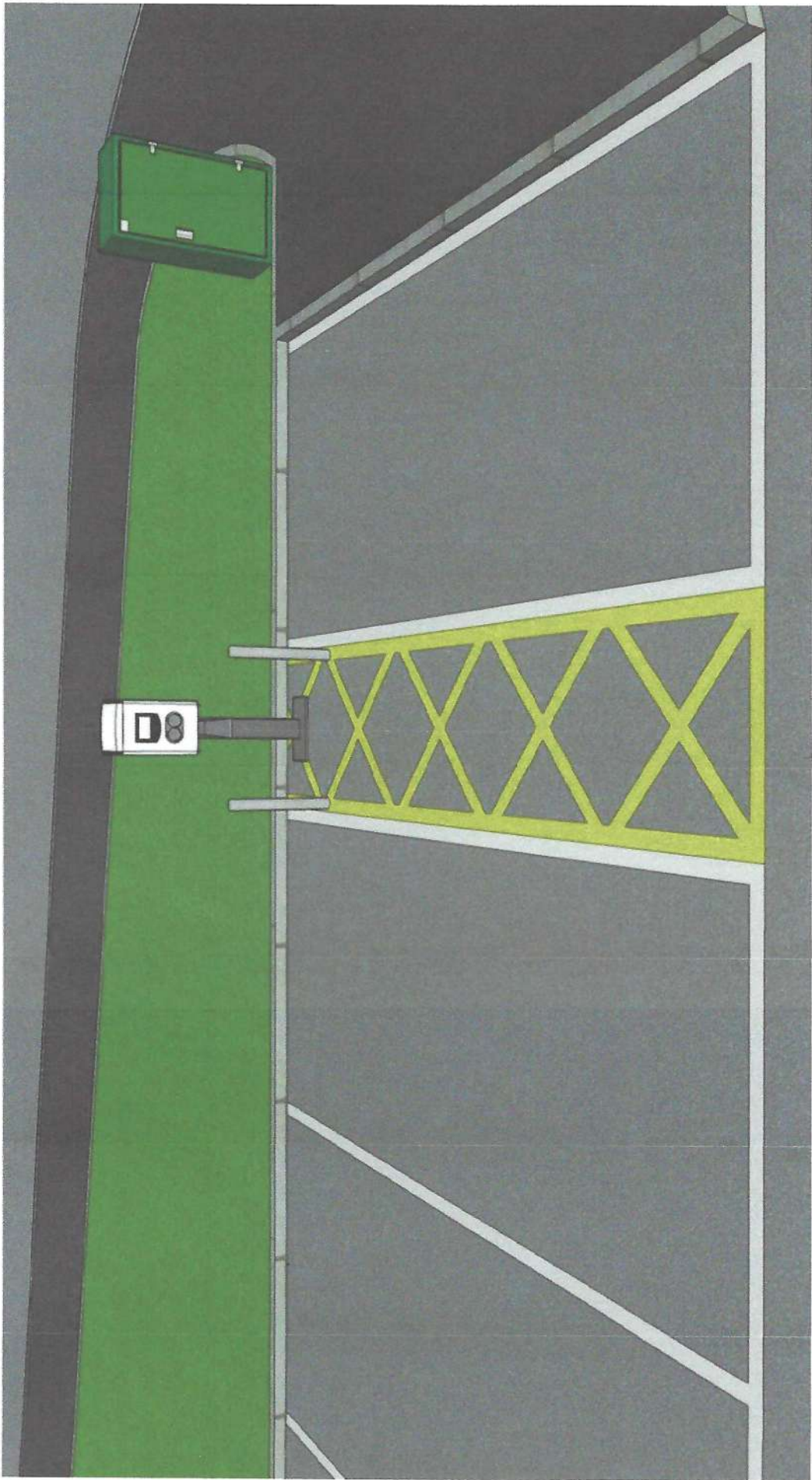
Hardware
Proposed



The Square



Blue = EV Charger
Green = Feeder Pillar



clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

From: Climate <Climate@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 December 2024 13:32
To: Climate
Subject: Nature Recovery Mapping in Herefordshire – Webinar for Parish/Town Councils

Good afternoon,

We are pleased to invite you to an upcoming webinar for Parish and Town Councils - **Nature Recovery Mapping in Herefordshire**, taking place on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 12:45 - 1:45pm**.

Herefordshire Council has published a draft map identifying areas throughout the county that are a priority for nature recovery. This is part of the national Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), and aims to address the need for existing wildlife sites to be bigger, better, and more joined up. This strategy is at a very early stage, and local knowledge and involvement will be essential to making it successful.

All Herefordshire Parish and Town Councils are invited join this webinar to find out more and to hear how they can feed back on the draft map. This will be an online event, with a link to join a Teams meeting sent out in the days/ hours prior to the scheduled start time. Herefordshire Council will be looking to amend the map based on the feedback received.

Register your interest through this link: [Nature Recovery Mapping in Herefordshire – Webinar for Parish/Town Councils Tickets, Wed, Jan 22, 2025 at 12:45 PM | Eventbrite](#)

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions on the day, but if you have any questions you would like to submit in advance of the webinar, please contact climate@herefordshire.gov.uk.

More information can be found at Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy webpages: [Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) – Herefordshire Council](#).

Kind regards,
Rosie Willmott,
Sustainability and Climate Change Officer
Herefordshire Council

Kington Town Council

Bio-diversity Policy

Background

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

The Bio -Diversity policy forms part of a wider environmental and sustainability policy that the council will adopt in pursuit of its declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in March 2019.

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

Land owned or supported by Kington Town Council

- As Trustee through Kington Recreation Ground Trust
 - Kington Recreation Ground
 - Crooked Well (once transfer is complete).
- St. Mary's churchyard

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity within land owned or supported by Kington Town Council

Kington Town Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

It will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Ask the Planning Authority to consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by relevant planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses & council operations in the adoption of low impact practices.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

Actions

The Council will:

- A. wherever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to land management. The Council will seek to manage green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity, wildlife corridors and trees.
- B. take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- C. ensure any use of pesticides is done in an environmentally responsible manner and to identify and promote environmentally friendly alternatives, including, where appropriate, schemes to allow vegetation on path edges to grow wild.
- D. when commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- E. raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- F. engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- G. where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.
- H. promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community. It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to those agencies given statutory powers to tackle problems.

This policy will be reviewed each year together with a summary of how the policy has been implemented in the previous twelve months.