

## **Bishopsteignton Parish Council Votes to Go Pesticide-Free**

Bishopsteignton Parish Council has voted to make the parish's public green spaces completely pesticide free - a major step towards protecting the health of local residents, wildlife, and the natural environment.

The decision, made at the Council meeting on 3rd November 2025, means that chemical herbicides and pesticides will no longer be used in the maintenance of parks, verges, and other council managed areas. Instead, the Parish will explore safe, sustainable, and nature friendly alternatives.

Chair of the Parish Council Henry Merritt said:

"The Parish Council is pleased to have agreed that the Parish becomes 'Pesticide Free' for all work undertaken for the Council.

We are very appreciative of all the time and effort freely given by all members of Climate Impact Action - community volunteers working with Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk. Work continues to be undertaken on this, and other Climate Change initiatives."

Growing scientific evidence shows that pesticides harm bees and other pollinating insects, contaminate soil and water, and pose health risks to people of all ages, particularly young people, the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions.

The move aligns Bishopsteignton with a growing number of towns and parishes across the UK who are choosing to create safer, more resilient environments for both people and nature.

Green Futures Devon Co-ordinator Andrew Rothery, who has been working with the Climate Impact Action Group and manages the Pesticide-Free Devon Initiative said:

"This is an incredibly significant decision, not just for the people living in Bishopsteignton today, but for future generations to come and for the resilience of the ecosystem that we all depend on for our livelihoods. Working together to find land management solutions that don't harm us and nature is essential for our future wellbeing".

Local resident Kirstyn Watson, who helped campaign for the change, added:

"This is an amazing example of a small village taking meaningful action. Every pesticide free space makes a difference - for our insects, our community, and our future."

The Parish Council will now work with local volunteers/community groups to develop practical plans for managing green spaces without chemicals and to raise awareness about how residents can support a pesticide free parish at home.

For further information, please contact:

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