



Sustainable Rampton Working Group activity report for Parish Council Annual Meeting 22 April 2025

Currently the group members are:

Irene Dunkley, Dave Harvey, Charlotte Horner, Sumanlata Sahonta, Nick Waller and Sharon Waller.

We welcome any villager who would like to contribute to the Sustainable Rampton group.

Rampton Residents Sustainability Survey

A survey was carried out in March 2024 to establish which environmental issues most concern residents. The survey focused on 3 key areas:

1. Community and amenities,
2. Protecting nature and the environment and
3. Lifestyle changes - working towards Zero Waste

with a view to informing the work of both the PC and Sustainable Rampton. The response rate from the adult population, based on the 2021 census data, was 27.49%

A report¹ on the survey's outcomes was presented to a meeting of the Parish Council on 22 May 2024, at which the Parish Council fully endorsed the report's recommendations.

Sustainable Rampton has been working to fulfill the short-term recommendations listed below over the last 12 months.

Community and amenities

1. work with the Parish Council to identify suitable areas for increasing wildflowers;
2. work with the Rampton Village Hall Management Committee (RVHMC) to improve the energy efficiency of the village hall;
3. work with the Parish Council to determine the level of community support for the development and management community food growing initiative;

Protecting nature and the environment

1. work with the Parish Council to apply for a grant to clean and maintain the village pond;
2. work with the RVHMC and other village community groups to tackle littering.

Lifestyle changes - working towards Zero Waste

1. develop materials/information to raise awareness and encourage adoption of more sustainable lifestyle practices and processes, particularly in those areas where awareness and uptake appears to be low;
2. run Repair Cafes and SWISH (clothes exchange) events to reduce the amount of materials sent to landfill

1

<https://sustainablerampton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Final-Report-Rampton-Residents-Sustainability-Survey-2024.pdf>

Community and amenities

1. work with the Parish Council to identify suitable areas for increasing wildflowers;

a) Meeting with Wildlife Trust BCN and Rampton Action Group, 14 June 2024 with a view to increasing biodiversity in the churchyard.

b) A number of verges have been identified within the village, including the churchyard, for growing wildflowers with a view to increasing biodiversity across the village. These have been roped off and will not be mown, information signs provided by the Parish Council are due to be erected. Sustainable Rampton has been working with the New Life on the Old West (NLOW) team to source appropriate wildflower seeds for the verges and the '77 Committee have offered funding.

A planting day is taking place on Saturday 26 April in the churchyard, to include wildflowers, carex plants in a wetland area and hedgerow saplings funded by the NLOW. Volunteers are being sought.

2. work with the Rampton Village Hall Management Committee (RVHMC) to improve the energy efficiency of the village hall;

RVHMC was awarded a Green Business Impact grant of £5,800 towards the cost of 2 x 10.26 kWh storage batteries and an inverter which will enable it to store surplus electricity generated by the hall's solar panels.

A Community Chest grant is also being sought to fund the installation of LED energy efficient lighting.

3. work with the Parish Council to determine the level of community support for the development and management community food growing initiative;

Sustainable Rampton has been awarded a grant of £500 from South Cambs District Council (SCDC) to develop raised beds on allotment half plot 3B, allocated by Rampton Parish Council. Funds are being used to purchase equipment and seeds. Advice has been sought from the established Cottenham Community Allotment group. There are currently 6 members of the project group. A good start has been made on preparing the ground and six raised beds have been established by repurposing old tractor tyres and are now ready for planting.

Protecting nature and the environment

1. work with the Parish Council to apply for a grant to clean and maintain the village pond;

Sustainable Rampton met with the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants on 21 August 2024 to explore applying for funding for the restoration and maintenance of the pond via the District Level Licensing (DLL) for Great Crested Newt (GCN) pond creation scheme. However, as ownership of the pond cannot be established it was not possible to apply. With the support of the Parish Council, advice was then sought from ecological specialists Greenwillows Associates Ltd. Following which a working party of 15 volunteers was organised on 16 March 2025 to clear the pond of overhanging vegetation and weeds to improve the quality of the water in time for the breeding season of any GCNs which may be present. Surveys will be carried out this month to establish the presence of GCNs. If

present, the pond will be desilted in the autumn after the end of the breeding season to further improve GCN habitat. A short survey will be carried out to determine villagers' views on the proposed approach to the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the pond.

2. work with the RVHMC and other village community groups to tackle littering.

A successful litter pick took place on 5 April 2025 with the help of 17 volunteers, including 4 under 18s. The event was organised to coincide with the Sustainable Cottenham litter pick to clear the Rampton/Cottenham cycle path.

Lifestyle changes - working towards Zero Waste

1. develop materials/information to raise awareness and encourage adoption of more sustainable lifestyle practices and processes, particularly in those areas where awareness and uptake appears to be low;

a) **A waste prevention and recycling workshop** led by Cambridgeshire County Council waste education officer Jon Crisp was held on 11 February 2025, attended by 8 villagers and 2 members of Sustainable Cottenham.

b) **A Pink e-waste bin** was hosted by Rampton Village Hall Management Committee for 6 weeks from the beginning of November 2025 for the collection of unwanted and/or broken small electrical appliances.

c) Action on Energy - Home Upgrade Grant (2) take up

Following an information campaign and support for residents provided by Sustainable Rampton, SCDC advised on 17 April 2025 that 39 properties had benefited from the scheme on its conclusion at the end of March 2025. Energy efficiency improvement measures consisted of 57 measures including solar panels, air source heat pumps, heating controls, cavity, wall and flat roof insulation. 11 of the 39 properties received more than one measure. At least 27 properties were cancelled for a range of reasons including technical unsuitability, resident decision and ineligibility of the property. We have asked for more information regarding the cancelled properties as the SCDC September update indicated that more properties were eligible and that their applications were being progressed through the scheme.

2. run Repair Cafes and SWISH (clothes exchange) events to reduce the amount of materials sent to landfill - these events are supported by Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF)

a) Two repair cafes have been run with the help of volunteer helpers. Proceeds have been split between the CCF and a fund for the cleaning and restoration of the village pond:

i) 13 July 2024 - 53 out of the 59 items were repaired, another 2 were taken away for repair. This saved 1,195 kg of CO2 emissions, preventing 120 kg of waste from going into landfill. 55 visitors supported the event. Printing costs were paid by the Parish Council. £140 was raised after expenses..

ii) 15 March 2025 - 50 out of the 70 items were repaired. Another 2 were taken away for repair, 11 others were diagnosed as repairable, 7 items were unrepairable and recycled. This has saved 994 kg of CO2 emissions, preventing 115 kg of waste from going into landfill. 75 visitors supported the event. £224.26 was raised after expenses.

We're grateful to the Rampton 77 Committee for the loan of the gazebo which provided cover for bicycle repairs.

- b) Our first Swish was held on 9 November 2024. 35 visitors supported the event. 71.5 kg of clothing was donated of which 26 kg was swapped and the remaining 45.5 kg was donated to the Arthur Rank Hospice and Emmaus to be sold on. £47.94 was raised after expenses, including a donation of £20 to CCF. The event was also supported by Vicky Lacey | Waste Projects Officer – Communications, Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Services who provided information on reducing waste and gave away free food waste bins and other resources.

Future events

1. Sustainability survey recommendation 3.5: work with other village community groups to encourage wildlife gardening

Rampton Open Gardens - Sunday 18 May from 2pm;

As part of this year's National Open Gardens Scheme, we are working with the Gardening Gnomes and the NLOW to pilot this new community event to encourage sustainable wildlife gardening to increase biodiversity. The event will feature short talks in the Village Hall from local experts in climate-sensitive planting, composting and gardening, followed by a short walking tour of the village's biodiverse public spaces (churchyard, allotments, pollinator-focussed planting in the pub garden and REC) as well as a few residents' gardens. A call for participants was issued in the March/May newsletter.

2. Sustainability survey recommendation 4.1: encourage adoption of more sustainable lifestyle practices and processes

a) Yard Sale - Saturday 6 September, 10am - 12 noon

An opportunity to have a good clear out or generally declutter. A call for participants was issued in the March/May newsletter.

b) Swish - Saturday 15 November, 11am - 1pm

Networking

Strong links have been formed with more established sustainability groups, in particular: Sustainable Cottenham and Sustainable Oakington and Westwick (SOW) both of whom have been very supportive.

Membership and visibility

We have a website <https://sustainablerampton.org.uk/> and facebook page.

With only 6 active members, the group can only focus on a limited number of activities during the year. However, we are encouraged by the strong level of support from the wider community and other village groups.

We thank the Parish Council for its continued support.