



Halstead Town Council Action Plan

No	Action	Action	Business plan
Climate change action			
1	Install a network of EV charging points in Halstead	1.4 EV charging points installed in Chapel Street car park in February 2023 2.Planned installation of further EV chargepoints in Butler Road carpark and Courtaulds sport ground will encourage drivers to rely on being able to charge in Halstead	The only costs to this project are the legal costs. We are working with a company which installs and maintains our charging points, at no cost to us. They pay us £1000 per year as rental for the land they use for the charging points in our carpark Our plan is to install further charging points on the same basis, including at the Queens Hall carpark
2	Install lamppost or Trojan charging points, on streets other than the High Street	Consult with Essex Highways. Given the EV charging strategy from ECC, we should contribute to consultation and communicate with ECC	These would be installed in due course by Essex Highways - so there should be no cost to HTC
3	Preserving resources	Encourage the use of water container /waterbutt on all allotments/cemeteries	Water containers are being installed on allotment plots where necessary at minimal cost.
4	Community energy	Explore the development of Community energy networks in Halstead	HTC has a plan to install 50 solar panels on the roof of its main building Queens Hall, with a storage battery and the possibility of selling on electricity in the local community. It has already allocated £15k to Earmarked reseves for this project. The total cost will be around £26k and it is likely that HTC will be able to add this extra sum to the Earmarked reserves by April 2025
5	Van and tractor to be electric when replaced along with other mechanical items as relevant	Review replacement plan to consider budget implications and plan for future replacement including provision of charging facilities in council properties	

	Transport and Highways		
1	Pursue the removal of the strategic lorry route through Halstead.	Consulting with Essex Highways and Sudbury TC over strategic lorry routes. Going north, this aim has been achieved, with traffic coming from the south being diverted via Colchester if going to Sudbury.	ECC officer consulting with counterpart at SCC. At present the only possibility is for SCC to impose a weight restriction on the road between Sudbury and Halstead to prevent heavy lorries from taking the route.
2	Inform residents of the Essex County Council procedures for reporting potholes, pavement issues, and other highways issues	This is a permanent feature on HTC website	HTC reports any potholes and other issues to Highways when brought to their notice but also encourages residents to report.
3	Parking issues on Trinity Road	HTC successfully negotiated in 2024 with North Essex Parking partnership and Essex Highways to install a short stretch of double yellow line in order to relieve congestion at peak times	Cost of this project was £2000
4	Changes proposed by NEPP to parking on Market Hill	Parking on Market Hill is currently free for one hour. NEPP has suggested charging for a second hour by installing pay and display machines, and enforcing the taking of a ticket even for the first free hour.	HTC has strongly opposed these plans, and offered to take over the monitoring of the parking on Market Hill
5	Raise awareness of walking/footpaths/cycling in and around Halstead	HTC strongly supports the Greenways cycle route and has appointed a footpaths officer to monitor footpaths around Halstead	LCWIP recently produced, to be approved at HTC in February.
6	Lobby for improved bus services in rural areas, and for inclusion of Halstead on Stansted bus route	HTC has agreed for a request to be made to First Bus that Halstead be included on the X20 Airlink bus route	HTC will pursue

	Housing and Development		
1	HTC to continue to ensure that residents' comments are taken into account when reviewing planning applications at Council meetings	HTC currently has no plans to carry out a Neighbourhood Plan, due to inability of HTC councillors to commit to the work needed. In addition, much of the land available for development has already been used.	
2	Communicate residents' views to BDC planning committee, referring where necessary to the Local Plan.		
3	Seek boundary changes to include any developments adjoining Halstead that are outside of the town boundary.	Boundaries have recently been changed to include the new developments and thus ensure that precept comes to HTC	
4	Constantly monitor the BDC rolling five year housing trajectory to understand the future population growth and the impact upon the town.	HTC councillors who are also BDC councillors monitor the housing supply constantly	
6	Upgrade and modernise car park payment systems	Card payments have been introduced on the car park machines. Paying by phone with Mipermit also introduced. Cash payments are also still taken	HTC prefers to take card and phone payment for car parking, since staff time is needed for collecting and counting cash, and the bank now charges for taking cash payments. However it recognises that for some this is not possible, and therefore the option for paying cash will remain for the time being.
7	Lobby for installation of solar panels and EV charging points on all new builds in Halstead	The need for solar panels is stressed wherever possible on new builds planned for Halstead	

Community Services			
1	Regular meetings with Inspector Martin Richards Police specials in regular contact with the office and the Streetwarden. Community police officer regularly attends council meetings	Beat surgeries held in council offices regularly Encouragement to residents to report any crime so that police are aware of incidents 2 Councillors appointed to work with the police as champions	
2	Meet with Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery team and NHS to press for measures to increase surgery capacity to support housing growth Halstead Hospital now offered as second facility	2 councillors continue to work as champions for the provision of NHS services in Halstead This is becoming a more urgent problem	
3	Work with local organisations and authorities with the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour	HTC has installed a barrier at Rosemary Lane carpark to prevent antisocial behaviour. After winning a bid from for a grant from the PFCC, HTC has installed 29 CCTV cameras, and employed a Street warden for 30 hours per week under the Safer Streets project	The Safer Streets funding will cover the emplyment of the Streetwarden for 18 months until September 2025. HTC has bid for and obtained further funds for a further 6 months until March 2026. It is likely to consider funding the Street warden post itself from March 2026, by adding the salary to its budget (around £24k including pension)
4	HTC volunteer force for shopping and prescriptions set up in 2020 and continuing	Still collaborating with surgery and pharmacies. This service has been recognised by HTC. It should continue to be a service provided to the community	No costs involved
5	Work with H4C Trust to explore the potential provision of a new Community Centre	HTC is awaiting the outcome of the plan by the H4C Trust to remove the contamination from the site, due to take place in spring 2025	Since the funds of the H4C Trust will be used up by the removal of the contamination, HTC is actively developing a different plan.
6	Coordination of charities and voluntary organisations	HTC has over the past year started a movement towards coordinating local charities and voiluntary organisations	Annual Town meeting this year brought charities together, and a new body has been created to pursue this aim.

Environment Conservation and Heritage			
1	Ensure that Halstead heritage, conservation and environment areas are preserved and respected in the planning process	Planning committee is active in defending the environment and heritage in all applications.	
2	Express residents' disgust concerning dog-fouling to Braintree District Council	New dog fouling signs recently erected	Street warden is entitled to issue penalty tickets for dog fouling. In fact he usually offers them dog waste bags instead.
3	Identify to Essex County Council residents' concerns on inadequate street lighting and seek resolution	Liaising with ECC on the replacement of the hard-fought-for heritage lamps by inappropriate modern lights. This will happen as part of the Regeneration work	
5	Promote and maintain the cleanliness and wild life habitat of the river, consulting local bodies	Local public meeting took place to energise action on the river. 2 councillors appointed to focus as champions on the state of the river. Liaison with the Environment Agency and the Riverclean group.	
6	Braintree District Council is establishing a new waste management strategy	HTC to encourage residents to recycle more through messages on website and information in the town, on where to recycle plastic waste and batteries	
7	Establish a community-based repair hub – possibly in the Mensshed	HTC to approach organisations who may be able to develop a community repair hub	

	Leisure and recreation		
1	Work with Braintree District Council to deliver facility improvements to the Ramsey Road playing field site	BDC have taken over this project, as they own the land. This project is part of the Town Centre Regeneration and the new skatepark was opened in September 2024..	HTC groundsmen and the River Improvement Group to collaborate on management of growth in the river
2	Press the Environment Agency to make improvements to the aesthetic appearance of the river, particularly along the Causeway	Environment Agency have been cooperative and have agreed for some action to improve the aesthetics of the river, but will not allow the level of water to rise, as this would be considered a flood risk.	
3	Monitor the implementation of the Open Spaces Action Plan	The OSAP has been updated but BDC has been very slow to take action on the recommended improvements	Improvement works on the allotments using S106 are ongoing. Fencing has been replaced, a shed bought. New allotment gates and more fencing are planned using S106 funds in 2025.
4	Monitor availability of school places to support the increasing population	2 councillors have been appointed as champions for education, and are in close touch with the 3 local primary schools, and the secondary school	
5	Work with front line youth services to assist in providing improved facilities for the youth of the town	The local youth group Halstead Action Promoting Positive Youth (HAPPY) has grown from the Youth Council established by Halstead Town Council. It is now an active force in the town, volunteering to help with events and involved with other local groups.	HTC funds activity afternoons for primary age children every summer for 4 Saturdays at the local Leisure centre
7	Press Braintree District Council to deliver an appropriate town centre regeneration plan	HTC is liaising with BDC over tourism and town centre regeneration. It is increasing the number of events it provides in the town	HTC has been liaising for several years with BDC on the plans for Town Centre Regeneration. This is now promised to be completed in 2025, using BDC funding.
8	Encourage residents to engage with the council	The HTC website has been developed to offer further information on the different levels of government and what they can do for residents.	