



# Biodiversity Action Across Teignbridge Parishes

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## Bickington

## Community Allotment

The Goodwill Community Allotment site was set up in April 2023 and offers local people space for growing vegetables and flowers. Currently, the site has 14 half-sized plots, with plans to expand in the future. Members use a variety of growing systems, including "no dig," raised beds, and permaculture ideas, whilst benefitting from bulk purchasing of compost and woodchip.

The allotment site hosts some fantastic open days and events that bring the community together. Additionally, a community fridge on the site is stocked with surplus vegetables from the plots and unsold food from local supermarkets, helping reduce food waste and landfill. Plans for a community composting facility are also underway.



Action Climate in Teignbridge Wildlife Warden Scheme

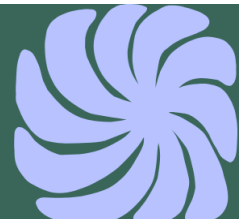




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### **Costs**

The allotment site in Bickington is privately owned and has been offered for community use. A nominal fee of £10 per month is charged per plot and this is reinvested into the site. Insurance is around £200 per year.

A Devon County Councillor grant for £350 was awarded to help fund the compost toilet facility.

DCC also gave a £950 grant towards the purchase of the community fridge. The total cost for this was £1250 plus the ongoing running costs.

### **Benefits and Outcomes**

Allotments are important green spaces for both nature and human health:

- They create many “microhabitats”, allowing lots of different plants and animal species to thrive within a small area, thereby supporting local biodiversity.
- They help build a sense of community and encourage social interaction.
- Access to locally grown and organic food from allotments is good for environmental sustainability and health.
- Research by Natural England shows that spending time in nature has positive effects on health and well-being.

### **Actions**

- Could a community allotment be established in the parish?
- Could the council support and facilitate this as an important asset for the community; both for people and wildlife.
- Could a community allotment be incorporated into any large planning development sites?



Action Climate in Teignbridge Wildlife Warden Scheme

