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Case studies
Climate change

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FOREWORD

This booklet of case studies is designed to be used by county associations or local (parish and town) councils as an example of work that can be completed within your community. These are all examples of best practise and demonstrate actions large and small to benefit the health and wellbeing of residents.

This booklet is segregated into chapters; Carbon off-setting and reduction; Climate Change Forums; Community projects; Designing greener housing; Electric charging points; Energy and heating; Green travel; Plastic reduction; Trees and tree management. It is designed to incorporate all areas of climate change and sustainability and will be added to in due course.

If your council has done something similar; please contact NALC at **policycomms@nalc.gov.uk**.

BIODIVERSITY

Swanage Town Council, Dorset

Swanage Town Council organised an open meeting for residents on how to increase biodiversity on your garden. This was in collaboration with the National Trust and Future Hope. The biodiversity agenda is being pushed separately by different parish and town councils in the Purbeck area. We are fortunate that the National Trust is a large landowner and is facilitating a lot of support for local communities.

CARBON OFF-SETTING AND REDUCTION

Calne Town Council, Wiltshire

Calne against Climate Change (CACC) is a local group campaigning for action to tackle the unfolding of climate catastrophe. The group aim to reach 'net zero' carbon by 2030.

Having a net-zero carbon footprint means balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal or simply eliminating carbon emissions.

Some of the things CACC are doing:

- Supporting the Mayor's and town council's zero-carbon initiative, following the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency for Calne.
- Working to find affordable renewable energy sources for the town.
- Working for improved air quality and less traffic congestion.
- Helping develop a zero-carbon strategy suited to a small rural economy.

Godalming Town Council, Surrey

In July, Godalming Town Council unanimously passed a resolution acknowledging its commitment to support the climate emergency and bio-diversity motion. In recognising the climate emergency, the council resolved to work to reduce carbon emissions and become a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030 with an earlier target for carbon neutrality by 2025.

The council agreed to audit its carbon emissions to enable it to monitor progress and also to create a budget to provide grants to support and encourage carbon reduction and mitigation schemes within Godalming.

In supporting the motion, the council agreed on an action plan to ensure that green energy providers were used and implements carbon offsetting arrangements in place and will ensure that its vehicles are electric powered by 2030. The council's action plan aims to achieve carbon-neutral status without incurring extra operating costs or financial penalties.

Haselmere Town Council, Surrey

Haselmere Town Council adopted a climate and biodiversity emergency motion to facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gases and conserve and promote biodiversity. As part of this the council has resolved to: commit to becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030; create a ring fenced environmental grants fund to encourage and enable reduction of greenhouse gas emission and to facilitate and encourage the community to reduce direct and indirect CO2 emissions and enhance biodiversity. The council has acknowledged that 'business as usual' is not an option moving forwards and has resolved to assess and adjust current activities and lead by example.

Glastonbury Town Council, Somerset

Glastonbury Council took another positive step on our journey to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 last night – resolving to change our energy suppliers to purchase gas and 100% Renewable Electricity from a UK green tariff company that is also building Renewable Energy capacity.

Kendal Town Council, Cumbria

Kendal Town Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The group have already voted to allocate £5,000 from their 2019/20 budget in the pursuit of carbon neutrality. Cllr Owen explained that the town council's 'Carbon Neutral Kendal' sub-group were now pressing ahead with a bid for matched funding to support the setting up of a 'Citizen's Jury' of local people who would pilot the drive to make the town carbon neutral by 2030.

Sevenoaks Town Council, Kent

Sevenoaks Town Council has recently resolved to formally recognise the Government and Kent County Council's declarations for aiming for Zero Carbon emissions. Sevenoaks will integrate this within their Neighbourhood Development Plan and the council's general operation.

Sevenoaks will start work on creating an Action Plan to review:

- Reducing cars/traffic particularly concerning school traffic.
- STC new buildings to be as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible. Existing buildings to be improved to be more sustainable with a reduced carbon footprint where practicable.
- Include planting of more trees, where possible fruit and nut trees.
- Continue to promote Refill Scheme and Sevenoaks Plastic Free Pledge.

- Cycle racks/planters to be installed.
- Install drinking fountains where possible at STC sites.
- Increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Link STC open spaces together with 'green routes'.
- Encourage increased use of public transport – buses and trains by having improved facilities including live running information.
- Install electric car charging points at STC sites.

Stroud Town Council, Gloucestershire

To facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions, the council resolved to:

- Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030 and create a carbon audit and roadmap for achieving this aim by the end of 2019.
- Create a grant pot to encourage and enable carbon-reduction schemes within Stroud. The primary criterion for applications to the fund should be CO2 savings per pound spent. This pot will be £10k for the 2019-20 financial year.
- Include environmental implications of recommendations in officer reports alongside legal, financial and equality implications. These will include the impact of recommendations on CO2 emissions as well as any other relevant environmental factors.
- Seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community in reducing direct and indirect CO2 emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate.

Woodley Town Council, Berkshire

On the 1 October 2019, Woodley Town Council declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. The council are working with Wokingham Borough Council to implement its Borough-wide strategy to tackle climate change locally. They are also executing a local action plan, which is looking at supporting wildlife in the area through the planting of wildflowers, installing solar panels on its buildings with the help of Reading Community Energy Society and, installing an energy-efficient boiler.

CLIMATE CHANGE FORUMS

Ashington Town Council, Northumberland

The town, in its industrial heyday regarded as “the largest coal mining village in the world”. At its height, the industry locally employed tens of thousands of people and sustained the community and local economy. It is perhaps fitting therefore that Ashington Town Council should lead the way in looking to play its part in addressing climate change.

The full-motion as unanimously agreed to set out the town council intent to:

- Recognise the global climate emergency and publicise this to the people of Ashington to raise awareness and build support in taking action.
- Work with local Colleges and Universities to measure and understand the town’s carbon footprint and subsequently prepare a series of achievable actions.
- Embrace the Green Industrial Revolution and work with local, regional and national bodies to ensure Ashington can benefit from the jobs created.
- Call on Northumberland County Council and central government to look to provide the directives of the powers to make Ashington carbon-neutral.
- Commit to reviewing all spending in the next financial year.
- Positively work towards carbon neutrality by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal.
- Initiate a yearly competition of Ashington Schools to develop ideas to make the town carbon neutral and look at the establishment of a forum including businesses, local organisations and residents to develop ideas to make the town carbon neutral.

Axminster Town Council, Devon

In October 2019, the council held an Environment Day which was run in conjunction with the ‘Plastic Free Axminster’ campaign. The event will host many local agencies, environmental groups and members of the community with an environmental interest who will be available to provide information on what their aims are and what they do and for attendees to ask questions and find out more about how they can play a part. The event heard from bodies such as the ‘Surfers Against Sewage’ and ‘Extinction Rebellion’. The council declared a climate emergency in August 2019 and agreed to reduce its carbon output over the next 12 years, aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Birchwood Town Council, Cheshire

Birchwood Town Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to make the town carbon neutral by 2030 and to work extensively to help both residents and local businesses significantly reduce their carbon footprint, and to approve an agreed action plan to achieve these goals which will be completed within six months of the declaration, December 2019.

The council recognises its role in public representation and leadership that needs to be applied to address the serious situation of climate change and wildlife extinctions on behalf of Birchwood. The council plans to prioritise biodiversity in the region and will consult with residents, community organisations and businesses within the town in the elaboration of our plans and any future versions before approving or implementing any proposals or actions that may impact on them.

Blewbury Parish Council, Oxfordshire

Blewbury Climate Action (BCA) is a group formed by Sustainable Blewbury at the request of the parish council. Their aim can be summarised as acting locally in a global climate emergency.

Their action plan can be split into five sub-themes:

- **Energy:** Politicians should impose carbon fees high enough to discourage the use of fossil fuels and should end subsidies to fossil fuel companies and replace oil and gas with renewables.
- **Short-lived pollutants:** These include methane, hydrofluorocarbons and soot – researchers say that limiting these has the potential to cut the short-term warming trend by 50% over the next few decades.
- **Nature:** Stop land clearing; restore forests, grasslands and mangroves which would all help to sequester CO₂.
- **Food:** A dietary shift is needed so that people eat mostly plants and consume fewer animal products. Reducing food waste is also seen as critical.
- **Economy:** Convert the economy's reliance on carbon fuels – and change away from growing the world's gross domestic product and pursuing affluence.

Bridgnorth Town Council, Shropshire

On the 21 June, Bridgnorth Town Council declared a climate emergency and aims to become carbon neutral by 2030. They decided to create an advisory group in line with an offer made by Sustainable Bridgnorth to provide advice, support and recommendations. The council plan to use carbon emissions as a key factor in decision making about council business. The council also joined the Tree Charter, a joint campaign between NALC and The Woodland Trust.

Bridgwater Town Council, Somerset

The latest Community Forum set up by Bridgwater Town Council focused on Climate Change. The Forum met at Bridgwater Town Hall and was attended by members of the public and set out to develop a Climate Change Strategy for Bridgwater.

The aims of these meetings include raising awareness to reduce the effects of the climate crisis, global heating, economic instability and natural catastrophe. In addition to reducing carbon emissions and to seeking direct measures that Bridgwater could introduce.

The key areas that the forum addressed are:

- Biodiversity-protecting wildlife habitats-Pesticides-encourage grassroots community projects such as gardens and orchards-plant based diets-tree cover/sponsor a tree-natural enhancement of green spaces and parks-natural food production.
- Energy-encourage green energy providers-oppose fracking-reduce reliance on fossil fuels-encouraging the use and production of sustainable energy.
- Plastics Waste -increased recycling-looking at alternatives to plastics-production and disposal.
- Transport-electric cars-public transport -reduction of traffic and the reliance on cars.
- Built Environment-deregulation-new homes-sustainable energy on new buildings-insulation-brownfield development.
- Commerce and Industry-buy local/shop local-encouraging sustainable, more ethical businesses-reducing consumerism.

Charlton Kings Parish Council, Gloucestershire

Charlton Kings Parish Council agreed on an environmental vision which sets out how the council will move towards a more environmentally friendly way of working. The vision contains several commitments from the council to reduce greenhouse gases including:

- Ensuring that new council buildings are carbon neutral or carbon positive.
- Retro-fit existing buildings with energy-positive technology.
- Take energy supplies from a 100% renewable energy supplier and work with partners to provide a support infrastructure for electric transport options.

The vision also sets out how the council will advise and support residents to become more environmentally friendly; how it will contribute to Cheltenham Borough Council's programme to be carbon neutral by 2030 and, how it will manage natural and built environments in the knowledge of understanding the effects of climate change. The council intends to oversee its environmental improvement work through an Environment Working Party which will draw on expertise from the local community.

Chippenham Town Council, Wiltshire

In 2019 Chippenham Town Council declared a "Climate Change Emergency" and set up a Climate Emergency Advisory Group. Membership of the advisory group consists of six Chippenham Town Council councillors and six members of the local community who have relevant skills and experience in the subject.

Their initial priorities were:

- To work towards a goal of making Chippenham carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account Green House Gas emission from both production and consumption.
- Call the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
- Work with Wiltshire Council, surrounding parish councils, other councils and relevant partners including businesses, educational establishments and civil society organisations, to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C.

Future agenda items include:

- Baseline exercise of Chippenham Town Council estate and potential of baselining the town as a whole and to promote the basis of a net-zero carbon reduction plan.
- Community engagement and awareness.
- Community energy possibilities.
- Identify the immediate changes Chippenham Town Council could make to reduce its carbon footprint and to identify the longer-term projects.

The advisory group meets monthly in the Town Hall to discuss research and make recommendations to the Strategy and Resources Committee on matters where Chippenham can contribute towards tackling the climate crisis.

Corfe Castle Parish Council, Dorset

Corfe Castle Parish Council developed an environment group webpage providing updates on the council's environmental agenda as well as useful external links and

resources. Current items on the webpage include: tips from the National Trust on what residents can do in their gardens to reduce the impact of climate change; information about the Sustainable Swanage steering group and Litter Free Purbeck alliance; highlights from a visit to the Eco Sustainable Solutions plant in Dorchester and details of upcoming tree action days. The council has also formed an Environment Working Group to monitor, advise, engage, and promote environmental matters. The working group has developed an action plan which aims to set out how individuals, businesses and organisations can reduce the impact of their activities on the environment. The group is opening future meetings to the local community so they can work on environmental projects together and share information and ideas.

Elkesley Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Elkesley Parish Council obtained grant funding from the Greenwood Team at Nottinghamshire County Council for the purchase of three trees. Three well-established cherry trees were selected by the council and planted by volunteers in an area alongside a footpath. The council states that the trees will enhance the area, introducing natural colour and vertical interest.

Forest Row Parish Council, East Sussex

Forest Row Parish Council runs Forest Row Repair Cafe which aims to help reduce waste by encouraging a repair culture in our community. A repair can save time, money and waste.

Items we can repair include electrical, fabrics, computers, bikes, woodwork, furniture, damaged books and we occasionally have someone for clocks and jewellery. While you wait for a repairer we have a delicious cafe for you to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of homemade cake donated by local businesses.

Freshford Parish Council, Avon

Freshford Parish Council has passed a resolution recognising the Climate Emergency. Key learnings from this experience in Freshford include the importance of community buy-in and input into initiative planning to generate momentum. The council will work with the Freshford community and community organisations, and other parish councils to establish specific local initiatives that will contribute to and enhance all aspects of our locality including transport, the built environment, the natural environment, ecology and renewable energy.

Hebden Royd Town Council, Yorkshire

Hebden Royd Town Council passed a motion declaring a 'climate emergency' and supports Calderdale Council in assisting Governments to achieve their carbon emission savings.

The motion was in response to the growing concerns within the community. Hebden Royd Town Council, therefore:

- Requests that Hebden Royd Town Council set up a Climate Change Committee to respond to this challenge that meets in public including cross-party representation and other local groups.
- Requests that we as a committee work to set a new target and action plan for Hebden Royd Town Council to improve air quality and be carbon neutral.
- Resolves to work with other local authorities and Town Councils as well as environmental groups on carbon reduction projects to ensure the UK can deliver on its climate commitments.
- Calls on the Government and Calderdale to provide the resources and powers so that our Town Council can make its contribution to the UK's Carbon Reduction targets.
- That they build on projects like the Green Screen due to be installed at Burnley Road Academy by encouraging local groups to access funding for environmental and climate change-focused projects. This should have a ring-fenced budget for future years.
- The Council will continue to explore ways to avoid using fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas and immediately look at switching to renewables.
- The Town Council seek to join the Covenant of Mayors, a global network of town and cities who have committed to reducing carbon emissions by 2030. The network enables members to share best practice, ideas, funding and track progress. This simple action will help to raise the profile of this vital issue both locally and nationally and could secure external support and funding from a proposed Government fund.
- Hebden Royd Town Council encourages other town councils such as Todmorden to consider making such a declaration and our example will help them to do so.

Holme Valley Parish Council, Yorkshire

After declaring a Climate Emergency on 25 March 2019 and agreeing to publish an action plan in six months, Holme Valley Parish Council established a Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group tasked with producing a draft action plan for the Council. This action plan was approved by the Council in October 2019. The Council then authorised the creation of a new Standing Committee, - the

Climate Emergency Committee, - to oversee the development and practical implementation of the Holme Valley Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Holme Valley Parish Council has now published its Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Action Plan lays out their goals concerning managing the Climate Emergency and encourages local people to get involved in any small way they can to start to make a difference.

Ide Parish Council, Devon

Ide Parish Council agreed to sign the Devon Climate Declaration, which is in line with the current work in the village. The council understands that working in collaboration with county, district and, other parish groups as much as possible.

The council is looking for Climate Champions who would be prepared to take an hour or so with one of our volunteers, to measure your household carbon footprint. Then, the council will look at ways to make changes and measure it again in a year. The council will write about what they learn from it, but this can be anonymous.

The council is also working alongside local school to provide solar panels, which will reduce the carbon footprint of the parish and reduce the school's electricity bills. The use of green energy will be a great learning tool for all pupils and teachers.

Kenilworth Town Council, Warwickshire

Kenilworth Town Council's Climate Working Group was set up on August 1, 2019, and was tasked with producing a detailed roadmap that will help to encourage and enable public and community-led carbon reduction schemes. The Kenilworth Climate Action Roadmap was approved by Council on 27 February 2020. The Climate Working Group continues to meet regularly to review progress and to steer future developments, reporting to full Council meetings.

Malvern Town Council, Worcestershire

Malvern Town Council is looking for people to join its new environment panel and help tackle the problems of climate change. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting last month. The new panel will hold its first meeting on 24 October 2019. The brief includes reviewing update the council's environmental policy, exploring ways of reducing its carbon footprint and encouraging residents to do likewise.

Matlock Town Council, Derbyshire

At the Town Council meeting on the 17 June 2019, Matlock Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency. There was unanimous support for the motion proposed by Councillor Matt Buckler. The motion is seeking to put in place local actions that can make a difference.

Residents in attendance gave inspirational examples of actions they had taken to reduce their carbon footprint. The Town Council has recently signed up to the Refill scheme, which aims to make it easier to reuse and refill your bottle with free tap water in the town. The objective of Refill is to stop millions of plastic bottles at source each year and therefore reduce plastic pollution. The Council will be taking a range of further actions to improve sustainability and will provide support and encouragement to residents within the town.

Newbury Town Council, Berkshire

In September 2019, Newbury Town Council hosted a climate change community workshop intending to make the council carbon neutral. With the help of its Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG), residents were encouraged to attend the workshop and contribute ideas as to how the council could implement its strategy. The first part of the workshop featured the town council sharing its carbon-neutral plan and other environmental actions it was considering. The second half will gather feedback from attendees about actions to help the town as a whole become more environmentally sustainable – what they’re already working on, what else they think is important and how the council can support them. The CEWG has also proposed creating a Green Directory, listing local businesses and organisations that are environmentally-friendly.

Rattery Parish Council, Devon

Rattery Parish Council is tackling climate change locally by declaring a climate emergency and creating an action plan locally:

- The council started by offering every household a free tree this winter to be planted in people’s gardens, or around Rattery town.
- Rattery had a ‘climate and environment’ stall at their recent annual garden/sports show, where they offered free trees and had information about local wildlife, parish council climate and environmental actions and tips and guidance for residents to take locally.
- Rattery is working and partnering with their neighbouring parish council, South Brent, in a newly-established Zero Carbon Group (a working group of the charity ‘Sustainable South Brent’). Both Rattery and South Brent have parish council representatives in this group. One of the main aims is to hold a ‘Climate and Environment Fair’ next spring.

- Rattery has 'Environment' and 'Climate Heating' sections on their website, on which they post information for residents on local plastic recycling, ash tree dieback and so on. The councils also disseminate information via their Rattery Google-group e-mail, which about half the parish has joined, in addition to the usual noticeboards.

Timsbury Parish Council, Somerset

In January 2020 Timsbury Parish Council decided on a Climate Emergency Resolution, recognising the science of a climate emergency and resolved to take action with others to reduce its causes. They also have established a Green Action Working Group and plan to implement long term strategies to make the community more climate-friendly.

Wimborne Minster Town Council, Dorset

Wimborne Minster Town Council declared a Climate Emergency at the Full Council meeting in July 2019. The Council undertook to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at what proactive activity could be pursued and to set a process for new purchases and policies, including replacement and refurbishment principles. Councillor Kelly Webb is the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group and is also the overall Programme Manager (plus Project Manager for Partner Relations). Each Project Manager will be responsible for creating and managing their project plan, actions, involving external parties and reporting progress to the Programme Manager at monthly Task and Finish Group meetings. The Programme Manager will report progress to Full Council at each Full Council meeting and a written report will be available with the minutes of the meeting.

Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk

Woodbridge Green Vein Project aims to restore and optimise green infrastructure in Woodbridge and the surrounding landscape to promote biodiversity sustainability; improving human wellbeing; and, contributing to the mitigation of climate change.

The project is looking to:

- Help facilitate local policy, strategies and action following both national and international directives on the environment and social well-being.
- Raise public awareness about the fundamental value of the environment for securing both essential ecosystem services and human well-being.
- Increase environmental citizenship in the local community through inclusivity and participation.

- Contribute to biodiversity recovery and climate change mitigation.
- Promote non-extractable ecosystem services for the expressed purpose of protecting the environment and safeguarding human health.
- Contribute measurably to national targets for the environment, climate and human well-being.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Blewbury Town Council, Oxfordshire

Sustainable Blewbury is concerned with climate change and other environmental issues. We must end our dependence on fossil fuels because of the increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We need to explore ways in which we, as a village, can adapt to low carbon and more sustainable way of living while maintaining a good quality of life. Sustainable Blewbury places the highest priority on raising awareness of climate change and communicating urgently how it affects all our lives.

Their activity is organised around five main themes:

- **Energy:** The Blewbury Energy Initiative aims to reduce energy consumption in buildings, encourage the use of renewable energy resources and use much less coal, oil and gas.
- **Travel and Transport:** The travel and transport theme promotes public transport and encourages cycling and walking, with more cycleways and footpaths, to reduce car dependency.
- **Food and Farming:** The food and farming theme supports and promotes local food production and marketing to reduce food miles, as well as encouraging fair trade.
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** The reduce, reuse, recycle theme aims to reduce the amount of waste, and to encourage reuse of items and recycling to recover raw materials. It promotes water-saving, local recycling and household composting.
- **Natural Environment and Heritage:** The natural environment and heritage theme is to promote the protection of Blewbury's history, architecture and special characteristics – such as its springs and streams, trees, and village fabric.

Bodmin Town Council, Cornwall

Bodmin Town Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019. The following points were proposed and agreed:

- Declare a climate emergency.
- Pledge to work towards making Bodmin carbon neutral by 2030.
- Work with Cornwall Council to assist them with their declaration to make Cornwall carbon neutral by 2030.
- Act as a voice for the community to lobby for action on climate change, raise the profile and share lessons with higher levels of government.
- Continue to work with the community of Bodmin and its surrounding parishes to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.
- Facilitate a working group that will prepare an action plan within 6 months to address this emergency.

The Working Group includes Bodmin Town Councillors; interested members of the community, and local organisations such as the Bodmin Climate Action Network. This joined-up approach will galvanise Bodmin in support of this important issue.

Cockermouth Town Council, Cumbria

In 2018 a group of residents met together voluntarily out of the desire to help the environment and to reduce plastic use in Cockermouth. This included people working at from Wordsworth House, The National Trust; Riversmeet; West Cumbria Friends of the Earth and; Cumbria County Council.

The council found this group of stakeholders engaging and supportive in creating an action plan to tackle climate change locally. They started by raising awareness; talking to traders about not supplying single-use plastic bags and, running free workshops making recycled textile bags.

They ran a competition for local children to design posters for shops to display when they committed to having no single-use plastic bags. Additionally, their local butchers and fishmongers agreed to use the Tupperware containers of customers to reduce their plastic waste.

Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk

Felixstowe Town Council would like to work with the community to help achieve projects such as a 'Repair café' to encourage repairing items rather than purchasing new, a 'Library of Things' to enable easy borrowing of items such as tools as opposed to purchasing and, to help the Allotment Association FSALG become a 'Champion' for composting.

Fownhope Parish Council, Hereford

Fownhope Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and, since making their declaration, has been working to create a document that sets out exactly what this means, not only for the parish council but for local businesses and the community. They have considered how community groups could be set up to run 'make do and mend' or 'repair' cafes to reduce waste or to work to reduce the amount of unwanted junk mail deliveries in the village. They are also considering a collective green energy purchase; a communal composting area or a communal green waste skip to reduce individual journeys of the 12 miles round trip to the nearest refuse centre; and, recycling stations for both visitors and residents. Fownhope is working collaboratively with two other local parish councils to support the transition from their declaration into meaningful action.

In addition to this, Fownhope is in discussion with a recognised supplier (and working to secure funding) for a further innovative opportunity to support the local community. They hope that the development of a parish-wide electronic carbon calculator and reporting tool kit would enable Fownhope to gain an understanding as a community about where their carbon emissions need addressing, enabling them to reduce emissions. The tool could potentially be used across the whole county, thereby supporting Herefordshire Council's aspiration for the county to become carbon neutral.

Kendal Town Council, Cumbria

In April 2019 Kendal Town Council declared a Climate Emergency and since then has been looking at ways to implement change. A Citizen's Jury is a central part of informing that change. Kendal Town Council now wants to take the next step and find out what action local people want to take to tackle climate change. We are calling for help to raise funds to organise the UK's first-ever Climate Change Citizens' Jury at the town level.

A 'Jury' of 20 randomly selected residents, who will be a mini version of Kendal's population with a wide range of ages and opinions on climate change, will call on the help of experts to look at the causes, impacts and recommend potential solutions to the climate emergency. Kendal Town Council has committed funding together with South Lakeland District Council. So far they have 50% of the amount needed. To raise the remaining funds they are setting up a Crowdfunding page. The council hopes that this will encourage the community to come together to tackle climate change locally.

Morley Town Council, Yorkshire

Morely Town Council supports Leeds City Council's school's clean air campaign. The campaign aims to encourage motorists to switch off their engines instead of leaving them idling outside schools. Following a productive meeting with the city council, Morley Town Council agreed to undertake a range of measures to assist

with the campaign, including using banners, getting schoolchildren to monitor the air quality outside schools and educating motorists about the impact on children's health of keeping engines idling. The town council has also agreed to explore a programme that could include hedge and tree planting at schools to absorb and reduce carbon dioxide levels from vehicles.

DESIGNING GREENER HOUSING

Frome Town Council, Somerset

The vision in the Frome Neighbourhood Plan is “to build a community that is resilient in its capacity to support the needs of residents in the face of global shocks such as economic downturns, rising energy prices and climate change”. The Frome plan identifies particular resilience challenges dependence on nearby towns and cities for services and employment, a lack of choice and affordability of housing, car dependence and rising energy prices - and has developed policies and initiatives to address these:

- Remodelling the town centre to improve the environment for pedestrians and cyclists, reduce the impact of traffic and improve town centre health.
- Integrated transport strategy seeking completion of missing cycle links, creation of links along the river corridor, environmental improvements around the station, provision of bus and coach stops, identifying clear and safe routes for pedestrians and cycling.
- Linking together the wildlife corridor along the river.
- Protection of employment land.
- Creation of community renewable energy company.

The outline of the neighbourhood plan is as follows:

Provision of well-designed energy-efficient buildings and places

The design and standard of any new development should aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions. This includes:

- Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain.
- The use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials.
- Installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing.

- Any new development to incorporate on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels to at least the extent required by NS core strategy policy CS2.
- The retrofit of heritage properties/assets is encouraged to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate, providing it safeguards historic characteristics and development is done with engagement and permissions of relevant organisations.
- Alterations to existing buildings must be designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with sustainable design and construction standards.

Thame Town Council, Oxfordshire

Thame Green Living grew out of the RSA Thame Group appointed by Thame Town Council to develop a Green Living Plan for Thame. They aim to deliver a Green Living Plan for Thame by summer 2020; to encourage new green living initiatives in and around Thame, and to bring together local people and groups who want to create a greener future.

The Thame Neighbourhood Plan of 2013 (TNP), approved by Thame residents, allocated sites for the further housing required by government and planning authorities. The content of Neighbourhood Plans is, however, strictly limited by law. TNP accordingly recommended that there be a Green Living Plan for Thame (GLP) to follow up on issues of quality of life and sustainability in the town.

The objective of the plan is to protect and improve the environment of Thame for the long-term health and vitality of the town and its community.

This can be achieved:

- By establishing a set of clear green living principles of general acceptance.
- By using the GLP as a key evidence base for the revised Neighbourhood Plan By promoting these principles to all local planning authorities - and beyond.
- By reviewing planning proposals against the plan's recommendations.
- By building a databank of local information and expertise.
- By assessing priorities and resources for further research and action.
- By town-led initiatives.
- By individual and collective actions of those in Thame supporting the plan.

ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

Bembridge Parish Council, Isle of Wight

Bembridge Parish Council installed an Electric Vehicle Charging Point outside the Parish Office. The Council's Facebook Information Page went live on Monday 10 February 2020, which will display upcoming local events and information. The installation of electric charging points is a part of the council's climate change development plan.

Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk

Felixstowe Town Council highlights all-electric vehicle charging points on their website. They are partnered with Suffolk County Council, who is behind the project 'Plugin Suffolk'. This is the UK's first fully open fast-charging network, where no phone app or membership card is required to charge and are looking for companies with accessibility to expand the EV charger network in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Forest Row Parish Council, East Sussex

Forest Row Parish Council has installed one electric charging point which costs £1.25 per hour for three hours and following that, £5 per hour. This is in line with the other green transport initiatives that the council has put in place.

Forest Row Car Club is an initiative of Forest Row Parish Council in partnership with Transition Forest Row which came into being with the help of a grant from East Sussex County Council to support community transport schemes. The council aims to provide a community car share scheme as an alternative to using a private car. The club will also be a useful transport option for those who don't own a car at all.

The club is based at the Community Centre, Hartfield Road, the home of the parish council. It is run by the administrator in the parish council office with the assistance of three volunteer coordinators. The club itself consists of members who have signed up to take advantage of this innovative car share scheme. The club has two Toyota Yaris's, one Automatic Hybrid and one Manual.

Georgeham Parish Council, Devon

In 2017 Georgeham Parish Council announced that they had installed a double bay electric charging station at Georgeham Car Park. The council charges £1 per hour of charging and aims to increase the availability of charging stations to promote the use of electric vehicles to residents.

Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council, Leicestershire

Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council has installed charging points for electric vehicles in the School Road car park in Kibworth. Designated parking bays will be marked out and payment will be by the Podpoint app which can be downloaded on mobile devices.

Councillor Jonathan Bateman, Harborough District Council's portfolio holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, said: "We are introducing electric charging points following requests from the public. Electric vehicles are becoming more popular as a greener way to travel and we want to respond to this by installing them in our car parks." The decision to roll-out the facility follows a trial at the Harborough Innovation Centre.

Glastonbury Town Council, Somerset

Glastonbury Town Council has two Open Charge POD Point electric vehicle charging points available for residents and visitors alike in its town hall car park. The council installed the donated Zero Carbon World EV Charging Stations. The implementation of electric charging points is a part of the council's initiative to help residents become more climate-conscious.

Swanage Town Council, Dorset

Swanage Town Council has two Open Charge POD Point electric vehicle charging points available for residents and visitors alike in its Main Beach car park, and one in its Mermond Place car park. These are the first public electric vehicle charging points to be installed in the Purbeck area. There are four x 7kW charging bays available in Main Beach car park, and two in Mermond Place car park. The POD Points are called 'Paul-Neil' and 'Kate-Ruth (Main Beach), and 'Eddy-June' (Mermond Place). The installation of electric charging points are a part of the council's climate change agenda and are aimed at assisting residents in becoming more climate-conscious.

ENERGY AND HEATING

Blakesley Parish Council, Northamptonshire

Blakesley Parish Council built a new Village Hall about five years ago and decided to fit underfloor heating using a ground source heat pump. This, of course, pumps heat from an underground coolant circuit from under the car park into the hall. Using a ground source heat pump uses far less energy as the hall is at a constant temperature all the time which is much easier to manage. In addition to this, the Council is planning to implement a village orchard to supplement the (private) arboretum.

Brightlingsea Town Council, Essex

Brightlingsea Town Council agreed on an environmental policy to enable the development of activities that will minimise negative effects on the environment and enhance and protect Brightlingsea's immediate environs. The council intends to improve its environmental performance and influence improvement in Brightlingsea in the following ways: use energy, natural resources and non-renewable resources efficiently and strive to minimise waste and pollution; inform Brightlingsea's residents of the council's environmental activities and respond and react to feedback; support individual behaviour change in Brightlingsea's residents; support local businesses in the adoption of low-impact practices and manage council land using environmentally-friendly practices that will promote biodiversity and protect habitats. The council has also committed to taking action in several specific areas, including water; planning authority local plans; climate change and energy conservation; waste; transport; biodiversity and green spaces; sustainable procurement and awareness lobbying and partnerships. In 2019 the council took part in the Royal Society of Biology's Biology Week by planting two locally grown native ash trees and a sweet chestnut tree in the town. In doing so the council aims to aid genetic diversity and counter global warming.

Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk

At the full Council Meeting on 10 July 2020, it was resolved: "That this Council declares a Climate Emergency and should instigate a small working group to determine how we can reduce, to a minimum, our carbon footprint by 2030."

Felixstowe Town Council's Action Plan was brought to Council in January 2020 which looked to incorporate Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are being obtained to give Council a benchmark for all buildings and ideas on how they can improve energy efficiency. The Council already obtains its electricity supplies from a 100% renewable energy supplier and will continue to do this.

Frome Town Council, Somerset

On 5 December 2018 Frome declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The 17 councillors unanimously agreed to sign-up to the Covenant of Mayors to track progress and link with towns around the world that are also cutting emissions. This vital work in helping the local community to combat the key signifiers of climate change tie into the ten principles of the Tree Charter and ensure that the community is consistently climate-conscious. This also promotes switching to cleaner energy, reducing energy use, improve air quality, minimise fuel poverty and boosting the local economy through jobs and training. Frome has highlighted a multitude of ways that other town councils can follow their lead. They have introduced a solar funding project which helps residents install solar panels at a significantly discounted rate. Cllr Rob Collett said: "So far 15 Frome homes have had solar

installed under the solar streets programme and more are in progress. However, although the solar panels save households money and cut carbon, many households don't have £3,000 spare to fund the upfront costs. It's fantastic that Wessex Resolutions can potentially support these households in accessing low-interest finance for solar". Additionally, in 2017 the council signed a pledge to stop using single-use plastics in the town hall. They have made a clear impact within their community and have made it easy for other town and parish councils do the same.

Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk

Woodbridge Town Council aims to make the council more energy efficient. Through their Climate Emergency Action Plan.

They plan to:

- Encourage a reduction of energy use.
- Carry out a carbon audit of the Council's assets.
- Encourage the DC and housing associations to carry out a carbon audit.
- Support the development of low carbon and renewable energy sources.
- Co-operate with organisations seeking to develop low carbon schemes.
- Require the highest standards of insulation.
- Encourage insulation upgrades and the use of solar panels.
- Source heating and passive ventilation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

Barnstaple Town Council, Devon

Barnstaple Town Council developed a sponsorship scheme as part of the 'Get Barum Blooming' campaign. Businesses, community groups and individuals can maintain or pay for maintenance of a planted area in Barnstaple in return for a promotional sign. The scheme has several benefits for the town. Sponsors contribute to the town's environmental wellbeing, the sponsored area is likely to be maintained to a higher standard and quality than otherwise would be the case and the scheme itself promotes community involvement and cohesion.

Bearley Parish Council, Warwickshire and West Midlands

Bearley Parish Council funds the annual 'Bloomin' Bearley' summer floral display. Now in its eleventh year, 'Bloomin' Bearley' sees flower beds planted beneath the road signs entering Bearley from the A34 and Snitterfield and pots and troughs around the Village Hall near St. Mary's Church and along Snitterfield Road. This year's display featured a range of flowers including Geraniums, Begonias, Petunias and French Marigolds.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council, Northumberland

Berwick-upon-Tweed worked in partnership with the Berwick in Bloom committee, local County Council officers, schools and local businesses to increase the number of floral displays in the three communities which make up Berwick-upon-Tweed. This included purchasing daffodils; crocuses and, tulips and offering them to schools to plant on their premises, securing nine hardwood planters following an approach to local window and door specialist Allan Brothers and meeting the cost of planting six cherry trees on the village green. Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council also provided small grants for tools and materials.

Cam Parish Council, Gloucestershire

Cam Parish Council worked in partnership with Stroud Valley Projects to secure improvements to two local nature reserves. Rackleaze Wetland area now has a boardwalk and hedge. There are also weekly visits from a handyman to ensure the site is maintained and litter-free. At Hollywell Orchard steps have been remade, a huge compost heap has been created and the site has been surveyed for grasses and wildflowers. The grass has also been raked away from the meadows on the site and put in the compost heap. This has resulted in the sighting of another common spotted orchid, following the one found in 2011.

Chesham Town Council, Buckinghamshire

Chesham Town Council set up and adopted an environmental policy intending to create a more sustainable community. The policy contains four specific objectives: use resources efficiently and strives to minimise waste and pollution; inform residents of environmental activities and respond to feedback; support behaviour change in residents and local businesses and, manage council land using environmentally friendly practices to promote biodiversity and protect habitats. The policy also aims to ensure that the council pays due regard to the Water Act (2003) and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Since implementing the policy, Chesham Town Council has increased biodiversity in a field by not cutting it as frequently, introduced a monthly local produce market and saved money on electricity bills by using low energy lighting.

Holton-le-Clay Parish Council, Lincolnshire

Holton-le-Clay Parish Council successfully obtained a community wildlife grant for the council-owned junior playing fields. The grant was used to create a wildlife

observation area featuring a bug hotel; tree logs for seating and, a hedgehog house. Cowslip and bluebell bulbs were also planted. The council intends on installing a new picnic bench, birdhouses and bat boxes in the near future.

Maldon Town Council, Essex

Maldon Town Council organises a high street hanging basket scheme to brighten up the town centre. The scheme runs from May to October and sees hanging baskets filled with flowers and placed on shopfronts around the town. The baskets are maintained and watered at least three times a week by the council's ground contractors Skippers. Participating shops and businesses are asked to contribute towards the costs of running the scheme.

Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council, Shropshire

Ruyton XI Town Council runs a wage on litter campaign. As part of the project, the council has purchased a litter picking kit which is available for all residents to use. The kit consists of high vis vests; 10 picking grabber tools; a set of gloves and black plastic bags and, can be collected from Café Eleven in the town.

Shincliffe Parish Council, County Durham

Shincliffe Parish Council organises twice-yearly litter picks to keep the parish as litter-free as possible. The council provides all necessary equipment and volunteers are offered a bacon sandwich afterwards, courtesy of the Avenue Inn.

Ulverston Town Council, Cumbria

Ulverston Town Council worked with South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency on the much-needed redevelopment of a local car park. Ulverston Town Council provided £10,000 for environmental improvement works, including the installation of new planters and flowerbeds that they will manage. The town council was also successful in persuading the Environment Agency to put a fee for using the car park towards the cost of the car park's redevelopment, rather than in South Lakeland District Councils general revenue account.

Waddesdon Parish Council, Buckinghamshire

Waddesdon Parish Council successfully bid for a grant from Aylesbury Vale District Councils, New Homes Bonus Micro Grant Scheme. The grant was used to purchase additional street cleaning equipment supporting efforts by the council to keep the village clean and tidy.

Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council, Milton Keynes

Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council received a gold award at the Thames and Chiltern Britain in Bloom 2018. The council played a major role in coordinating efforts, with an expanded team of four people getting stuck in and encouraging local residents to help out. Help from residents included two families who assisted

with doorstep planters, residents in Bedford and Oxford Street who came out to tidy their brick raised beds and lend green bins and three college students who cleared planters outside Tesco Express. Once emptied the planters were then filled with new plants by Urb Farm trainees. The council also received support from AxiomB2, who installed lamp post baskets and undertook some of the ground level formal planting; the Rotary Club, which funded new planters in the Square and Milton Keynes Council, which supplied new planters and bought materials for Men-in-Sheds who made the new troughs for the square. The council was also confirmed as a finalist in national Britain in Bloom competition.

FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Howden Town Council, East Riding of Yorkshire

Howden Town Council owns a range of flood relief equipment. Residents and businesses experiencing a flood emergency can call the dedicated Howden Floodline to receive delivery of one of three pumps free of charge. Councillors and volunteers delivering the equipment set it up and demonstrate how it works. Further assistance can be provided if necessary.

GREEN TRAVEL

Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Hertfordshire

Bishop's Stortford Town Council manages a fleet of community minibuses on behalf of Bishop's Stortford Minibus Trust. The minibuses are available for hire by local community organisations and groups who operate on a not for profit basis in the Stort Valley. There are also several regular services around Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding area. This includes the Stortford Shuttle, operating once an hour Monday to Friday on a circular route not covered by commercial bus companies; the Hadham Hopper, a free service operating every Thursday from Much Hadham and Perry Green to and from Bishop's Stortford and the Saturday Shopper Hopper, taking people from the Parsonage, the town centre and Thorley to the Tesco's in Bishop's Stortford.

Bridport Town Council, Dorset

Bridport Town Council contracted First Wessex to run around town bus service following the withdrawal of services previously subsidised by Dorset County Council. The new service has been championed by a working group consisting of local councils, the Bridport Local Area Partnership and the Western Area Transport Action Group. It has been operating twice a week on a six-month trial basis across Bridport, West Bay, Bothenhampton, Lower Walditch, Bradpole and Allington since August 2018. Fares are £2 for a single journey and £3 return, with concessionary bus passes also accepted.

Buckingham Town Council, Buckinghamshire

Buckingham Town Council has recently bought a new electric van for the Greenspaces Team, meaning that the council will be able to serve the community in a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly way.

The Renault Kangoo is the newest addition to the fleet and is 100% electric. The new van will assist the Greenspaces Team in carrying out its duties in the town such as building and parks maintenance and, event support. Through purchasing an electric vehicle, the council aims to reduce its carbon footprint and make the council more eco-friendly.

Councillor Ruth Newell, Chair of the Environment Committee added: "I am pleased that we had the opportunity to replace one of our vehicles and that we have been able to fund an electric vehicle perfect for our green spaces team to use around the Town and Parks and environmentally friendly in line with our Climate Change Action Plan."

Burnham on Sea and Highbridge Town Council, Somerset

Burnham-on-sea and Highbridge Town Council voted in favour of granting £5,000 to keep a local bus service running. The council is one of eight local councils to have entered into an agreement with Somerset County Council that has seen the bus service continue, with local councils covering the majority of the running costs.

Charing Parish Council, Chilham Parish Council, Egerton Parish Council, Pluckley Parish Council, Smarden Parish Council, Kent

Charing Parish Council; Chilham Parish Council; Egerton Parish Council; Pluckley Parish Council and Smarden Parish Council financially support Wealden Wheels community transport service.

The project is largely managed by volunteers and runs on a not-for-profit basis, Wealden Wheels aims to provide an accessible, affordable and flexible means of transport to village members. Four minibuses are available for hire by village families or groups who join the scheme either on a self-hire basis or with a volunteer driver. The 130 or so members include local families, village clubs and societies. Members use the service for social, leisure, educational and health purposes and trips can be either short or long, local or further afield, subject to vehicle and driver availability.

Chigwell Parish Council, Essex

Chigwell Parish Council used £1.2m in section 106 contributions from developers to fund three new local bus services. Two services will run on different routes during the morning and evening peak periods on a hail and ride basis. The council are also introducing an off-peak service which will stop at set points in the village

between 10 am and 2 pm. All three services will be free and for residents only. Residents can apply to the council for a Chigwell Bus pass to confirm their eligibility.

Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council, Northamptonshire

Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council worked with Shire Community Services to provide a not for profit bus service following the withdrawal of all county bus subsidies by Northamptonshire County Council. Set up costs were funded with a £5,000 grant from South Northamptonshire Council. Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council calculated the running costs; applied for the bus operators license; helped recruit bus drivers and, created local publicity around the service. Initially, the service was run by Shire Community Services, however, Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council took over running of the service from 1 October 2018.

Disley Parish Council, Cheshire

Disley Parish Council operates a not for profit community transport scheme. For payment of £1, residents can become a member of the scheme and book to travel on the 9 seater minibus. The mini-bus makes a number of trips each month to places of interest outside the village, including historic venues; garden centres; markets and, picturesque villages. It is also available for hire by local community groups and provides a real boost to older residents.

Feock Parish Council, Cornwall

Feock Parish Council provides a community transport scheme for residents of all ages. People left stranded without access to transport in Devon, Feock and Carnon Downs can call up and book a volunteer driver who will give them a lift to places such as the doctors; dentist; the local shop or, the hairdressers. The scheme has now been running for five years and provides on average 18 trips a week.

Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk

Felixstowe Town Council introduced a cycle to work scheme and is currently being undertaken in partnership with the Youth Forum and the Safer Neighbourhood Team to reduce vehicle idling. In addition to this, town council members are promoting residents and councillors to car share wherever practical.

Hartley Wintney Parish Council, Hampshire

Hartley Wintney Parish Council owns and manages a community transport scheme. The scheme, funded through developer contributions from Barratt Homes, includes a five day a week commuter service running to and from Winchfield Station, a three day a week timetabled shopper service and a twice-weekly door-to-door service running to Fleet Town Centre and the local Morrisons. Fares start

from £1 for a single trip with concessionary pass holders able to travel free on the daytime shopper service.

Haydon Wick Parish Council, Wiltshire

Haydon Wick Parish Council runs a community transport scheme providing door-to-door transport for elderly and disabled residents of the parish. Residents can book to travel on one of the scheduled outings to the shops and social clubs by contacting the clerk to the council. Fares start from £1 return and Swindon concessionary travel vouchers are accepted. The community bus is also available for private appointments and group hire, subject to driver availability.

Frome Town Council, Somerset

As part of their work to tackle air quality issues, Frome Town Council relaunched their Frome Electric Car Club to promote the use of electric vehicles. As part of the relaunch, Frome Town Council has provided the Electric Car Club with two electric vehicles and offers members of the E-club a convenient alternative to running a car for those who don't need the use of one every day. The vehicles are specially adapted to include an RFID card access system, which means the cars can be booked online (or via the E-Car Club mobile app) and used by several different people throughout the day at a cost of just £5.50 per hour, or £45 for 24 hours. The cars can be booked for any length of time (over one hour), and as they're completely electric, there are no additional fuel costs to worry about. Insurance is even included in this price, and the minimum membership age is just 19. This is an innovative way to tackle issues of air quality and something they are encouraging other town councils to take up.

Lyme Regis Town Council, Dorset

When Dorset County Council cut subsidies for bus services, Lyme Regis Town Council stepped in to save the number 71 bus. Initially the town council offered a temporary two-day-a-week service; however this has now been extended to five days a week until 2021.

Market Deeping Parish Council and Deepings St James Parish Council, Lincolnshire

Market Deeping Parish Council and Deeping St. James Parish Council were runner's up in The People's Award at Transport Planning Day 2019 with their 'Green Walk' initiative.

The two parish councils are set in small towns and although all of their local services are within an easy walking distance, the councils decided to develop the 'Green Walk' initiative in their neighbourhood plan for new developments.

All new footpaths are required to be 'safe, accessible, attractive, and rationally linked to existing routes.' They also plan to create The Deepings Green Walk – a 15km circuit which aims to join up local facilities, housing and green spaces. The

councils have already planted trees; completed a new footbridge over the river Welland and, introduced traffic calming.

The community is planning for expansion with the green agenda at their heart by supporting residents to do without their cars. Congratulations to both councils on their initiative and their award!

Sedlescombe Parish Council, East Sussex

Sedlescombe Parish Council runs an informal lift scheme for residents who find it difficult to attend doctors and hospital appointments due to a lack of transport. Names and contact details of volunteer drivers are posted on council notice boards outside the village shop and doctors surgery. Residents who require a lift can phone up any of the volunteer drivers and arrange a lift directly with them. Individuals who are interested in becoming a lift scheme driver are encouraged to contact the council so they can be added to the list.

Sevenoaks Town Council, Kent

Sevenoaks Town Council worked with Kent County Council and local bus operator, Go Coach, to put in the place the provision of the number 8 bus originally on a three-year trial. The bus operates six days per week, linking the two train stations; bus station; residential areas and, the town centre. The number 8 bus has been successful in exceeding the original business plan and attracting approximately 80 passengers per day. The bus scheme is still developing and both Sevenoaks Town Council and Kent County Council have invested funds to operate the service until 2021, its sixth year in operation.

Shrewsbury Town Council, Shropshire

Shrewsbury Town Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and pledged to make the council carbon neutral by 2030. The council calls on the government to provide powers and resources to make that possible. Councillor Alan Mosley, who is a county councillor and also the Labour leader of Shrewsbury Town Council, said that the council has already done a great deal locally including installing LED street lights and solar lighting in the Quarry; spending £100,000 on footpaths and cycleways; as well as looking to bring electric vehicles into its fleet.

Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk

Woodbridge Town Council is looking to change the way that transport is thought about throughout the town.

This includes;

- Encouraging more sustainable transport.
- Carrying out a carbon audit of the council's vehicle emissions.
- Incite their community to move from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles.

- Installing five rapid electric chargers.
- Resisting any cuts to public transport.
- Reducing the number of HGV's entering the town.
- Introducing a car-free day every month.
- Incentivise more cycling and walking.
- Installing more cycle parking.
- Stimulate walking to school.
- Encouraging car sharing and;
- Providing more benches.

PLASTIC REDUCTION

Ashburton Town Council, Devon

Ashburton Town Council, alongside Cornish charity Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) as well as 16 communities across the South-West of England, has become the latest to sign up to a plastic-free movement to reduce its single-use plastic. SAS aims to "shift things back to how they used to be".

Communities can work towards plastic-free status by achieving various objectives towards the national project run by Plastic Free Coastlines. Including local councils who are committed to plastic-free alternatives and encouraging local businesses to get on board. Ashburton town clerk Bruce Broughton said the council has designed its reusable cotton bags as a way of "starting small" to get people thinking. "It's the hearts and minds thing. You've got to get people on side to do their little bit," he added. The council is working with Facebook group Plastic-Free Ashburton to find ways to encourage others to reduce plastic-use.

BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-43143439>

Buckingham Town Council, Buckinghamshire

Buckingham Town Council declared a climate emergency as part of a commitment to becoming a more sustainable town council. The council is determined to ensure that the declaration translates to real action that reduces carbon emissions at a local level and will be formulating a climate change action plan. So far the council has purchased an electric van for its Greenspaces team and installed photovoltaic panels on the roofs of the two community centres. The

council has also taken action to reduce the use of single-use plastic, phasing it out from all council-run events and offices, providing recycling stations at all town council events and encouraging staff to use reusable water bottles and coffee cups. The council is also seeking to change the behaviour of local residents and has produced a poster with nine tips to reduce plastic waste at home.

Penrith Town Council, Cumbria

Penrith Town Council is a key player in its local climate change group, Plastic Clever Penrith. Other stakeholders include Cumbria County Council; Eden District Council; PACT; CAFS; Penrith Bid and, Penrith Chamber of Trade who aim to provide initiatives and advice to both residents and businesses in Penrith about how small changes can help reduce plastic waste. This initiative directly helps stop unnecessary waste and improve the local environment.

The Plastic Clever Vision is to have every consumer business in Penrith sign up to a voluntary plastic-clever scheme which will include:

- Plastic bags – This could involve biodegradable alternatives, an incentive for customers to use their own bags or provision of themed/branded bags for sale, with profits to local charities.
- Plastic cups/straws/stirrers – To be replaced with biodegradable alternatives – paper or pasta straws, discounts for using your own cup, bamboo stirrers.
- Plastic/Polystyrene packaging – To be replaced with biodegradable alternatives.
- Use of own containers by customers by purchasing loose products such as fruit, vegetables and some dry goods.
- Town events will be asked to include plastic-free guidelines for traders and attractions.

TREES AND TREE MANAGEMENT

Baildon Town Council, West Yorkshire

Baildon Town Council has helped form a tree-planting partnership to enhance tree coverage and help tackle climate change locally.

Richard Nottidge, a Baildon resident, approached Baildon Town Council with his idea and with the council's assistance; the Forest of Bradford and Friends of the Earth have now created The Baildon Tree Planting Partnership. The remit of the partnership is to identify suitable areas for planting, design the planting scheme,

including types of trees, create risk assessments and plan and deliver the planting scheme.

Bradford Council, the land-owner, has given its support, along with the Forest of Bradford have already planted 700,000 trees. The next stage will see Bradford Council agree to the plan; with planting commencing between Christmas and March 2020 (as the planting season ends).

Baildon Town Council's Environment Committee has previously discussed declaring a climate emergency and was identifying ways in which it could support carbon reduction initiatives. This is only one of many initiatives that Baildon Town Council is planning to reduce the impact of climate change locally. This will enhance the environment for residents and wildlife in the area.

Bodmin Town Council, Cornwall

On the 12 February 2020, Bodmin Town Council Parks Manager, Richard Davies, is organising a tree planting day in Priory Meadow. The Council is delighted to have been gifted over 60 Cornish fruit trees by the Environment Agency (who will be helping them on the day). This is part of the council's action plan to provide habitats and food for pollinating insects and continue to tackle climate change locally.

Castle Cary Town Council and Ansford Parish Council, Somerset

Castle Cary Town Council and Ansford Parish Council have been working collaboratively to purchase and develop a 4.5-acre field into an open green space with facilities for all the community to enjoy. Together the two councils have overseen the installation of fencing and drainage; hard pathways and most recently a pump park; outdoor gym; children's adventure trail and, a sensory garden with accessible raised beds. Funding for the project was secured through grants from the Big Lottery; Tesco (via their Bags of Help scheme); South Somerset District Council and, from local businesses. Feedback on the project has been very positive, with young people particular fans of the pump park.

Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire

Chalfont St. Peter instigated a campaign to plant 100 new trees in the village by 2020 with the aim of making it a healthier place to live. Areas targeted for the first new trees include those most likely to be affected by building and HS2 traffic. The total cost is estimated at £25,000 and the council has made a call for donations and sponsorship. By May 2016 the first 20 trees had been planted thanks to sponsorship from local businesses. The council were also successful in recruiting volunteer tree guardians to ensure that the young trees receive enough water to survive.

Charvil Parish Council, Berkshire

Charvil Parish Council manages two sports grounds in the village of Charvil. St Patricks Recreation Ground is an informal sports ground, whilst East Park Farm is home to well-used sports pitches. In 2016 the Council installed two artificial cricket strips at East Park Farm. Charvil and Sonning Junior Cricket Club can be found playing matches there on a Sunday morning during the summer as well as at practice sessions during the week. There has also been an increase in the numbers of football teams playing at East Park Farm, as news of the more responsive management of the grounds becomes known.

Coleford Town Council, Gloucestershire

Coleford Town Council is managing the development of a new leisure park on a nine-acre green space in the town. Consultations on the design were held in a town centre shop for six weeks, whilst the council also visited local schools and sheltered housing. Following the consultation, it was determined that features of the park should include a skate park, BMX bike pump track, multi games area, amphitheatre, wildlife area with pond and memorial sensory garden. There will also be a car park with public toilets and a discrete entrance for residents of the nearby home for adults with physical disabilities and learning difficulties.

Collingham Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Collingham Parish Council secured £70,000 in grant funding to refurbish the local skate park. The funding came from WREN's FCC community action fund and will be used to replace the existing metal ramps and build a new concrete skate facility for all ages and abilities. The new facility will be suitable for both scooters and BMX bikes. The new design was voted for at various public consultations.

East Ilsley Parish Council, Berkshire

East Ilsley Parish Council demonstrates the passion of a community and of individual campaigners who can have such a profound effect on their communities. One parish councillor, who is also a district councillor for West Berkshire, Councillor Carolyne Culver has spearheaded projects around East Ilsley to ensure that it has a green and eco-friendly future. She plays an important part in planning meetings and works with potential developers regarding local land; wildlife and, emissions to ensure that they are working within the climate emergency protocol that is being worked on within West Berkshire.

The council are currently in development with two green initiatives in the village. The first is to build a 'Community Orchard' for the village. Councillor Culver is leading on this with a small sub-team who are identifying the right location; types of fruit trees and, have just applied for matched funding from West Berkshire Council to help the council install the orchard. The entire village supports this project and is excited for it to be put into practice. The other initiative is to plant wildflowers around the village. Councillor Culver has identified some areas in the

village that would be eligible for wildflowers and again, match funding has been applied for. The idea is that areas in the village which are going to waste can be made to look beautiful and to provide new habitats for different species, particularly bees and butterflies which help's with their ecosystem.

Additionally, West Berkshire have great difficulty in recycling various plastics so the council is taking action to helps residents recycle more. The council use a dis-used green waste recycling bin which is placed in the village for people to drop off their cleaned out crisp packets and cat food pouches (which can't be recycled here). These are then sent off to be upcycled. For example, the council has seen aprons made from crisp packets!

Additionally, on 7 September East Ilsley co-hosted a GreenFest event with a nearby village called Hampstead Norreys. This was a one-day event for all ages to learn more about green initiatives, recycling, upcycling, and the environment and so on.

Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk

Felixstowe Town Council is currently working with a local Community Interest Company called Happy Globe to draw up a proposal for a project to use the Cowpasture Meadow for the keeping of bees; the promotion of wildflowers; other pollinators and wildlife and, planting of a small orchard.

Harlington Parish Council, Bedfordshire

Harlington Parish Council manages Hornes End Spinney, an area of woodland situated on the site of a former quarry. Since purchasing the site, the council has developed a management plan to ensure that the trees are regularly inspected. The council has also created a development plan, the first stage of which saw teachers and pupils from local schools involved in the creation of a nature trail. A teacher from the lower school created an exciting activity book for children to complete when visiting the Spinney whilst two teachers from the upper school created signposts, tags and the plaque.

Helmdon Parish Council, Northamptonshire

Helmdon Parish Council places great importance on recycling. The council has a dedicated recycling webpage setting out the benefits of recycling for both the environment and residents. It also provides detailed instructions as to what can and can't be placed in recycling bins and garden waste bins and provides links to the websites of nearby household waste recycling centres. As part of efforts to increase recycling rates locally, the council has recruited a dedicated parish recycling warden. The warden's responsibilities include providing support for individuals who are uncertain about how to recycle; liaising with the principal authority and the Northampton Waste Partnership to identify problems with recycling services; raise awareness of recycling campaigns and changes to recycling services and, engaging with residents to encourage more recycling.

Keyworth Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Keyworth Parish Council has secured 100 tree saplings to distribute throughout the parish. The saplings are a variety of types, including Field Maple; Silver Birch; Grey Willow; Pedunculate Oak; Wild Cherry and, Rowan. Residents who would be interested in obtaining a free tree are invited to get in touch with the council. The council has also highlighted other sources of free trees on their website, including the Woodland Trust and Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Nunthorpe Parish Council, Cleveland

Nunthorpe Parish Council has developed a tree policy in recognition of the human and environmental benefits of having a healthy tree population. The policy contains ten tree-related activities the parish council has agreed to undertake on behalf of residents, including monitor and respond to all proposals by Middlesbrough Council for rezoning of land which could entail removal of trees; monitor and respond to all planning applications to Middlesbrough Council which could entail removal of trees and fund the planting of additional trees in Nunthorpe. The policy also sets out the importance of trees in an urban environment, the ownership of trees in Nunthorpe and how Middleborough Council manages trees on council-owned land.

Rudby Parish Council, Yorkshire

Rugby Parish Council supports Trees for Tomorrow, a community tree and hedge planting programme taking place across the parish. The council has identified potential sites for trees to be planted, the types of trees that could be planted and, the planting schemes that could be used. The council has also established the best time of year for the trees to be planted and asked for volunteers from the community to help with planting. So far Trees for Tomorrow has successfully secured over 400 free saplings from the Woodland Trust and is in the process of agreeing to a planting order list to commemorate the 75 anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 2020.

Saddleworth Parish Council, Yorkshire

For some years Saddleworth Parish Council has been committed to planting trees to enhance the landscape. Working with the Woodland Trust, Saddleworth Parish Council will form part of the Northern Forest. Partners involved in the planting will help create the 50 million tree forest, transforming the landscape of Northern England.

The Northern Forest is already in progress, but once complete it will:

- Help tackle climate change and encourage nature-rich landscapes.

- Reduce the risk of flooding.
- Create thousands of new jobs.
- Cool and clean air in towns and cities.
- Improve health and wellbeing.

Sandford Parish Council, Devon

In December 2019, Sandford Parish Council celebrated their 125 Anniversary. As part of the celebrations, the council held a Parish Party and planned a Walking of the Boundary for 2020.

The clerk suggested to the Parish Council that they plant 125 trees to mark the Anniversary at the end of the Sandford King George's Field to act as a boundary. The council made contact with Sandford School who were very keen for the pupils to assist with the planting.

The trees duly arrived and were planted on the afternoon of Friday 13 March the last time the Village met together before the COVID-19 lockdown. The council numbered all the Trees so each child had a number and in the years to come will be able to check on the progress of the tree. The children were thrilled and so were we with how well this went and the coverage this received locally in the Crediton Courier.

Settle Town Council, Yorkshire

Settle Town Council secured £10,000 in grant funding from Craven District Council to put towards a feasibility study and development plan of Castlebergh Crag, a large outcrop of limestone in the Yorkshire Dales. A public consultation was held at which sketches, surveys and plans were made available for people to comment on and a contractor was selected. By undertaking this work the council hopes to encourage greater use of the site by local people, provide a multi-functional green space that is spatially adaptable and able to host a diverse range of activities and be maintainable with the minimum of cost.

Stanley Parish Council, Derbyshire

Stanley Parish Council has agreed to support a local group to establish a wildflower area at the Stanley Village Recreation Ground. The council has proposed that the grass be left uncut for the coming year to see what naturally establishes itself. Additional advice and guidance will be sought from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who has been working with the parish on the Fallow Field project at Stanley Common.

This initiative will produce a beautiful meadow for residents to enjoy as well as creating a new habitat for wildlife. This green space is imperative to the health and wellbeing of residents while promoting the value of the countryside.

Stapenhill Parish Council, Staffordshire

Stapenhill Parish Council developed a Peace and Unity Garden as a place for quiet reflection. The council worked with staff from the local cemetery to come up with a plan for the design. Local business Litchfield Tarmac was contracted to install the pathway, whilst Staffordshire County Council provided funding from their local community fund for two benches. The garden was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of Burton on 1 July. The council hopes to plant more shrubs, plants, poppies, and wildflowers over the coming year.

St Ippolyts Parish Council, Hertfordshire

St Ippolyts Parish Council owns and manages a variety of open spaces for the enjoyment of all members of the community. This includes Dell Field, a community reserve and children's play area; Gosmore Village Green, which has swings for older children; a recreation Ground with community sports facilities and a children's play area; Broadmeadow Estate Land, which is landscaped with shrubs and trees and St Ippolyts Village Green, which contains two oak trees and a peace seat.

Waltham Parish Council, Yorkshire

Waltham Parish Council supports Waltham Park Bowls Club in the maintenance and upkeep of the local bowling green and surrounding gardens. The council is always looking for new ways to improve the facility and in 2011 jointly funded the purchase of a wooden pavilion. It is now working with the bowls club to add Petanque and Croquet areas within the grounds.

Westerleigh Parish Council, Avon

Westerleigh Parish Council funds a range of wildlife projects in partnership with the Avon Wildlife Trust. Two wildlife habitats have been implemented next to a solar farm to increase biodiversity. An education programme has been set up for primary school children to learn about the need for renewable energy and the impact on the environment, while those in secondary school learn scientific fieldwork techniques. A community engagement scheme includes a guided walk and talks at the project launch, two family events and opportunities for residents to help with monitoring of habitats and species. The agreement with Avon Wildlife Trust also includes management advice on liaising with the landowner to help improve the site for long term ecological benefit.

Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk

Woodbridge Town Council is looking to improve the greenery of the town by planting 250 trees every year; issuing more Tree Preservation Orders; requiring removed trees to be replaced with new ones; by putting preservation order's on trees and hedgerows in the local park; by planting wildflowers and bee-friendly flowers in street verges and, by carrying out a survey of bats in the area.

Windermere Town Council, Cumbria

Windermere Town Council has declared a climate emergency and is implementing strategies to increase the biodiversity of the local woods. As, Windermere Town Council manages thirty acres of woodland and has worked to actively cut back the overgrown and densely packed woods, intending to bring the woodland floor back to life. The bluebells are reviving and clear of small mammals are returning with the sound of birdsong.