



**Buckingham Town Council
Climate Emergency Action Plan Update
March 2021**

At Full Council on the 15th July 2019 Members AGREED:

“That Buckingham Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to encourage Buckingham to become carbon neutral. This will help to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. It is also proposed that Buckingham Town Council also signs up to the Covenant of Mayors to track our progress and link with towns around the world who are cutting emissions. Our aim is to make the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030 and encouraging the town’s population, organisation and businesses to work with us in that aim.”

and for

Local Councils that have declared a climate emergency tend to do so to provide leadership and help educate their communities about both the threat of and solutions to the climate crisis. This should then act to harness “people power” to make that change possible at all levels, especially driving higher levels of government to act and ultimately force them to pull the economic and legislative levers needed to reverse global warming and restore a safe climate.

This action plan sets locally determined actions with measures to deliver the objectives both within the Council and across the town. The actions are measurable with targets that hold the Council to account. This Climate Emergency Action Plan is an overarching pledge that identifies the following priority areas of change:

Objectives

- a) Energy - to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat.
- b) Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.
- c) Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.
- d) Economy, Housing & Waste – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water
- e) Community Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.

Buckingham Town Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

Community Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Update
1.	Creation of a Climate Emergency webpage to enable discussion, idea sharing and extend public awareness of the issues.	Number of visitors per year	Resources Committee	Page created on the Town Council's website and has generated 124 page visits during the last year and, 114 unique page visits. Social media content planning sessions allow for a regular programme of environmental campaigns and initiatives.
2.	Information can be made available in Buckingham library and on notice boards to maximise public awareness and access to information	Number of contacts made	Resources Committee	It is hoped we can arrange something with the Buckingham library, once business return to normal – Autumn 2021.
3.	Encourage practical action by local people through proactive communication campaigns. Consider creation of an impartial local guide that provides information on accredited local energy assessors and renewable energy installers for solar panels, batteries, EV chargers and heat pumps etc.	Number of downloads/copies requested. X per year	TC&E and Environment Committee	To be created following first public meeting (date to be confirmed).
4.	Consultation on the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan refresh will enable		Planning Committee	Consultation to be rolled out in Spring/Summer 2021.

	detailed consultation on the proposed changes.			
5.	Encourage the formation of Local Climate Action Groups.	One formed	Resources Committee	To be created following first public meeting (date to be confirmed).
6.	Host a public meeting on the issue.	One per year	Resources Committee	Delayed by lockdown. In consultation with the Town Council's Climate Champions on a suitable way forward.
Energy - reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
7.	Implement an Energy Audit of all Council buildings, operations and vehicles	Actions implemented	Resources Committee	Carbon footprint Audit providers to be investigated and options to be presented to Resources Committee on the 26 th April 2021.
8.	Change BTC energy provider to renewable/green tariffs	Moved to green tariffs by 2020/21	Environment Committee	Delayed conducting a thorough review until we have the solar panels in place, at least at Lace Hill, as then we may be able to get deals that also cover buyback from the panels.
9.	Offset carbon emissions by planting more trees (whenever possible)	One tree planting project per year	Environment Committee	2020 Tree planting sessions: 12 th March and 7 th November. Tree Planting sessions for Spring 2021 have been postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be an event arranged for Autumn/Winter 2021.

10.	Investigate options for carbon offsetting Town Council event e.g. Bonfire & Fireworks	Publication of carbon offsetting certification for each relevant event	Town Centre & Event Committee	To be investigated as part of the carbon footprint audit – April 2021.
11.	Minimise the climate impact from development and encourage a low carbon economy through our Neighbourhood Development Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a sustainable pattern of development supported by a low carbon transport infrastructure • Promote sustainable design in and in the overall town by interrogating every planning application (large or small) with our developing set of 'zero carbon planning questions' • Protecting against the needless destruction and/or removal of tree from our parish 	% of new builds in the parish to be low carbon properties	Planning Committee	To be considered through consultation on the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan refresh. Consultation to be rolled out in Spring/Summer 2021. Draft design guide prepared which takes account of this.
		% of new builds in the parish to be low carbon properties	Planning Committee	
12.	Install renewable energy generation on Council owned buildings	Installation of Photovoltaic Panels on all the Lace Hill Centre, The Community Centre and the new cemetery building (once constructed).	Full Council and Resources Committee	Quotes are currently being sought for Lace Hill. The Community Centre panels will then be pursued once the current vaccination programme is ended. The new cemetery design will take account of solar and other reusable energy.

Economy, Housing & Waste – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Update
13.	Provide recycling facilities at all Town Council Events.	One bin per event	TC&E Committee	Recycling bins are now being provided at all Town Council events. In particular, noting the success of recycling Biffa bins at Music in the Market & Bandjam.
14.	Work with and support litter picking initiatives around town including the increased promotion of River rinse.	One Town Council event per year in addition to the two river rinses	TC&E Committee	Despite the pandemic a River Rinse still took place. During October the Town Council launched a 'Rubbish Campaign' to encourage residents to conduct individual litter picks, which was covered by national local council press.
	Investigate possibilities of rainwater harvesting for all new town council buildings and use the water for planters and hanging baskets	One per new build (owned by BTC)	Resources Committee	To be considered within the construction design stage of the new cemetery buildings.
15.	Fit water saving devices in all town council owned toilets	One per toilet	Environment Committee	Not possible for Lace Hill and Cornwalls Meadow as the toilets are already low flush cisterns. Estates Manager is conducting audit of Chandos Park toilets to see if water saving devices would be appropriate. Members to consider the promotion of Anglian Water's advice: https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/

16.	Promote the installation of the water bottle refill station in Chandos Park and the national refill initiative	Number of interactions through Social Media	Environment Committee and Resources Committee	COMPLETE Water bottle refill station installed and positively received.
17.	Actions implemented to eliminate the use of single-use plastics within Council offices/buildings and continue to promote Plastic-free Buckingham	No purchases of single use plastics	Resources Committee	The Council no longer purchases single use plastic items for events and for use within its offices. The plastic-free message was promoted as part of the 'Rubbish Campaign' and launch of the water bottle refill station in Chandos Park.
18.	Implement waste education and promotional campaigns	Number of interactions through social media and with groups including schools	Resources Committee	Officers have been continuing to promote what the Council is doing to address climate change. Social media content planning sessions allow for a regular programme of environmental campaigns and initiatives.
19.	Request a carbon footprint of any Town Council investment and seek to reduce this by switching to investments supporting renewable energy projects and eco-enhancements.	Measure and publish low carbon emission certification	Resources Committee	To be considered at Resources Committee 26 th April 2021
20.	Buy local, fair-trade, recycled, plastic free, repairable and sustainable products wherever possible/available.	Consideration of a procurement strategy	Resources Committee	Wherever possible sustainable materials will always be sourced. The most recent example being the 7 new recycled plastic litter bins for the Brackley Road cemetery.
21.	Ask grant applicants to consider the impact on the environment of their project and any steps they can take to mitigate them.		Resources Committee	From 2021/21 each applicant must state how their organisation is working to reduce the environmental impact of their project.

	Members to consider these responses when allocating grant funds.			
Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
22.	Explore more bike parking facilities around the town, including local schools and businesses.	5 more racks by 2021	Planning Committee	Approved applications for: RLS 13 + 6 at the Sports Hall and McDonalds 4 double-sided bike racks. All new development housing has either a shed big enough to house a bike, or (for flats) a room for cycle parking, generally at the rate of 1 per flat: St Rumbolds Fields 398 houses & flats Hamilton site 33 flats + 17 houses.
23.	Consider holding an event that promotes cycling around the town	To be considered on a future agenda of TC&E 2019/20	Town Centre & Events Committee	To be considered at TC&E once business returns to normal and social distancing rules allow for more public events.
24.	Replace BTC owned vehicles and green spaces equipment with suitable electric models when existing petrol, and diesel vehicles come to the end of their usable life, resulting in full replacement with electric vehicles by 2030.	Replace each vehicle at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee	Electric vans (total - two Renault Kangoo) leased in Winter 2019 and Summer 2020. Aim for full replacement of all vehicles with electric alternatives by 2030. Once the new cemetery is up and running there are plan to purchase other electric powered machinery, such as ride-on mowers.

25.	Refurbish and promote the town’s benches to assist walkers to take short rests. Advertise with signs ‘pedestrian friendly town’	Replace each bench at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee	Walking trails regularly promoted via Buxplore along with healthy outdoor activities. Greenspaces team have refurbished or repaired a number of park benches throughout the town and funding has been approved for another 8 benches/picnic tables via the Buckingham & Villages Community Board. Environment Committee Members to discuss whether is it still desirable to pursue signage for a ‘pedestrian friendly town’.
26.	Work with Buckinghamshire Council to extend/ improve cycle/ walking network		Full Council	The Greenspaces Team have maintained walking and cycling routes across BTC land holdings and under agreement with others. The Town Council have provided feedback to Buckinghamshire Council to support the introduction of a cycle scheme between Gawcott and Buckingham via the Emergency Active Travel fund.
27.	Work with Buckinghamshire Council on increasing EV charge points on public land		Full Council	Initial contact has been made with electric vehicle Induction charging company (Char.gy) to identify potential solutions. Chandos Road -street parking is being considered for a piolet project. Buckinghamshire Council have agreed to install 8 charging points in

				Cornwall's Meadow and Western Avenue.
Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
28.	Finalise Flood Plans with local partners	Number of contacts established	Environment & Resources Committee	Additional properties have been added to the list of vulnerable addresses. A number of volunteers have come forward and investigation is underway to determine the appropriate policies, procedures, insurance and training for volunteer flood wardens.
29.	Advise residents on steps to increase resilience	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee	
30.	Promote the community flood warden scheme	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee	Initial meetings have been held between Buckinghamshire Council and the Town Council to discuss how to ensure a coordinated response to future flood plans. Flooding advice has been added to the town council website. All properties at risk will be written to each year with details of the Council's plan and sources of support.
31.	Protect and enhance native species and habitats. Promoting and supporting opportunities for environmental enhancement and regeneration	One environmental campaign per year	Environment Committee	Installation of wildflower boards in Bourton Park to promote the planting of native wildflower species (April 2021).

				Thousands of native Woodland bulbs were planted around Bourton Park in September 2020. Further wildflower planting is planned for 2021.
32.	Support local food production including the provision of more allotments for people to grow their own food.	Number of allotment holders at the new Tingewick Road Allotment site	Full Council	The Town Council continues to signpost new applicants to the Allotment society and is working with Buckinghamshire Council on potential sites for community gardening sites. Plans for the new site will be developed during 2021.
33.	Seek adequate garden space or community spaces for growing food in all future development.	One community space per new development	Full Council and Planning Committee	To be reviewed within the refresh of the NDP
34.	Purchase (where possible) locally produced and fair-trade food for the Council's use and civic events.	All BTC events	Town Centre & Events Committee	Incorporated within planning for all Town Council events.
35.	Review of grass verges and hedges to identify areas to be trimmed less and later in the year to support more wildflowers and insects	To be considered within Greenspaces Strategy and Management Plan for Parks	Environment Committee	The grass cutting plan will be reviewed by Environment Committee in March 2021.
36.	Each year allocate a section of land to be planted with wildflowers.	One per year	Environment Committee	A new section of wildflowers was planted in 2020 in Bourton Park, on the car park side of the river. Plans are in place to 're-wild' sections of verge along the bypass with wildflowers and grasses during 2021.
37.	Plan a new eco-friendlier cemetery to include planting more trees and wildflowers.	Measure and publish plans and low carbon	Environment Committee	Proceeding with the tender process for the first phase of the planning and design of the new cemetery. To

		emission certification		enable this a sustainable design approach is to be taken in all aspects of the new cemetery. In particular; to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat as well as recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water.
38.	Work with the Tree Wardens, in promotion of the Tree Charter.	5 new Tree Wardens signed up per year.	Environment Committee	Following promotion through our website and social media we've have signed up 8 new Tree Wardens during 2020/21. A meeting of the Tree Wardens took place on the 26 th November 2020 and Wardens were tasked with completing Tree Planting Surveys for their local area. Plans are in place to arrange more events once business returns to normal.
39.	Look to legally protect the future of the riverside parks in Buckingham, including Chandos Park, Bourton Park and Heartlands as parkland.	Future agenda of Environment Committee 2019/20	Planning Committee and Environment Committee	To be reviewed following resolution of devolution discussions.