

Bishop's Castle Climate Action Plan 2023

**Bishop's Castle Town Council in partnership with
Lightfoot's Bishop's Castle Climate Action Group
and supported by South Shropshire Climate Action**

[www.https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk](https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk)
[www.https://lightfootenterprises.org/climate-action-group/](https://lightfootenterprises.org/climate-action-group/)
e-mail: climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org

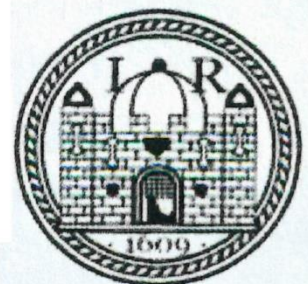


BISHOP'S CASTLE
CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

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Bishop's Castle Town Council



If you're not sure why this is important, here's some sources that will help explain the climate and bio-diversity emergency, here are some sources:-



The most diverse group of organisms on the planet are in trouble, with recent research suggesting insect populations are declining at an unprecedented rate.

<https://www.abbrev.uk/ksfq/>

The *International Panel on Climate Change's* 6th Report, in graphics, not words

<https://www.abbrev.uk/S7T>



An assessment of how nature is doing across the UK, pooling data from 53 nature conservation and research organisations on the state of the UK's flora and fauna.

[State of Nature Report | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)



On the 10th anniversary of the Report, Sir John Lawton and his panel have written to the Prime Minister, acknowledging the impact the Lawton Report has had over the past decade but also noting there has been far too little progress towards the 'more, bigger, better and joined-up spaces for nature' called for in the Report.

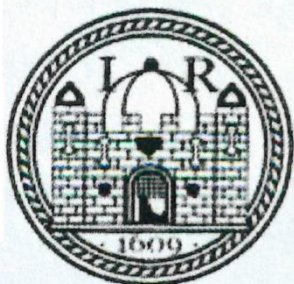
[Making Space for Nature – 10 years on - Natural England \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)



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Record of Changes		
	September 2019	BC Town Council Declare a Climate Emergency
	April 2020	BC Climate Action Plan version 1
	December 2021	BC Climate Action Plan version 2 (Chapter 8: Transport added)
	May 2022	Sustainability Working Group changed to Climate Action Group [CAG]
	February 2023	Draft CAP 2023 version 1 issued for review
	March 2023	Updated draft version 2 issued
	15 August 2023	Town Council approved version 2 with one update
	16 August 2023	BC CAP version 2.1 & Final issued containing updates

BISHOP'S CASTLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, PART 1



Bishop's Castle Mayor's Foreword

It's now just over 2 years since Bishop's Castle's first *Climate Action Plan* was approved by the Town Council in 2020. Our Town has a reputation for being in the vanguard on green issues in south Shropshire, and we are proud that we were one of the first towns in Shropshire to recognise the climate and bio-diversity crisis and put a mitigation plan in place.

A lot has happened since 2020 (not enough, some would say), and our *Climate Action Group* partners have updated the plan to reflect the changed circumstances.

Whilst the onus is on National Government to lead through legislation and international cooperation, building local resilience is a crucial step in helping to mitigate the emergency. It's essential that we all play our part in reducing our carbon footprint, improving bio-diversity and helping to create a greener and healthier future for the planet and all its inhabitants.

This Action Plan lists some of the steps we as a community have taken over the last 2 years and what more we need to do. As well as community and personal initiatives, it contains actions for the Town Council to take. By pursuing these, the Town Council intends to show our commitment to setting an example on tackling this existential issue.

Josh Dicken
Mayor
Bishop's Castle
February 2023

Introduction

When the first BC Climate Action Plan [CAP] was approved by the Town Council in June 2020, it was addressing the Climate and Biodiversity crises. As we update the CAP two years later, we now have to confront the Energy and Food crises and the accompanying impact on the community's wellbeing. Russia's invasion of Ukraine didn't trigger the Energy crisis but did seriously worsen it. (The UK's energy prices are now the highest in the world at 34p per kWh.) Any worthwhile outcomes from last year's COP26 in Glasgow, particularly the need to keep fossil fuels in the ground, have been overtaken by the subsequent "carbon bomb" projects planned by the oil and gas companies' rush to re-open gas and oil-fields, and even coal mines. Higher energy costs have also impacted on the Food crisis in terms of fertiliser and fuel costs for commercial-scale agriculture.

Little progress was made at COP27 in Egypt, which was over-run by Fossil Fuel lobbyists, and the President for COP28, in the UAE later this year, is the Chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company! Meanwhile the Guardian's reports on the COP15 bio-diversity crisis meeting in Montreal said "the 23 targets in the Cop15 biodiversity agreement announced in Montreal on Monday are insufficient to prevent further irrecoverable losses, including among the many species threatened with extinction."

The National Association of Local Councils [NALC Climate Report [Climate change \(nalc.gov.uk\)](http://nalc.gov.uk)] says that:-

- "Only 24% of Councils are working on renewable energy;
- 16% are working on energy efficiency;
- 15% are generating their own renewable energy and
- 12% operating a community fridge.

"This suggests that councils are less aware of actions towards carbon reduction in energy generation, consumption and food."

According to government data, Shropshire gets nearly all its energy from fossil fuels. "In Shropshire 7,000 homes a year need insulation upgrades by 2035. 702 heat pumps should be installed each year to meet 2030 targets." [FoE: Near You: Shropshire (takeclimateaction.uk)].

Figure 1 below shows carbon emissions in Bishop's Castle greatly exceed the per-household footprint for England. Renewable energy could reduce this by <32%.

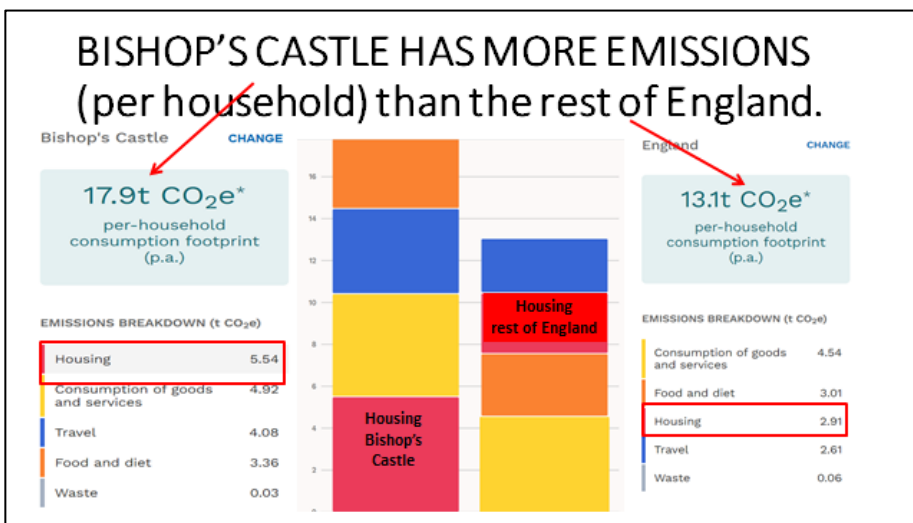


Figure 1: Bishop's Castle Carbon Footprint comparison

Transport is responsible for 37% of Shropshire's climate-wrecking emissions [SSCA's Climate Plan]. Shropshire Council needs to do all it can to encourage residents to travel by cycle, e-bikes and walking, as well as public transport, in order to lower emissions and improve air quality. Instead it is committed to spending large sums on the North West Relief Road.

There have been some important successes to report since the 2020 CAP came out. These include:-

- Town Council's funding of the 'Going Wild in BC' initiative;
- The opening of *Walter's Workshop*, a Repair Café in Enterprise House;
- Purchase of the 'Stars' newsagents by BC CLT to serve as a *Community Hub* and affordable housing when refurbished'
- Town Council's prioritization of the '15 Transport Asks' (para.8.8);
- Installations of *Electric Vehicle Charging Points*;
- Opening of the *BC Community Seed Bank*;
- Production of a *Local Food Strategy* and Action Plan (the first by any Council in the county).
- Lightfoot Enterprises reintroduction of their *Household Energy Surveys*;
- Recycling of IT equipment initiative at Enterprise House;
- Bishop's Castle *Freegle* site continuing help in re-cycling surplus items (statsⁱ
- BC's Parish Path's Partnership on-going repair and maintenance of our local footpaths
- CAG's input to the draft *Neighbourhood Plan* & response to its *Community Consultation*;
- The Town Council's commitment to climate action activities. (See Section 1A below.)

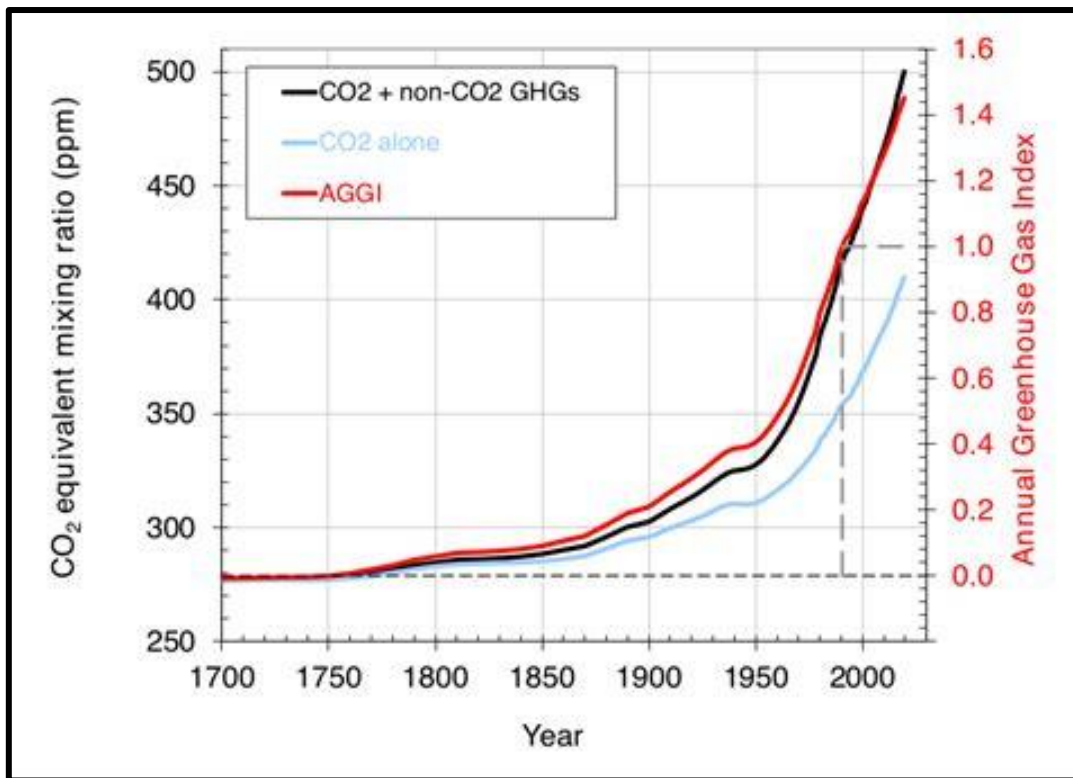
There have also been some disappointments, in particular the *Community Heat Network* which, despite receiving the approval of our Community has been unable to get the Town Council's agreement for inclusion in BC's draft *Neighbourhood Development Plan [NDP]*. The initiative is still being pursued but its absence from the NDP as a policy statement makes this a more difficult approach. (Worth recording that this is the 3rd attempt at delivering a renewable energy project in BC.)

Whilst it's important to recognize that most of the Climate Emergency problems are caused by large corporations and by the 'One Percent' of wealthy people, it's very easy to become despondent at our personal inability to make a significant impact on these existential problems, so it's perhaps worth noting the NALC's *Climate Report's*ⁱⁱ comment that:-

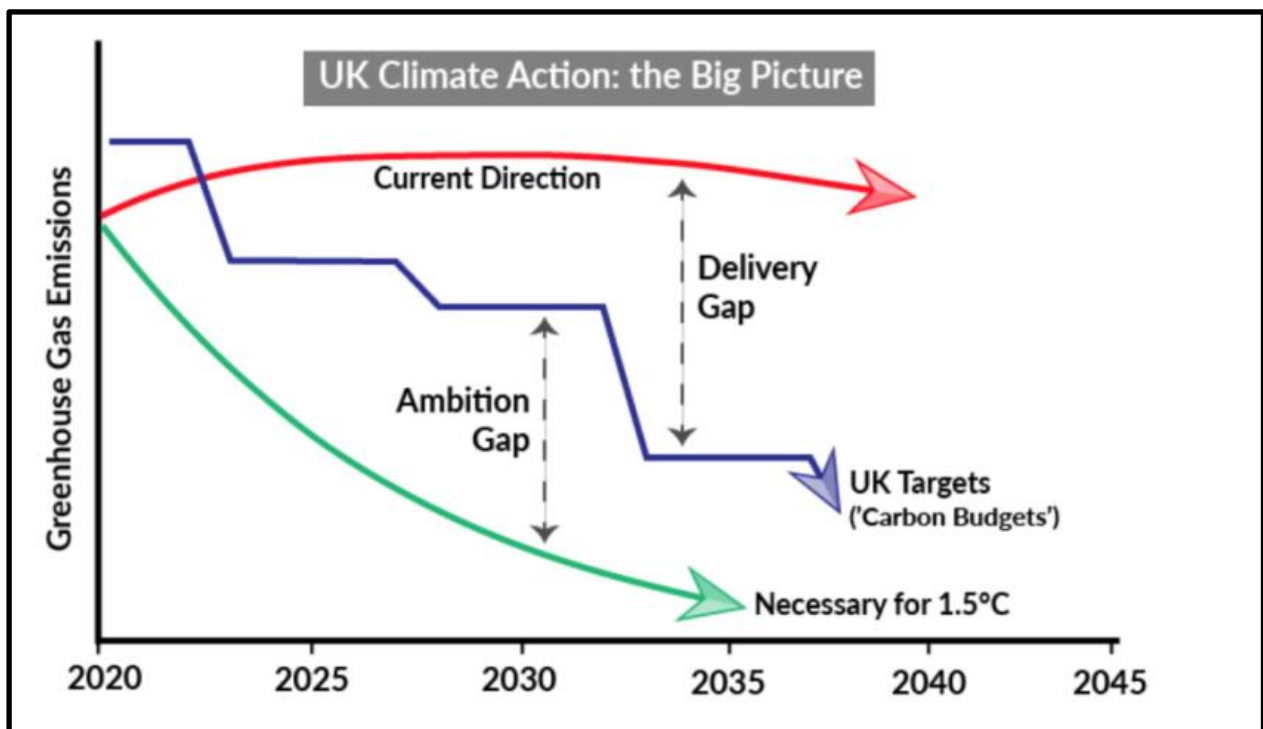
"A recent report from New Local highlights the importance of local action in the face of national and international inaction, emphasising the need to conceive of climate change as a series of local problems rather than one single global issue. By taking on small actions, communities that work together can bring about significant change overall."

To this end, this report contains suggested actions we can undertake as individuals, as well as actions the Town Council, the BC Climate Action Group and the Community together can pursue.

NB: To reduce the cost of printing this document, we have split it into 2 parts: Part 1 includes all the Actions and ideas we've identified, and Part 2 contains the Sections with the supporting details and further ideas for actions.



The Problem: CO₂ increases over the centuries



What we're doing about it!

Section 1: Actions

A. Town Council Action Plan

Net Zero by 2030!

Action #1 is based on a questionnaire our Town Councillors recently completed. which asked them to give a priority score for different actions. The questionnaire is adapted from the *South Shropshire Climate Action Town Council Emergency Action Plan*. [For scoring details see Endnote hereⁱⁱⁱ]

No.	Town Council Climate Actions	Year	Comment
1	<p>I. Publicise BCTC commitment to mitigating climate change;</p> <p>II. Create a climate emergency page on the BCTC website;</p> <p>III. Encourage litter picking;</p> <p>IV. Review litter bin locations and types;</p> <p>V. Undertake a Carbon Footprint Audit on all Council activities;</p> <p>VI. Reduce carbon footprint of Town Council Activities;</p> <p>VII. Hold paperless Council meetings;</p> <p>VIII. Encourage a long-term approach to tree planting and identification for bulk planting;</p> <p>IX. Report quarterly against the plan;</p> <p>X. Add climate emergency references to all new contract specifications and tenders and add to evaluation process;</p> <p>XI. Town Council to ensure its electricity supplier is 100% renewable;</p> <p>XII. Encourage contractors to have ‘zero to landfill’ policies;</p> <p>XIII. Ensure use of peat-free compost;</p> <p>XIV. Investigate the requirements of emergency planning for extreme events;</p> <p>XV. Undertake a Town annual carbon footprint audit.</p> <p><i>[No.V See Endnote for scope of Town Council carbon audit^{iv}</i></p>	<p>1. 1</p> <p>ii. 1</p> <p>iii. 1</p> <p>iv. 1</p> <p>v. 1</p> <p>vi. 2&3</p> <p>vii. 2</p> <p>viii. 2</p> <p>ix. 1</p> <p>x. 2</p> <p>xi. 2</p> <p>xii. 2</p> <p>xiii. 2</p> <p>xiv. 3</p> <p>xv. 1</p>	<p>v) Underway</p> <p>xv) Yr 1 shown in CAP</p> <p><u>Category</u> = Leadership & Carbon Reduction</p>
2	BCTC [BC Town Council] will agree and publish a general policy on how it will respond in future to planning applications and other schemes (e.g transport/highways/sewage) to ensure that new applications do not increase carbon emissions in the Town. The proposed new Co-op building will provide an excellent opportunity for doing this.	Year 1	Comparison with Carbon emission baseline and subsequent measurements. <u>Category</u> = Leadership
3	BCTC will commission the BC Community Partnership’s CAG to get an idea of our Town’s carbon footprint and to propose targets for the Town to reduce its collective carbon emissions.	Year 1	2021 CAP Baseline <u>Category</u> = Carbon Reduction
4	BCTC will press for changes to ensure that all planning applications are amended to minimise carbon emissions and other impacts on the environment/climate	Year 1	<u>Category</u> = Carbon Reduction

No.	Town Council Climate Actions	Year	Comment
5	BCTC will continue to track Shropshire Council's climate actions to see if they contain ideas to be adopted https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-climate-action/what-have-we-achieved/policies-strategies-and-guides/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/	Year 2	CAG to produce monthly Councillor briefings. <u>Category</u> = Continuous Improvements
6	BCTC will commission the CAG to undertake a <i>Climate and Environmental Impact Assessment</i> to identify the range of possible impacts on, and opportunities for, our community and prepare local scenarios.	Year 2	Some overlap with #3 <u>Category</u> = Continuous Improvements
7	BCTC will encourage Shropshire Council to join the Rapid Transition Alliance (a coalition of councils and other organisations working to make rapid, transformative changes to prevent climate breakdown and create the conditions for people to thrive together). (And confirm SC is a member of the <i>National Association of Local Councils</i>).	Year 1	<u>Category</u> = Lobbying
8	BCTC will press Shropshire Council to stop using neonicotinoid pesticides which are responsible for serious decline in the insect population (including bees and other pollinators) AND glyphosate herbicides (like Roundup – carcinogenic and dangerous to the insect population). [NB: currently Shropshire Council uses both].	Year 2	<u>Category</u> = Lobbying
9	BCTC will press Shropshire Council to support and implement – through its own obligations, actions and influence externally – sustainable economic growth (i.e. an approach that sustains the local economy and ecology, conserves natural heritage, resources and biodiversity and results in minimal carbon footprint). This should include:- 1) first, defining and then supporting sustainable tourism and, 2) implementing an effective and efficient local transport network for residents and tourists alike.	Year 3	<u>Category</u> = Lobbying
10	BCTC will encourage Shropshire Council to initiate a county-wide project to improve management of the county's rivers/streams to reduce pollution, improve water quality, increase biodiversity and limit the impact of flooding (and the take-up of 'grey water' storage)	Year 2	<u>Category</u> = Lobbying
11	BCTC will press Shropshire Council to launch an Ecological programme to support and extend sustainable and regenerative agriculture, reduce pollution and reliance on chemical pesticides, restore soil quality, grow more food locally.	Year 3	<u>Category</u> = Lobbying
12	BCTC will support the CAG's objective of community land acquisition to use for health and welfare and food-growing purposes	Year 3	

B. Personal Actions

2.1. The UK government is legally committed to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and local councils (including Shropshire Council and Bishop's Castle Town Council) have formally recognised that a Climate and Bio-diversity Crisis exists and are committed to reaching net carbon zero by 2030. While the most important carbon reduction measure will have to be taken by central governments, individuals can make significant contributions which will, in some cases, also save them money. The table below contains some ideas for what we can do as individuals to make a contribution.

No	Personal Actions	Category	Review outcome
1	Do a household energy audit and calculate your building's carbon footprint <i>How? https://lightfootenterprises.org/carbon-calculator//</i>	Carbon Reduction	Send results for Town-wide collection to: climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org
2	Switch to a green electrical supply <i>How? Compare Green Energy Suppliers (simplyswitch.com)</i>	Carbon Reduction	Share your experiences
3	Reduce holiday flying to nil/once per year <i>Check: Eco-friendly travel (reduce / avoid flying) - EcoTracker</i>	Carbon Reduction	
4	Reduce household energy consumption <i>Check: Consumption & Resources Zero Carbon Shropshire</i>	Carbon Reduction	Share your experiences
5	Don't eat beef or lamb more than one/twice a week <i>Check: A Beginner's Guide To Eating Less Meat — REDUCETARIAN FOUNDATION</i>	Food	
6	Consider adopting a vegetarian or vegan diet https://ourworldindata.org/food-choice-vs-eating-local https://ourworldindata.org/less-meat-or-sustainable-meat	Food	
7	Reduce car use, walk, cycle or use public transport more <i>E-mail townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk to ask for action on local bus network linking BC to Craven Arms [and Church Stretton], and for new cycle-ways as in CAP's Transport section</i>	Transport	Let us know what changes you have made, problems, etc
8	Reduce purchases of new clothing <i>Check: How can we reduce our Fashion Environmental Impact — SustainYourStyle</i>	Waste	
9	Buy local, seasonal produce whenever possible <i>Check: GOOD FOOD MAP SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD</i>	Food & Waste	Let us know what issues you may have met
10	For people with wood-burners, store wood & burn stoves efficiently Check: https://lightfootenterprises.org/information-hub/	Pollution	Need to find an affordable moisture meter
11	Recycle IT and smartphones <i>Check: Recycle IT & phones Lightfoot Enterprises</i>	Waste	
12	Make sure your home is well insulated <i>To ask for a Lightfoot Home Energy Survey, E-mail jeremy@lightfootenterprises.org</i> <i>Check: https://www.expertsure.com/ultimate-guide-to-energy-efficient-home</i>	Carbon Reduction	
13	Support local renewable community energy projects <i>Contact: climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org</i>	Renewable Energy	BC Community Heat Network
14	Walters Shed (Repair workshop at Enterprise House) https://www.facebook.com/waltersbcworkshop	Waste	

No	Personal Actions	Category	Review outcome
15	Grow your own vegetables (use the BC Seed Bank) <i>General 2 — Little Woodbatch Market Garden</i>	Food	Problems? Need land to grow? Contact us
16	Surplus fruit or veg? Let us glean and share it with others (e.g Foodbank) Contact climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org	Food & Waste	
17	Install solar/thermal panels and ground or air-source heat pumps Check: <i>Energy Advice at Home – Marches Energy Agency</i> (mea.org.uk)	Carbon Reduction	
18	Try to avoid buying plastic and recycle any you do buy (use BC Co-op's plastic recycling bin) Check: <i>Recycling tips Shropshire Council</i>	Waste	
19	If you're buying a car or bike: make it an electric one Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Buy an Electric Vehicle (nexusautotransport.com)	Carbon Reduction	
20	Compost your vegetable waste and soft garden cuttings Check: <i>How to home compost Shropshire Council</i>	Waste	
21	Reduce, store & re-use water Check: <i>Keeping you updated Severn Trent Water</i> (stwater.co.uk)	Waste	
22	Check what the pollution level is where you live addresspollution.org	Pollution	
23	'Take the Jump', 6 shifts you can take to protect the earth Take the Jump	All aspects	
24	Give up car ownership – join BC's Car-Share club Contact climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org	Pollution	

C. Climate Action Group Actions

No.	Action	Who	With help from	Comments
1	Assist TC's planning applications' carbon emissions measurements (Town Council Action 2)	CAG	SC SSCA NALC	Await TC approval of CAP actions
2	Carry-out a carbon footprint of the Town and propose means of reduction for the TC. (Town Council Action 3)	CAG	SC SSCA NALC	Await TC approval of CAP actions then produce a Year 1 measurement
3	Undertake a Climate & Environmental Impact Assessment for the TC. (Town Council Action 6)	CAG	SC SSCA NALC	Await TC approval of CAP actions
4	Explore means of progressing Section 3 Food & Water actions	CAG	SGFP	
5	Continue delivering the 'Going Wild in BC' project's Stage 2	CAG	RSVP CFGF	
6	Continue progressing the 'Community Heat Network'	CAG	Shareenergy	
7	Seek funding for Heat Network Household Energy Surveys	Lightfoot	MEA	
8	Explore ways of progressing the Section 8 Transport Actions	CAG	SSCA	
9	Continue pursuing Electric Vehicle Charging Points	CAG		
10	Test local support for a car sharing scheme	CAG	Ludlow Carshare	
11	Maintain BC Freegle	CAG	Mediators	
12	Continuously monitor & update CAP	CAG	Editing sub-group	
13	Explore Community Food Assessment initiative	CAG		
14	Set-up 3 Carbon Watcher groups	Lorraine	New	
15	Check NDP building standards (Passivehaus?)	CAG	NALC	
16	Explore Citizens' Jury on Climate & Bio-diversity	CAG	BTCT	
17	Assist TC in organizing an 'Environment Day'	CAG	BCTC	
18	Explore community land acquisition	CAG	BCTC	

Section 2: Future Community initiatives

Work on these ideas and initiatives will be dependent upon suitable opportunities arising and CAG having sufficient resources. More ideas and details are contained in Sections 3 – 8 in Part B of this Report.

Ideas for Food & Water actions (see section 3 for more ideas)				
No.	Idea	Led by	Helped by	Record
1	To proactively build up the community's food resilience by establishing a <i>Local Food Council</i> [LFC]	BC CAG	Shropshire Good Food Partnership [SGFP]	
3	Explore community growing initiatives including education and training for growing at home	CAG/LFC	SGFP	
4	Reduce or re-use surplus food	CAG/LFC	'Too Good to Go' 'Olio' SGFP	
5	Introduce a Community Fridge/Larder	CAG/LFC	Food Bank BC CLT	
6	Establish a Gleaning team	CAG/LFC		
7	Encourage and support more home-growing	CAG/LFC	Seed Bank	
8	Establish a community garden space	CAG/LFC		
9	Set-up a Community Composting facility	CAG/LFC		
10	Food choice audit	CAG	SGFP	
11	Continue to support the BC Food Bank	CAG/LFC		
Ideas for Transforming our Green Spaces (see Section 4 for more ideas)				
No.	Idea	Led by	Helped By	Record
1	Increase wild flower and animal habitat.	'Going Wild in BC'	Land owners BCTC /CGFY	Underway (Land Management Plans)
2	Encourage take up of the <i>Restoring Shropshire Verges Project</i> [RSVP]	'Going Wild in BC'	RSVP	Underway
3	Encourage pesticide free town.	'Going Wild in BC'	BCTC	Underway
4	Lobby Shropshire Council to remove Glyphosate from use in Shropshire	BCTC		BCTC Action Plan
5	Produce a Bishop's Castle	'Going Wild in		Underway

	Green Spaces map	BC'		
6	Organise a community composting scheme, and encourage home composting	Climate Action Group [CAG]		Location available but insufficient resources
7	Encourage the planting and management of hedgerows	'Going Wild in BC'		Underway
8	Encourage the installation of water barrel to harvest rainwater	CAG		
9	Encourage installation of bird, bat, and hedgehog boxes	'Going Wild in BC'		Underway
10	Encourage the avoidance of peat-based garden products	'Going Wild in BC'		Underway
11	Encourage residents to allow an area of garden to go 'wild'	'Going Wild in BC'		Underway
12	Encourage tree, hedge & wildflower planting	'Going Wild in BC'		Underway

Ideas for reducing Consumption and Waste

(See Section 5 for more ideas)

No.	Idea	Led by	Helped by	Record
1	Encourage Zero Waste Events – events asking for a grant should be encouraged to say how they are working towards zero waste events.	BCTC		
2	Encourage a clothes swap – up cycling workshop for fashion, etc	CAG		
3	Promote the Bishop's Castle Freegle site	CAG		Underway
4	Persuade Shropshire Council to introduce a Tetracycle recycling scheme	BCTC	CAG	
5	Advertise Enterprise House's IT re-cycling & Walter's Workshop initiatives	CAG		Underway

Ideas for reducing Energy demand

(See Section 6 for more ideas)

No.	Idea	Led By	Helped by	Record
1	Deliver Community Heat Network	CAG	Sharenergy	Underway
2	Carry-out Home Energy Surveys	Lightfoot	MEA	Underway

Ideas for improving Transport

(See Section 8 for more details)

No.	Idea	Led By	Helped by	Record
-	Encourage the adoption of area-wide/all residential streets default 20mph speed limits	CAG	BCTC	
2	Explore the creation of new footpath and cycleways to Lydham, Churchstoke, Clun and Craven Arms.	BCTC	CAG	
3	Influence SC's Local Transport Plan through supporting the work of the South Shropshire Climate Action group, in particular its detailed Transport report's plan for a fully-Integrated Bus and Train network	BCTC	CAG / SCCA	
4	Nominate Cycle and Walking Champions	BCTC	CAG	
5	Press for a circular bus service connecting Bishop's Castle & Craven Arms giving residents in BC a bus to the train station.	CAG	BCTC	

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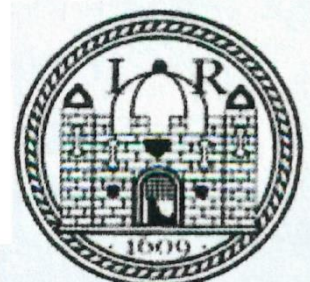
[www.https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk](https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk)
[www.https://lightfootenterprises.org/climate-action-group/](https://lightfootenterprises.org/climate-action-group/)
e-mail: climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org

BISHOP'S CASTLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN - PART 2



**BISHOP'S CASTLE
CLIMATE ACTION GROUP**

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Section 3: - Food and Water



3.1. Supporting local food production

An important part of our journey to carbon neutrality is around food – the food we eat, how and where it is produced, and how it gets to our table. Agriculture contributes substantially to our total carbon emissions, but most of the food we eat comes from much further afield, contributing to transport-related carbon emissions too.

There are additional problems around how food is grown and produced, and the impact that agriculture can have on soil, water, and wildlife. When we consider that 10 million tons of food is wasted nationally every year, while some people in our constituency live in food poverty, relying on help from the BC Foodbank. It is clear that food offers the potential for transformational change. Whilst we have thriving Farmers' Markets in Bishop's Castle and Lydham, we need to do more to localise food production: making local food accessible and affordable to local people, through community growing initiatives, community support for agriculture, and making use of surplus food that would otherwise be wasted. In growing food together and supporting our local producers, we also 'grow' our community's cohesion and, importantly, local resilience. Local food projects will also help facilitate a just transition to a zero carbon future, in which no one gets left behind. We should also be aware that a lot of the younger generation is adopting vegetarian or vegan diets for ethical reasons, and many argue that we need to move towards plant-based diets to feed the world and reduce carbon emissions.

3.2. The *Committee on Climate Change* calculated that agriculture in the UK is responsible for 10% of economy-wide emissions. However, direct emissions from agriculture are only part of the picture. To understand the full impact of food and farming, we have to account for the contributions of the food system in:-

- Processing and packaging
- Waste
- Transportation and Refrigeration (When estimates are extended to include emissions from the wider food chain, they increase to around 20% of UK emissions.)
- Land-use change overseas: the deforestation and cultivation of pasture for production of commercial commodity crops and animal feeds that the UK consumes. (Up to 70% of deforestation results from growing commercial food crops, such as soy, maize, sugar cane and palm oil). Such food is often produced to lower worker standards, and has impacts on the individuals and communities where food is produced.

3.3. What we can do as a Community?

- 3.3.1 To find out more about our local food needs we could carry-out an **'Audit of Food Choices'**. A questionnaire circulated in the Town Newsletter, with an on-line equivalent, could be used to identify food choices local people make. This might include dietary choices (meat, vegetarian or vegan), preferences for organic food, buying locally produced products, reliance on pre-prepared meals, supermarkets (including home delivered), growing your own, eating out/take a way etc.
- 3.3.2. It would also be useful to understand what barriers may prevent an individual from adopting a lower Green House Gases [GHG] approach to food choices: such as cost, availability, or lack of confidence in preparing unprocessed foods.
- 3.3.3. To encourage and improve the availability of locally-grown food we could make use of, (and input details of new local suppliers to) the *Shropshire Good Food Partnership's 'Good Food Map'* *GOOD FOOD MAP / SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD.*
- 3.3.4. Set-up an online local **'Produce Marketplace'** to serve as a platform from which to inform our community about how their food is grown and produced, to celebrate seasonal produce and local producers that have adopted organic, regenerative agricultural practices. We could explore Community sign-up to Olio <https://web.olioex.com>.
- 3.3.5. **Improved routes to market.** Explore how to provide more frequent outlets for local producers, which would create a more reliable income stream and encourage more producers to sell locally rather than out of the region.
- 3.3.6. Introduce a **Community Fridge** to provide a store for surplus food.
- 3.3.7. Set-up a **Community Composting** facility.
- 3.3.8. Establish a **'Pick & Share' team** to help pick surplus fruit and vegetables for sharing and to prevent waste.
- 3.3.9. Encourage publicly-funded organisations to keep public money circulating in the local economy by supporting local and community-owned food businesses.
- 3.3.10. Develop a **cookbook** of favourite, seasonal recipes using locally available food.

3.5. What we can do as individuals ?

- 3.5.1. Try to avoid buying **air-freighted food**. For the climate, air-freighted food is a disaster. The CO₂ emissions of transporting one ton of food for one mile is roughly: 25g by train, 48g by boat, 297g by lorry and 1,527g by plane. However, for some crops, such as Spanish tomatoes, it's creates less carbon importing them than growing them in heated UK polytunnels.
- 3.5.2. As much as possible **Reduce food waste** One-third of the food produced worldwide is thrown away. This means wasted CO₂ from production and extra methane from landfill. Wasted food is also bad for your finances. Save money and emissions by shopping carefully, cooking up leftovers, storing food properly, freezing it where appropriate, and giving away any excess. In the United Kingdom, 8.3 million tons of food is wasted by households each year. About 10% of food thrown away is still wrapped and in-date. Some supermarkets, e.g the Co-op, are removing 'sell-by' dates and replacing them with 'best before', to encourage commonsense in deciding foods' edibility.
- 3.5.3. We all throw away uneaten food every day: mouldy bread, off milk, rotting vegetables, black bananas, scraps from our plates. This wasted food is doubly bad for the climate. First, the CO₂e released through producing that food has gone to waste; with 30% of global greenhouse emissions coming from food growing and processing, that's a serious problem. Second, most of that food waste goes straight to landfill or the Battlefield incinerator. Decomposition from landfill produces methane, a major greenhouse gas. Wasted food is also pretty bad for your family finances. Why buy something just to throw it away unused?
- 3.5.4. **Buy locally-produced** food. Find a source near to home, a Farmers' Market, community supported agriculture scheme or your own garden.

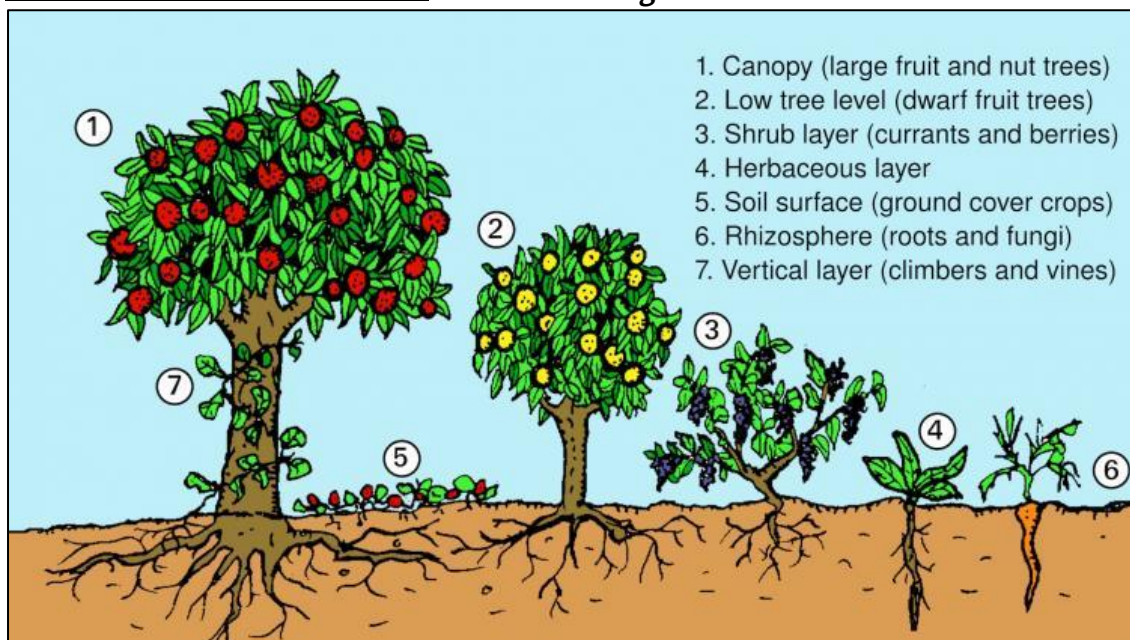
- 3.5.5. Join a **vegetable box scheme**.
- 3.5.6. **Grow more** fruit and vegetables in your garden. (Get seeds from the BC Seed Bank).
- 3.5.7. **Get an allotment** on the Town Council's Love Lane site
[<http://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk/allotments/>]
- 3.5.8. Buy and use a local, **seasonal** cookbook.
- 3.5.9. **Support local growers** when choosing your perennial plants.
- 3.5.10. Transform an under-used community area into a **forest garden** (see diagram below)
- 3.5.11. *Support schemes that make use of waste food in your community (help us set-up a **Community Fridge**, **Join our Pick & Share team**, or let us know if you have surplus fruit & vegetables)*

The Shropshire Good Food Partnership's Mission is to bring people together to create a local food system which is good for people, place and the planet.

To support the work of organisations across the county, catalyse new initiatives and collaborations, and enable joined-up, innovative thinking to improve access to good food, and reimagine land stewardship.

To find out more go to: *Shropshire good food | Shropshire Good Food Partnership | England*

Forest Gardening



Section 4: Transforming Our Green Spaces

4.1. Most of the media have covered a recent report saying that ***Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years*** – and the consequences may soon be catastrophic. A recent headline read “*Insect apocalypse poses risk to all life on Earth*”, and quotes scientists saying that insects are essential for all ecosystems, as pollinators, food for other creatures, and recyclers of nutrients. The “unnoticed insect apocalypse” should set alarm bells ringing, without a halt there will be profound consequences for humans and all life on Earth.”

4.2. Green spaces make us feel better, mentally and physically. They help us to feel part of nature. We are well placed here in south Shropshire for many of our children and young people to develop a deep knowledge and love of nature. But, for them to have the opportunity, the degradation of our environment must be reversed.

4.3. There are a host of reports telling us that insect populations can be rescued by introducing firm targets to cut pesticide use and making urban parks and gardens more wildlife friendly. This is our Town and our beautiful Countryside and we, the present generation, are the

trustees. We have a responsibility for protecting our environment, both for reasons of survival and to ensure our children have a chance to know and experience the wonders of the natural world as we have done.

4.4. Some activities have already taken place, such as the ‘bee café’ by the Town Hall, the insect-friendly flower garden in the Playing Fields, and the wildflowers planted on the crossroads below the Community College by the *Restore Shropshire Verges Project*.

4.5. The ‘Going Wild in BC’ initiative is encouraging our community to adopt practices to help, such as ‘No Mow May’, circulating information leaflets, and will soon be distributing wildflower seeds via the Seed Bank, as well as carrying-out a series of events and talks to publicise and inform.

4.5. The project has also produced a **Bishop’s Castle Green Spaces** map which identifies land under the control of community bodies, e.g. County Council, Town Council, Enterprise House, Community College, Churches, Industrial park, etc. ‘Management Plans’ to adapt the land to attract more wildlife have been produced for some of these areas, such as the Castle Land and the Community College.

4.6. ‘Going Wild in BC’ is hoping to expand by seeking funding for a full-time co-ordinator. Amongst the many objectives are the following:-

- Increase wild plant and animal habitat, promote planting of pollinator-friendly flowers, shrubs, trees and grasses where residents and visitors can find rest, pleasure and recreation close to wildlife; create a tree planting initiative in local schools & NHS / Care Home sites for example
- Create wildlife havens in public spaces that will encourage gardeners to join in this Nature Recovery program;
- Encourage take up of RSVP project (Restoring Shropshire’s Verges project);
- Plant herbs, fruit trees and other edible plants;
- Endeavour to become a pesticide-free town, removing less desirable plants manually, and accepting most plants which we have come to call ‘weeds’ as an essential part of our Natural Landscape;
- Lobby Shirehall to stop using Glyphosate across Shropshire (‘Roundup’)
- Encourage the clearance of litter, and be mindful of the dangers of plastic waste, including micro-plastic waste, to all species as well as ourselves;
- Prevent pollution, particularly of water;
- Improve soil health;
- Plant and manage new woodland to soak-up carbon dioxide and alleviate flooding risks;
- Plant and manage new hedgerows and reduce the cutting of young trees in them;
- Establish wildlife corridors;
- Organise a community compost scheme.
- Engage and involve schools



4.8. Create and manage new woodland

Wood is 50% carbon, so trees are a great carbon store. Their respiration also converts CO₂ into oxygen. They build soil, stabilise local climates, help wildlife, and provide food and wood. They are great for birds, insects, mammals, soil, air quality and micro-climates and, importantly, trees benefit our physical and mental well-being. They are an essential component of the ‘wood wide web’.

For all these reasons, we all need to value the trees more and look to increasing the number in all

appropriate spaces. It's important that trees are managed after they have been planted. More trees means more protection from rain and flood, and more shade from the hot sun, as well as more wildlife in foliage and branches. Small trees may be more suitable than large in many urban spaces, and fruit and nut trees are frequently ideal, offering the benefit of food for townsfolk as well as for animals and birds.

4.10. Domestic Nature Recovery Programme

Gardens are a vital source for shelter and food for insects and birds, some claim they are often more important than our increasingly denuded countryside. A key resource is the soil in our gardens. Soil is the world's second largest carbon sink (after the oceans). The healthier the soil, the more carbon it can store. Soil health can be improved by feeding organisms in the soil, protecting soil from erosion, avoiding pesticides, providing permanent leaf cover, and reducing tillage and soil disturbance.

Here are some nature-beneficial activities that all gardeners can take up:-

- 4.10.1. Plant a tree for shade, fruit and biodiversity;
- 4.10.2. Plant a wide range of flowering plants, shrubs, herbs and wildflowers;
- 4.10.3. Make compost, to reduce waste and help build soil health;
- 4.10.4. Avoid peat-based garden products;
- 4.10.5. Weed manually, stop using pesticides;
- 4.10.6. Install bird, insect and hedgehog boxes;
- 4.10.7. Allow an area of the garden to go 'wild';
- 4.10.8. Install a pond.
- 4.10.9. Support 'Going Wild in BC' and join a local organisations such as:-
 - [Mid-Marches Community Land Trust](https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/) [<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>]
 - [Shropshire Hills AONB](https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/), [<https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/>]
 - [Shropshire Wildlife Trust](https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/) [<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/>]
 - [Carding Mill Valley & The Long Mynd National Trust](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill-valley-and-the-long-mynd). [<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill-valley-and-the-long-mynd>]
 - [RSVP \[Return Shropshire's Verges Project\]](#) is re-introducing wildflowers to our verges. [Restoring Shropshire Verges | Middle Marches Community Land Trust](#)

Section 5: Reducing Consumption and Waste

5.1. There are a lot of actions being undertaken by the Town Council, in partnership with the BC Climate Action Group. There is only so much that can be done by such small numbers of Councillors and volunteers, but here's some further actions that, when time and resources allow, could be pursued to tackle Consumption and Waste?

- 5.1.1. Introduce an Environmental Purchasing Policy - to have regard to the environmental consequences of all purchases. e.g. always to use recycled paper.
- 5.1.2. Ensure printer is default set to double sided printing.
- 5.1.3. Monitor what waste is produced within the Town Hall.
- 5.1.4. What waste recycling takes place in contracts placed by the Council? Check suitable wording for the future.
- 5.1.5. Introduce a check on the energy requirements of the Town Hall and any other Council buildings (e.g public toilets) to spot if any excess spikes are observed (this is being done as part of the Town Council's audit of their carbon footprint).

5.2. What can the Town Council encourage the community to do?

5.2.2. Support the setting up of a community tool pool project and skills-sharing workshops.

5.2.3. Encourage Zero Waste Events – any events asking for a grant should be encouraged to say how they are working towards zero waste events. e.g. The fledging plans for Michaelmas Fair

5.2.4. Encourage a clothes swap – up cycling workshop for fashion, etc

5.2.5. Promote the Bishop’s Castle Freegle site

5.3. What influence on others can the Town Council have?

5.3.1. Persuade Shropshire Council to introduce a Tetracycle recycling scheme, exploring the TerraCycle box schemes, which supply blister packs for toothpaste tubes and other items that are not currently recycled. https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/zero_waste_boxes.

5.3.2. Consider investigating with Shropshire Council – waste bins that have a recycling element to them

Section 6: Reducing Energy Demand and Producing Our Own Clean Energy



6.1. Currently 30% of electricity in the UK is from renewable sources and the Government target is for at least 50% by 2030. Therefore, each Town and Parish council should be aiming to generate 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Our direct energy demand (i.e. excluding consumption) is roughly equivalent to 16.7 million tonnes of CO₂e equivalent per annum. This calculation only covers our domestic heating, power and private transport demands, excluding commercial activities. If resources are forthcoming, BC CAG will be promoting projects to help reach carbon neutrality in each of these areas. These will focus on facilitating and promoting the following:-

- 6.1.1. the reduction of our household energy and power demands;
- 6.1.2. switching our sources of energy from fossil fuels to renewables;
- 6.1.3. encouraging the reduction of emissions of CO₂ and methane from agriculture and land use - drawing down existing CO₂ from the atmosphere

6.2. What we all can do: Every individual household can do a number of things to reduce this demand (see also Section 2: ‘Personal Initiatives’):-

- 6.2.1. Switch appliances off at the wall, rather than leaving them on standby;
- 6.2.2. Switch off lights and change bulbs to LEDs ;
- 6.2.3. Buy your energy from a renewable supplier;
- 6.2.4. Draw the curtains at night in winter;
- 6.2.5. Only heat the house where and when needed;
- 6.2.6. Put on a jumper instead of turning the thermostat up;
- 6.2.7. Properly insulate your home (loft, walls, floors, windows, hot water tank);
- 6.2.8. Replace oil boilers with sustainable heating, such as heat pumps that use electricity and energy from the environment;
- 6.2.9. Burn only seasoned logs that have been dried to less than 25% moisture. (See the Woodstove guidance at [Info’ Hub - Lightfoot Enterprises](#));
- 6.2.10. Burn woodstoves at the manufacturers’ recommended temperature, and do not ‘slumber’ burn;

6.3. Some of these need no more than a change in attitude. It only takes a minute or two to go around your home and turn off your appliances at the wall when not in use. But done regularly, this can save up to 12% of your electricity demand. Similarly, cost comparison websites can help households switch to renewable energy suppliers in just a few minutes. The renewable energy suppliers are generally cost-competitive with the 'Big Six' suppliers.

6.4. What we can do as a Community:-

The Town Council and other publicly-funded bodies could:-

- 6.4.1. Switch their source of power to a renewable energy supplier;
- 6.4.2. Monitor their energy use within the buildings directly under their control. This will then allow the setting of energy reduction targets.
- 6.4.3. Improve the energy performance of buildings including reducing drafts, insulation of walls and roofs and then windows and floors, installation of more efficient heating systems and replacing of lighting with the currently most efficient diode lighting. (Salix funding may be available <https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/parish-councils>).
- 6.4.4. Introduce policies in the Neighbourhood Plan for all new buildings within the Town to be Carbon Neutral or low carbon or, ideally, Passivehaus standard.
- 6.4.5. Introduce policies in the Neighbourhood Plan to support installation of PV and battery storage on housing with the Town.
- 6.4.6. Actively support small and large planning applications for new renewable energy within the Town boundary.
- 6.4.7. Review street lighting to ensure lights are fitted with energy-efficient LED bulbs (although there are concerns regarding their impact on wildlife);
- 6.4.8. Support farmers and landowners to diversify and build anaerobic digesters to use farm waste and/or silage to create biomethane to inject directly into the gas grid network, replacing fossil fuels.

6.5. We will also promote the Net Zero Buildings Commitment. While it is currently not possible for Bishop's Castle Town Council to require new buildings to be sustainably built, objections based on insufficient consideration for climate impact will be noted on planning applications for new builds, as a means of highlighting to Shropshire Council and national government that suitable legislation is required.

6.6. Producing our own clean energy

- 6.6.1. Insulate our buildings. Household Energy Surveys [HESs] *Household Energy Surveys - Lightfoot Enterprises*, in partnership with Marches Energy Agency, have carried out HESs on domestic properties buildings in our local area. (The Lightfoot web-site [<http://www.lightfootenterprises.org.uk/>] remains a valuable source of information on all aspects of energy-saving.)
- 6.6.2. BC CAG is working with Sharenergy on a community-owned Renewable Heat Network.
- 6.6.3. Increase the installation of Solar panels, with associated storage batteries, and air/ground-source Heat Pumps.

6.7. Ground-based solar photovoltaics using some of the available green space within Bishop's Castle and its hinterland could provide almost all summer electricity needs. Whilst it has its detractors, solar farms can continue to support livestock and the soil, and can be removed after 30-40 years; arguably preferable to the land being sold for development purposes.

The use of non-green space sites for Solar PV, such as the solar 'roof' at Enterprise House and the Business Park, has been a success but to attract investment requires roofs capable of holding large arrays.

6.8. Producing our own electricity may increase demands on already struggling national grid. This may necessitate the setting up of localised energy grids in the years ahead, and we should be prepared to adjust to this in any community-led energy project.

6.9. We will work to promote changes to help bring about a reduction in household energy demand. Helping people calculate household carbon footprint and identify areas where they can make useful changes, advising on grants and subsidies for things like: boiler replacement, loft insulation, air/ground source heat pumps, other insulation including external cladding, solar panels, and connect vulnerable members of the community with volunteers who are willing to help, for example by clearing a loft prior to new insulation being installed.

6.10. Reform Local Planning Bishop's Castle Town Council will promote the Net Zero Buildings Commitment. While the council is unable to prevent inefficient housing from being built directly (this may change in time), objections based on insufficient consideration for climate impact will be noted on planning applications for new builds. This will highlight to developers, Shropshire Council, and national government that suitable legislation is required. The CAG has also submitted a paper on environmental improvements to be included in the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Section 7: Community Resilience



Definition of Community Resilience.

7.1. Community resilience is the sustained ability of a community to utilise available resources (energy, communication, transportation, food, etc.) to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations (e.g. economic collapse to global catastrophic risks). – [Wikipedia]

7.2. Resilience could also be said to be the development of a suite of inter-compatible, differing strategies that aim towards attaining some or all of the goals specified. Having the widest possible variety of different, tested

strategies allows a community to be flexible in the face of externally imposed shocks. Rigidity leads to systemic failure if all parts of it are essential to maintaining the integrity of the system.

7.3. Clearly the time to initiate and test a variety of alternatives is when the system is fully functioning, not when it has begun to collapse. In the case of local community resilience, we are endeavouring to find ways to maintain a good standard of living in the face of short- and long-term shocks.

7.4. Specifically, we need to address the areas of:-

- 7.4.1 food-source (this also addresses agricultural practice and biodiversity loss),
- 7.4.2 water-source and storage,
- 7.4.3 accommodation (including heat and power) including design of the built environment
- 7.4.4 transport
- 7.4.5 emotional/communitarian resilience.

7.5. At one remove, we need to look at the long-term impacts of the climate and ecological emergency on the local area and identify what changes we are seeing? What changes do we anticipate in the next decade? And in the longer term? What actions are being taken to mitigate these changes locally (this will inevitably be largely in the arena of biodiversity loss), and what are being taken nationally and internationally? What can only be done at the nation scale and how can we ensure these are carried out?

7.6. Resilience is a set of behaviours, and our current set of behaviours and assumptions are NOT resilient. Local resilience is a long-term objective not a short-term gain. So, resilience is a progression rather than a one-off. It depends on community cohesion and a common sense of purpose that is built progressively over time.

7.7. This Chapter aims to note the long-term resilience needs but will focus on those that are achievable in the shorter term whilst recognising that further reports will need to be produced. It is also important for the Council to make a start on the long-term aims now rather than defer decisions and actions to some arbitrary time in the future.

7.8. Identifying the scale of problems that resilience will cover is important. These will range from temporary - just a few hours or days of major disruption - to years or even permanent change. From temporary shortages of some food items to significant societal breakdown, where we will be forced to fend for ourselves. Obviously we need to focus first on those temporary problems - which could start to occur in the very near future - and consider the major problems later but, given the rate at which the climate and bio-diversity crises are accelerating, we will almost certainly have less time than we think to put in place all the measures necessary to cope with it.

7.9. Resilience is a major factor in all of the areas that the Chapter covers: It also partners with security in all of them plus other topics which are not currently covered.

7.10. Given the timescale we are working to and the scope of the topic this initial report will focus solely on Food resilience. Subsequent reports on resilience will cover:-

7.10.1. Energy Production

7.10.2. Water Supplies

7.10.3. Health Provision - Physical, Emotional, Mental and Spiritual

7.10.4. Transport

7.10.5. Biodiversity Abundance

7.12. How can the Town Council help?

7.12.1. Educate local people about the Climate Emergency and what they can do to help e.g. getting involved in local groups, publicise what the council is doing to mitigate the effects of the changing climate and what it is doing to reduce its own CO₂ emissions. Encourage people to put together their own resilience plan (see example below). Get people thinking about it.

7.12.2. Look at its own food procurement process (if it does procure food) and look to autonomy in doing so in order to use local produce wherever possible.

7.12.3. Set up a local 'Food and Farming Trail' as per BC pubs trail to attract more visitors and so boost the local economy.

7.12.4. Guide the narrative on local food use.

7.12.5. Carry out a community food assessment to diagnose the current situation and identify a 'best practice' outcome - and (really important) how to get there. (Daphne du Cros has volunteered to do this - it's what she's trained to do).

7.12.6. People have power! Advise them on how to use it to push for availability of local food by supporting local producers.

7.13. Resilience Plan

7.13.1 planning more water catchment and retention;

7.13.2 saving seeds for self-reliance and sharing them through the BC Seed Bank;

7.13.3 putting solar panels on new house extensions;

- 7.13.4 installing Ground/Air Source Heat Pump to reduce energy usage;
- 7.13.5 building the soil fertility to reduce reliance on any outside fertiliser - using plenty of own compost albeit still buying compost/manure from a local supplier;
- 7.13.6 no-till growing to preserve soil health and improve yields;
- 7.13.7 adaptability – small, local producers are able to respond to changing conditions more easily than large producers - and will do so if circumstances dictate;
- 7.13.8 producing a diverse range of vegetables to avoid ‘all eggs in one basket’ risk.

7.14. Ideas to improve local resilience for all local food producers:-

A lot of these ideas are being pursued by the Shropshire Good Food Partnership

- 7.14.1 access to a local market more than just one day a month - needs premises to host;
- 7.14.2 set up an online network of small, local producers;
- 7.14.3 a local online hub - showing residents who produces what locally - meat, veg, milk, fruit etc;
- 7.14.4 set up ‘click and collect’ online ordering for pickup at a local collection point;
- 7.14.5 popup food stalls provided by BC Town Council;
- 7.14.6 prescribing of social engagement in food production to improve people’s health;
- 7.14.7 more local, small-scale

Section 8: Transport

8.1. This section draws on the transport experts assembled by the following groups and contained in their recently issued documents:-

- 8.1.1. ‘South Shropshire Climate Action’s’ ‘*Climate Action Plan*’ for the Ludlow constituency;
- 8.1.2. ‘Better Shrewsbury Transport’s’ ‘*A briefing guide for Councillors*’.
- 8.1.3. The Council for the Protection of Rural England’s [CPRE] report ‘*Every Village, Every Hour, A comprehensive bus network for Rural England*’.



Introduction

8.2. As a small, rural market town in south-west Shropshire, with very limited transport links (called ‘rural transport deserts’ by CPRE), Bishop’s Castle suffers externally from an inability to access its nearest large towns (Ludlow and Shrewsbury) easily and cheaply, for work, shopping, entertainment and education, and internally from the universal difficulties created by increasing traffic within and around the town. These include air pollution, parking issues, inadequate pedestrian pavements, the threat to cycling from heavy traffic, and a constant need for volunteers to maintain local footpaths, etc. Local vehicle drivers on 2 and 4 wheels and cyclists face the hazards created by poorly maintained roads. The third and, for the purposes of this report, over-arching issue, is transport’s impact on the Climate Emergency in terms of carbon emissions and bio-diversity loss.

Climate Emergency issues

8.3. The recently issued *South Shropshire Climate group’s Action Plan* (tabled in Parliament by Philip Dunne, MP) summarises the issues thus:-

- 8.3.1. Transport is responsible for 37% of the area’s direct carbon emissions.
- 8.3.2. Transport is a largely private matter in South Shropshire as public transport is extremely infrequent and costly, and has no direct route to the nearest railway stations in Craven Arms or Church Stretton. This creates significant difficulty for many while maximising pollution and danger.

- 8.3.3. An efficient public transport system could transform our roads to make them safe for active travel (cycling and walking).
- 8.3.4. A Net Zero carbon transport future gives all income groups and those with disabilities and health problems greater choice in accessing hospitals, schools, colleges and shops.

8.4. The SSCA report contains detailed statistics showing the scale of current carbon emissions from surface transport, illustrating why it is the UK's highest carbon-emitting sector. For the Ludlow constituency 60% of transport's emissions are attributable to cars, 17% to HGVs, 17% to vans and 3% to buses, with 'other' at 3%.

8.5. The solution recommended is to adopt the widely accepted 'Avoid-Shift-Improve' [A-S-I] conceptual framework, where 'Avoid' includes planning and transport policies that avoid adding extra carbon to our inventory. For Shropshire this would include the "cancellation of the North West Relief Road, which will add extra carbon both in construction and operation".

8.6. The 'Shift' component addresses the "potential for reducing car use and switching a proportion of those trips to walk, cycle, bus and train use". Example can be found in the policies laid down in Shropshire County Council's [SCC] *Local Transport Plan* but which, disappointingly, have not been delivered. Instead SCC has reduced bus services and still has poor quality walking and cycling infrastructure. (And a plan to demolish Shrewsbury's bus station).

8.7. 'Improve' would include encouraging the use of Electric Vehicles by using public funding for EV charging points, although by itself a shift to EVs would be insufficient to deliver the required carbon reduction needed.

8.8. The Town Council have recently selected and adopted the following policies contained in the '15 Asks' document:-

- #3 Introduce a "one ticket" public transport policy modelled on the Cornwall County Council policy. One ticket covers all buses regardless of operator and all local rail;
- #2. Fund the transformation of all buses so that they are zero carbon. This would be progressive and use the same funding arrangements that have been deployed to fund the North West Relief Road (c£20 million) and the purchase of 3 shopping centres in Shrewsbury (c £50 million);
- #1 Transform bus services so that we achieve best practice and maximise the shift from car trips to buses;
- #5. Design and fund best practice cycle paths including segregated, traffic-free bike paths connecting every school and college with its main catchment areas. Promote the widespread availability and adoption of electric bikes;
- #11. Adopt area-wide/all residential streets/default 20mph speed limits county-wide;
- #10. Fund public electric vehicle charging points in conformity with the priority order of Avoid-Shift-Improve. (For explanation see page 104, paragraph 7 of 'Next Steps', <https://southshropshireclimateaction.org/plan/>);
- #7. Establish planning policies and rules to require workplace travel plans and school travel plans throughout the county, and all plans will specify targets for the reduction of car trips;
- #8. Establish planning policies and rules to require all new housing to be designed and located so that they maximise the opportunities for walking, cycling and bus use.

8.7. Recommendations

8.7.1. AVOID

8.7.1.1. Recommendation 1: Bishop's Castle Town Council [BCTC] should make clear to Shropshire County Council its disapproval of the NWRR project, on the grounds of:-

- Increased car use and the concomitant increase in carbon emissions;
- Bio-diversity loss through the destruction of a large swath of countryside,

- Cost. The funds should instead be diverted to making low carbon, sustainable and active travel the SCC's first priority.

8.8. As *Better Shrewsbury Transport's* 'A briefing guide for Councillors' says: "there is also a very convincing financial argument against the road. After 10 years of austerity and, in the devastating aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, Shropshire Council faces a perilous financial future, with the prospect of essential services being cut across the county. To risk spending millions of pounds of Shropshire's money on a few miles of single carriage road for Shrewsbury, while other county towns see services and investment slashed, is not an equitable proposition. A true green recovery would invest across Shropshire, prioritising public transport and active travel solutions in order to encourage the needed reduction in car use."

8.9. It adds: "The disputed benefits to Environments (air pollution, water quality, wildlife as well as noise and landscape) would apply only to Shrewsbury (and only part of the town at that, leaving the rest of the county with nothing but disbenefits."

8.10. The Briefing guide goes on to illustrate the NWRR's costs:-

8.10.1. "Whilst Government has pledged £54 million and the LEP £4 million, Shropshire Council would be responsible for the other £29 million

8.10.2. Shropshire Council would also be responsible for all of the inevitable overspend. The council recently admitted that the overspend could be £8.5M

8.10.3. A significant amount of the council's contribution will be spent before planning approval is reached and any physical work is started. It is therefore spent at risk if the road doesn't progress. For the year 2019-2020 Shropshire Council has spent £7,657 a day."

8.11. And it concludes that: "The NWRR is (already) NOT FAIR on those who need investment the most. The disputed 'benefits' would apply only to Shrewsbury, leaving the rest of the county with NOTHING!"

NB: There is no mention of the on-going maintenance costs once the road is completed. Given the existing difficulties with maintaining the Shropshire road network, this could divert substantial sums from the road budget.

8.11. SHIFT

8.11.1 Recommendation 2: After a protracted struggle with Shropshire Council and various outsourcing companies, BC CAG have achieved the installation of 4 EVCPs in the Harley Jenkins street car park. It is hoped that more installations will follow in the Business Park and Corporation Street.

8.11.2. Recommendation 3: BCTC should explore the creation of new footpath and cycle-ways to Churchstoke, Clun and Craven Arms.

8.12. IMPROVE

SCC is the highway and transport authority with substantial powers to make changes. (e.g via the Bus Services (2017) Act). It has all the power it needs to make the changes we need to see. SCC is also responsible for public health. The World Health Organisation's evidence shows that large increases in walking, cycling and bus use improves health and reduces obesity, cardio-vascular disease and diabetes. SCC's ambition should be to align the public health strategy with the transport strategy and with the climate change strategy

8.13. As well as an integrated transport network for the Ludlow constituency, another idea being considered by SSSA is a circular bus service connecting Bishop's Castle - Craven Arms – Church Stretton, the three main towns in this area, giving residents in BC a bus to a train station in either Craven Arms or Church Stretton.

8.14. CPRE's 'Every Village, Every Hour' report notes that:- "Bus services are essential for allowing us to

decarbonise the transport sector by providing an alternative to private car travel.

Bus services also provide numerous public goods and are essential for the many people across England who do not have access to a car. By providing an alternative to private car travel, local bus services can reduce traffic and air pollution, while boosting High Street spending, employment, social mobility and equality. That is why properly funded bus services should be a priority for rural policy in the coming years.

8.15. Examples from public transport systems across Switzerland, Austria and Germany show that it is possible to deliver a comprehensive bus network that offers excellent connectivity to rural communities. For example, despite being considerably less densely populated than every region of England, the region of North Hesse in Germany has a bus system that ensures services reach every village, every hour for at least 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. A similar level of bus services would be transformational for rural England.

8.16. PRE's report adds: "Our ground-breaking modelling finds that the government could deliver a bus to every village, every hour across England from 6am to midnight, 7 days per week, for £2.7 billion annually." It's interesting to note Cornwall County Council's decision to prioritise an integrated public transport network over roads (in line with its Transport Plan).

8.17.Recommendation 4: BCTC should seek to influence SCC's Local Transport Plan through supporting the work of the *South Shropshire Climate Action* group, in particular its detailed Transport report's plan for a fully-Integrated Bus and Train network.

8.18.Recommendation 5: BCTC should seek to nominate Cycle and Walking Champions.

8.20 References:-

CPRE 'Every Village, Every hour': [CPRE_Every-village-every-hour_executive-summary.pdf](#)

South Shropshire Climate Action Plan: <https://southshropshireclimateaction.org/plan/>

Better Shrewsbury Transport: <https://www.bettershrewsburytransport.org/>

Annex: Useful Links

Local organisations

Walter's Workshop <https://www.facebook.com/waltersbcworkshop>

Shropshire Good Food Partnership [Shropshire good food | Shropshire Good Food Partnership | England](#)

Bishop's Castle CLT [Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust | \(bcclt.co.uk\)](#)

Enterprise House [Enterprise House - Business & Community Services](#)

Bishop's Castle Freegle [Bishop's Castle Freegle \(ilovefreegle.org\)](#)

'Going Wild in BC' <https://lightfootenterprises.org/going-wild-in-bc/>

BC Community Seed Bank [General 2 — Little Woodbatch Market Garden](#)

BC Parish Path's Partnership e-mail <glynn.roberts@mac.com>

List of websites for further information:-

The 52 Climate Actions partnership, promoting permaculture based solutions to climate change

<https://www.52climateactions.com/food>

Landworkers Alliance works with landowners and land workers to produce sustainable food, case studies can be found at : <https://landworkersalliance.org.uk>

The Farming and Climate Research Network has studies that demonstrate organically produced food is more nutritious and helps the environment by: eliminating chemical based fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, improving biodiversity, improving soil systems so that they can sequester more carbon.

More case studies and on-line courses can be found at: <https://www.fcrn.org.uk>

The Food Foundation puts pressure on Governments and industry to ensure all can access a sustainably produced, health and affordable diet. Case studies can be found at: <https://foodfoundation.org.uk>

The Sustainable Food Trust works to promote and support transition to sustainable food production.

<https://sustainablefoodtrust.org>

Indoor Growing: Innovative farming technologies mean that plants can now be grown in indoor environments without sunlight.

<https://www.lighting.philips.com/main/products/horticulture/city-farming>

Guerrilla Gardening: For those interested in neglected public spaces for growing food.

<http://guerrillagardening.org/>

Space for food growing: Guidance for community groups wanting to start a food project.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/space-for-food-growing-a-guide>

Woodland Trust, for those interested in planting trees

<<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/>

The Permaculture 52 Actions Partnership, lots of good ideas for climate change actions

<https://www.52climateactions.com/>

ⁱ BISHOP'S CASTLE FREEGLE STATISTICS FOR 2022



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS <National Association of Local Councils (nalc.gov.uk)>
 “37% of local (parish and town) councils have declared a climate emergency, with a further 8% declaring a biodiversity emergency. Local councils recognise the importance of climate change, but many feel disempowered to act. In October 2021, NALC published its Climate Change Survey Report. The results indicated that 25% of local councils believed they were too small to make a difference, and a further 20% stated they lacked the resources and power to act.

However, a recent report from New Local highlights the importance of local action in the face of national and international inaction, emphasising the need to conceive of climate change as a series of local problems rather than one single global issue. By taking on small actions, communities that work together can bring about significant change overall”. [National Association of Local Councils]

NALC’s suggested next steps are: Local councils

- Continue to declare climate and/or biodiversity declarations where possible as this leads to a higher level of climate action e.g. climate working groups, and sustainable Neighbourhood Plans.
- Conduct Carbon Footprint calculations at the community and individual level with resources provided by NALC.
- Utilise carbon footprint calculations to identify where councils can make changes to reduce carbon emissions within the community or their own operations.
- Councils should aim to set up climate working groups to forge connections with other councils, principal authorities and climate action groups to share best practice and lobby MPs

NALC

- Provide resources for councils to conduct their own carbon footprint calculations.
- Provide support and guidance for councils who are seeking funding, grants and expertise to implement their own climate policy.
- Facilitate connection between councils who are interested in sharing best practice and tackling climate change action together.
- Lobby the government to raise awareness of the climate emergency at the local level and encourage greater accessibility to funding
 (National Association of Local Council’s Climate Change report).

Town Councillors Questionnaire

iii The scoring system was as follows:-

- 1 for doing it in next 12 months
- 2 for doing in in second year
- 3 for doing in year 3 and after

Actions in score order of lowest mean score:

Questions	Mean score	Year action to be carried out
Publicise BCTC commitment to mitigating to climate change	1.11	1
Create a climate emergency page on the BCTC website	1.11	1
Review litter bin locations and types	1.11	1

Encourage litter picking	1.22	1
Undertake a Carbon Footprint Audit on all Council activities	1.55	1
Reduce carbon footprint of Town Council Activities	1.55	1
Hold paperless Council meetings	1.66	1
Encourage a long-term approach to tree planting and identification for bulk planting	1.66	1
Report quarterly against the plan	1.66	1
Add climate emergency references to all new contract specifications and tenders and add to evaluation process	1.87	2
BCTC to ensure it's electricity supplier is 100 % renewable	1.88	2
Encourage contractors to have 'zero to landfill' policies	1.88	2
Ensure use of peat free compost	1.88	2
Investigate the requirements of emergency planning for extreme events	2	3
Undertake annual carbon footprint audit	2	3

Scope of the Town Council audit

^{iv} Scope 1 is direct emissions, which means any emissions that come as a direct result of us burning a fuel such as oil, gas, or petrol, e.g:-

- Any vehicles or machinery owned by town council
- Whether the town council burns any liquid or gaseous fuels for heating etc.

Scope 2 is indirect emissions, such as emissions produced when our electricity was generated in a power station.

-
- Buildings owned by town council
 - Utilities supplied to town council Land owned by town council
 - Other council owned assets e.g street lighting

Scope 3 is emissions from areas where we can't have full control. (This will identify where we may consider switching to other Service Providers who have reduced their own Scope 1 & 2 emissions.)

- Services commissioned by town council
- The banks in which town funds are stored