

BISHOP'S CASTLE CLIMATE ACTION GROUP
NOTES FROM 24th OCTOBER 2025 MEETING

Present: Daphne, Clare, Lorraine, Alicia, Bernard, Mike. Apologies: Steve

1. **GOING WILD IN BC** Bernard circulated the new Nature Recovery leaflet produced by the Shropshire Association of Local Councils [SALC], largely driven by Janet Cobb [MMCLT & RSVP], and containing reference to Going Wild in BC's toolkit.
Going Wild's many events and its Newsletters can be seen on Lightfoot's website at <https://lightfootenterprises.org/going-wild-in-bc/>
2. **HEAT NETWORK:** now called the **BC Community Energy Project**. Its first task is to secure development funding and, once successful, to establish a Supplier (e.g. Ecotricity/Octopus), an 'Off-taker' (the end-User), which we hope will be SpArC (Dave Green is liaising with the PM in charge of the SpArC upgrade, which will need a higher capacity grid connection we would then hope to use); contract an installation company, purchase a second-hand WT, raise share capital and set-up the management vehicle (STCE?). WT installation is planned for autumn 27.
3. **FOOD FORWARD**
 - a. BC Food Strategy Daphne hopes to have a draft available for review by mid-to-late November, which will then go forward for adoption by the Town Council. She is confident that it is an advance on its predecessor and will have a greater effect.
 - b. SGFP Projects Funding has been given for 2 projects: -
 - i. Large-v-small-scale farming a comparison of intensive farming, e.g poultry and pigs with small-scale farming showing which is the best approach.
Clare asked where statistics could be found on the distribution of intensive farm's waste. Daphne said SUSTAIN or RIVER ACTION might be a source, and that Alison Caffyn would be worth contacting. She added that SUSTAIN have a took-kit for protesters to use.
 - ii. Shropshire Food Strategy This has the support of Heather Kidd (Shropshire Council's Lib Dem Leader). Underpinned by the BC Food Strategy, this County-level Food Strategy will serve as an example to encourage other Councils and increase awareness of local Food Strategies.
Alicia asked if there had been any progress on the collection of food waste, which had been on hold for a year. Daphne said that Shropshire Council was discussing options with Veolia, such as bio-char. (Perhaps the new plant in Ludlow?)
 - c. Albert Howard Orchard Daphne's paper proposing a Right-to-Grow on the Industrial estate still awaits discussions with Dan, who has also drawn-up a paper.
 - d. Little Woodbatch Community Interest Company Daphne hopes to have this set-up in the New Year. Bernard mentioned the success of Going Wild's wildflower plugs, and said GW would be able to include this in the CIC's activities.
 - e. Green Social event, LWB, 26th October This has been organised to bring together local green groups, including the Master Composters, Mid-Marches CLT, Lightfoot and others. Cake-making would be welcome.
 - f. Seed Bank Mike said that they would continue their presence at the Library's monthly coffee mornings, along with the Farmers' Market in the Town Hall. They would be holding a seed packing session at the Library at 12.00 on Friday, 7th November.
4. **RIVER POLLUTION** Clare, who is now a member of the *Clun River Water Quality Monitoring: Strategy Group*, said the river was in a pretty dire condition. A recent 95-page document from the Environment Agency showed that 80% of the pollution was from land use with only 12% from sewage. Clare added that a study on bank erosion and river scouring was needed, as was a land-use change study covering e.g 50 years. Clare offered to forward a ChatGPT summary for posting on the Lightfoot website and circulating to Lightfoot subscribers.
5. **AIR POLLUTION** Mike said that he had finally received from Purple Air the Sensor data needed to download detailed data and he had made a quick download using two of the wide range of data categories available. Further exploration of these categories would be needed. Geraint had offered to review the downloaded raw data once he had chance. Bernard mentioned the sensitivity of the Town Council to this initiative. This was noted but it was agreed that we should, nonetheless, proceed.
6. **BIOCHAR** There had been no follow-up from Dan Wrench's e-mail, so Mike intended to raise it with Dan at his GW talk on 4th November. It was agreed, that any loan of a kiln wouldn't be worthwhile over the

winter and should await spring and the growth of greenery. It would also be worth asking him if there's any information from the pilots in the 2 Powys Intensive Poultry Farms. As well as Dan's talk on the 4th, Clare and Dan will be giving a Biochar talk on 5th at Edgton. Clare thought it was a pity that there had been no collaboration on the talk dates. She offered to supply the Powerpoint she's produced after the Edgton talk for posting on Lightfoot's website.

7. **CLUN CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT GROUP** Chrissie Verduyn said the group had discussed collaboration activities and suggested Air Pollution and Cycle Routes as possible options. It was agreed that Air Pollution would be a good subject and Mike would contact Chrissie to agree how to take this forward. Clare pointed out that it was also worth noting the CAG's involvement with the Clun river testing at Kempton.
8. **STUART ANDERSON LETTER** David (SCA) had responded saying they were considering how best to use the letter's content, and that they had a meeting arranged with Mr Anderson. Chrissie Verduyn had said that CCEG's chairperson, Robert Humphreys, had agreed to CCEG counter-signing the response. Clare offered to see if Tom Wall would also sign for Aston on Clun's group, and offered to produce a draft response. It was agreed that this would be used to reflect south Shropshire environmental groups' views and, depending on the content of any response received, consideration could then be given to commissioning a Change.org petition.
9. **CLIMATE FRESK TRAINING** Lorraine expressed disappointment at discovering a lack of candidates for the training session at Enterprise House at 1 – 4 p.m on Monday, 27th which she hoped would help towards Dan and others achieving training status. She would try to find last-minute candidates. Clare, Alicia, Bernard & Mike said they would attend.
10. **ALBERT HOWARD ENVIRONMENT DAY** Bernard had suggested this event, and it was agreed that we add this to our CAG Actions in the Year 4 CAP to take place in the summer of next year. Lorraine offered to ask the AH group to join us in organising the event. Lorraine would ask Graham Whately if the play he had written could be presented by the Primary School children as part of the event. (Daphne expressed SGFP's interest in the Play). Funds would be sought from the Town Council, and Lorraine offered to research other funding opportunities.
11. **POWER STATION VIDEO** Alicia had circulated a link to this inspiring true story, based in Walthamstow, of 2 people who decided to transform their street into the first community powered exclusively by solar energy. She wondered if it could be linked to a talk on the BC Community Energy Project. Mike promised to raise it at their next meeting on 4th November. A brief taster can be watched here:
<https://www.ji-hlava.com/filmy/elektrarna>
12. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: YEAR 4 UPDATE** Mike and Bernard would be attending the Town Council – CAG Working Group on 14th November to start drawing-up Year 4 actions. He asked for the CAG members to review CAG's existing CAP actions and suggest others to be added. One suggestion was on Eco Street Lighting, which had benefits for nature and humans, as well as encouraging Dark Sky tourism. Clare had worked on this subject in the U.S and offered to forward details of how it had been addressed.
13. **Waste Recycling** Still awaiting Town Council's response to the Report.
14. **Resilience** This will be included in the CAP's Year 4 update.
15. **Library of Things** Nothing further heard.
16. **PALESTINE SEED BANK SUPPORT** At Mike's suggestion, it was agreed that the BC Seed Bank would start a separate collection to donate, via the Exeter Seed Bank, to the Palestine Hebron Seed Bank.
17. **DATE OF NEXT** It was agreed that we would fix meetings for the 4th Friday of each month. The next meeting would, therefore, be at **10.30 on Friday, 28th November.**

24th October 2025

Mike Watkins

Joint-CAG Co-ordinator