

**BISHOP'S CASTLE CLIMATE & NATURE ACTION PLAN
QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025
SUMMARY**

1. Updates for Town Council CAP Actions

- a. Action 2: Town Council Website updates
 - i. Delete SUSTAINABILITY page, which is no longer relevant.
 - ii. Create a Climate & Nature emergency page on the BCTC website.
 - iii. Post the Climate Action Plan and Quarterly Reports on website's Climate Action page.Action: Town Clerk
Above items carried forward from July Quarterly Report
- b. Action 7: CAP Quarterly Reports to be referenced in TC minutes and posted on Town Council's website. Action: Town Clerk.
- c. Other outstanding Actions: 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 20. (See Actions table below)

2. Updates for CAG's CAP Actions

- a. Action 1: Climate Action Plan Year 4
A community survey has been issued (on-line and in Newsletter) to seek inputs for Year 4 updates.
- b. Action 3: Going Wild in BC activities
The latest e-bulletin listing the project's extensive events can be seen here
<https://mailchi.mp/0cof7c390e25/a-seasonal-summer-update-from-going-wild-in-bishops-castle-6491928?e=3822b01doa>
- c. Action 4: Community Heat Network At a Public Meeting on 10th September, and in an address to the Town Council on 16th September, Dave Green [Sharenergy] explained that, due to a variety of issues, the Heat Network was no longer financially viable and was being put on hold. Installation of the Wind Turbine would proceed, with the green electricity produced being supplied to the Community.
- d. Outstanding Actions: 2, 8, 9 (see Actions table below)

3. Shropshire Council Climate Action Page

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/gs1iljv2/climate-change-action-plan.pdf>

The plan appears not to have been updated for some time. Enquiries to be made.

4. Town & Parish Council Nature Recovery Workbook

This excellent document has been produced by the *Shropshire Association of Local Councils* [SALC] and copies sent to all Parish and Town Clerks. It is largely the brainchild of Janet Cobb of *Middle Marches Community Land Trust*, and references *Bishop's Castle Going Wild 'Toolkit'*. It has been developed with Parish Councillors in mind but anyone can use it. The intention is to help ordinary people do something for nature recovery in the belief that many small actions add up to a big outcome.

A copy can be downloaded here <https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/nature-recovery-town-parish-councils/>

Pete Carty will be giving the Town Council a briefing on this document.

BISHOP'S CASTLE CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER 2025

TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS - WITH YEAR 3 UPDATES

1	Communicate BCTC's [Bishop's Castle Town Council] commitment to mitigating/adapting to the Climate & Nature Crisis, and add 'Climate & Environment' as a standard Agenda item. Boost comms for Year 3, e.g Joint TC-CAG Newsletter items.	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 & 2 completed, remains on-going for Year 3 <u>Evidence:</u> Council & Town Carbon Footprint audits, sponsoring 'Going Wild' and Environment Festival Climate & Nature Agenda items introduced in September 24.
2	Create a Climate & Nature emergency page on the BCTC website. Bring website up-to-date for Year 3.	1	✓	Year 1 Completed. <u>Evidence:</u> Link to Light Foot website inserted on Town Council's website. Year 3: WEBSITE to be updated
3	Encourage litter picking & review litter bin locations and types. For Year 3 Acknowledge Litter Pickers and explore 'Landfill' bin labels.	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 & 2 completed. Remains on-going for Year 3. Landfill labels detail submitted to TC. Unable to identify Litter Pickers contact.
4	Undertake a Carbon Footprint Audit on all Council activities. Annual review to identify reductions. Put report on Council web site.	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 & 2 completed, Year 3 to be produced. <u>Evidence:</u> Reports posted on Town Council website
5	Archived			
6	Encourage a long-term approach to tree planting and identification for bulk planting. For Year 3: Create a Directory of Groups & acknowledge work done.	2,3	✓	Year 1, two Charter Oaks planted in Playing Fields. Year 2, Playing Fields plan agreed. Year 3: Going Wild are developing a tree-planting & hedge strategy. <u>Evidence:</u> Photo of trees to be taken & put on website
7	Review CAP Report quarterly against the plan	1,2,3,	✓	<u>Year 1</u> CAG Quarterly Reports submitted in Oct, Jan 23 & April 24. <u>Year 2</u> Reports July, Oct 24 & Jan, April 25. <u>Year 3</u> Reports: July & Oct 25. Evidence: Reports on Light Foot & Town Council's website and referenced in Town Council's Minutes
8	Add climate emergency references to all new contract specifications and tenders and ensure Contractors stop using neonicotinoid pesticides. Include in evaluation process	3		Moved from Year 2 to Year 3. Evidence: Produce draft of a standard statement for inclusion in contracts stating that it will be a key factor in award evaluation
9	Town Council to ensure its electricity supplier is 100% renewable.	3		Moved from Year 2 to Year 3 <u>Evidence:</u> Publish name of supplier
10	Encourage contractors to have 'zero to landfill' policies	3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Record responses from contractors in TC's Minutes.
11	Encourage use of peat-free compost	1,2,3		Allotments made aware – Oct 23. Explore further opportunities, e.g planters and Council land. <u>Evidence:</u> Feedback to be sought from TC's new Environment & Nature Agenda item
12	Investigate the requirements of emergency planning for extreme events	3		Identify subject for next Town Forum , e.g. extreme winter conditions, flooding, power cuts, food supply, etc. <u>Evidence:</u> Resilience Adaptation Plan

13	BCTC will commission CAG to undertake an annual Town carbon footprint and to propose targets for the Town to reduce its collective carbon emissions.	1,2,3	✓	2 year's measurements taken so far. Third to be produced in Year 3. <u>Evidence:</u> Town Carbon footprint graphic
14	BCTC will press for changes to ensure that all planning applications (e.g. housing, transport, sewage) are amended to minimise carbon emissions and other impacts on the environment/climate	1,2,3		<u>Evidence:</u> Agreed Tick-list. Recorded in Planning Application discussions in Town Council's Minutes Note: Tick-list to reference Bio-diversity Net Gain Legislation in which developments must result in a better quality natural habitat than there was before the development took place (but not necessarily in the same place)
15	BCTC will track Shropshire Council's climate actions to adopt where appropriate	2	✓	Evidence: SC's ideas being included in Quarterly Report.
16	DELETED - SEE ARCHIVE			
17	SEE ARCHIVE. MERGED WITH ACTION 8			
18	BCTC will support the CAG's objective of community land acquisition to use for wellbeing, Nature Recovery and 'Right to Grow' purposes	3		For example, Civil Defence Bowling Club and Industrial Park. <u>Evidence:</u> Consideration by TC of any suggestions put forward.
19	NEW: Management Plan for Market Square	3		In collaboration with Going Wild <u>Evidence:</u> draft Management Plan
20	NEW: Garden Contractors guidelines	3		To avoid over-enthusiastic cutting back of shrubs, hedges, etc. (cf. hospital) <u>Evidence:</u> Instructions that ensure work is done correctly.
21	NEW: Management Plan for Town's Planters	3	✓	In collaboration with Going Wild <u>Evidence:</u> draft Management Plan
TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS NOT LISTED IN CAP				
April 24	£500 Grant for 2024 Environment Fair			
April 24	£1000 grant for Going Wild Kids' Club			
June 24	Commissioning report on BC Festivals Waste Management			
Sept 24	Added Climate & Bio-diversity as a standard Town Council agenda item			
Sept 24	Inserting articles on Bio-diversity actions in the Town's newsletter			
CLIMATE ACTION GROUP ON-GOING PROJECTS				
1	Continuously monitor & update CAP	2,3 4	✓ -	a) Part 1 Update for 24-25 (Year 3) approved by Town Council) b) New CAP to be produced for Year 4 (26-27). Survey issued to seek community input.
2	Explore means to progress CAP Part 2 when resources allow	2,3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Assess when undertaking review & update of Part 2

3	Continue delivering the 'Going Wild in BC' project	1,2,3	✓	Lots of activities, which can be seen on new Co-op noticeboard, website & e-mails. <u>Evidence:</u> Regular reports from Steering Group.
4	Continue progressing the Community Heat Energy Network'	1,2,3	✓	10 th September Public Meeting publicised Heat network no longer financially viable. Wind Turbine installation to proceed.
5	Seek funding for Heat Network Household Energy Surveys	2		Cancelled. See 4. above
6	Maintain BC Freegle	1,2,3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Continue on-line mediation of posts. (Now in Year 12)
7	Organize and run an 'Environment Day'	2,3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Year 1 & 2 delivered. No funding for Year 3.
8	Explore Citizens' Jury on Climate & Bio-diversity	3		<u>Evidence:</u> Report on outcome of discussion
9	Explore community land acquisition for wellbeing, Nature Recovery and 'Right to Grow' purposes	2,3		a) Civil Defence Bowling Club initiative now being pursued by TC. b) Industrial estate orchard bid in preparation. <u>Evidence:</u> Publicity and initiative reports to TC
CAG ACTIONS NOT LISTED IN CAP				
1	Community Shop initiative	2		Community take-over of Pugh's the Butcher's shop no longer planned.
2	Explore Civil Defence Bowling Green	2,3	✓	Details passed to Town Council. CAG produced suggestions for utilising the site.
3	Waste management at Carnival	2	✓	Waste collection points erected and waste disposed of. Useful lessons learned and report produced for Town Council.
4	Green Plaque initiative	2,3	✓	No further news on 'Community Green Plaque' award for Bishop's Castle
5	River pollution monitoring	2,3	✓	Briefing Paper sent to TC. Funding acquired. BC team actively working with Clun River group.
6	Air pollution	2,3	✓	Monitor installed. API produced which will allow greater detail to be accessed.
7	Lightfoot Relaunch (20th anniversary)	2	✓	Stars Pop-up shop, 13 - 18 January
8	Hold BC Resilience/Adaption Town Forums h Town Council	3	✓	Year 2 Food Resilience Forum held in January. Subject for next Forum to be agreed with Town Council.
9	Explore bio-char to reduce green waste	3		Shropshire Council requested to loan Bio-char kiln
10	Explore Eco-friendly street lighting	4		Human health issues & disrupts the life processes of plants and animals, with particularly negative effects on migration and breeding.