

COMMUNITY-LEVEL ACTIVITIES YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN

Nature and Climate change

Encourage parish & TCs to adopt Environment policies, and establish local bespoke Nature Recovery plans based on the Local nature Recovery Strategy, **see workbook**

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/nature-recovery-town-parish-councils/>

1. Install cooling canopies, identify cooling sanctuaries in areas of buildings and few trees.
2. Storm planning – especially for tree falls, based on community action as well as local authority
3. Nature-sensitive verge restoration & hedge management, including along waterways, ditches
4. Encourage a big increase in use of private and public water butts
5. Encourage rewilding and better habitat creation/ restoration, including in private gardens
6. Start a micro nursery for trees – especially veteran oaks

Food supply and food security

Focus on local food production and supply and **support** Sustainable Food Places

https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/Civil_Food_Resilience_in_practice.pdf

1. Encourage small local food growers – e.g Hare Hill farm, Shropshire Good Food
2. Set up a community restaurant and shared eating space: see <https://thelongtableonline.com/> as a catalyst for social cohesion and relationship building
3. Encourage schools & institutions to purchase local produce.
4. Facilitate land access via the Right to Grow framework
5. Produce a Food Resilience Strategy and Action Plan for the county
6. Set up community emergency food supply pantries and medical supplies

Energy

Find out and help others around you see how to reduce energy use, and to generate more themselves

1. Focus on energy conservation rather than consumption
2. Support local energy agency initiatives in home retrofit, battery, and solar
3. Encourage and support community-led wind turbine projects
4. Community-owned solar panels, batteries & charging points in e.g. village halls
5. Contribute to and circulate “Stay warm” and “stay cool” advice sheets

Water quality, water use, & flood prevention

Support more-environmentally-friendly water use, farming, and better drainage management

1. Support campaigns to reduce high household water use in e.g. showers and toilets
2. Direct rain runoff to water butts, soakaways and SUDS, not drains. Put it into the ground.
3. Pro-actively spot public drainage problems and help report and clear blockages
4. Understand local sources of water pollution, work respectfully with them to improve practices
5. Add biochar to local streams and rivers to help improve water quality
6. install composting toilets in e.g. Village Halls to– especially for use during water emergency use

Transportation resilience and energy use

1. Use public transport where possible to keep it going, and encourage community car sharing
2. Support Council investment in better public transport, e.g aligning buses with trains
3. Encourage investment in EV charging infrastructure

Community social strength and resilience

Build community networks and support groups for every day, as well as emergencies

1. Establish active community gathering places to enhance social cohesion
2. Strengthen local democracy, e.g, Citizens’ assemblies, Flat Pack democracy
<https://assemblyproject.blog/2025/03/15/an-independent-revolution/>
3. Help to establish community-specific emergency & resilience plans
4. Create an electronic emergency- & resilience-related mailing list of all residents, with paper back-up and list of vulnerable residents needing extra help.

HOW COMMUNITIES AND COUNCILS CAN WORK TOGETHER

	Question	Suggestions
1	What are the strengths that Communities can bring to resilience?	In general: • Social connections & cohesion: collectively aligned action and mind-set • Solution-focused work: communities get things done • Creativity, fuelled by detailed knowledge of local resources, needs & assets • Determination and a strong sense of ownership In & around Bishop's Castle, many well-established initiatives include, e.g:- • Community Land Trusts for low-cost accommodation & community spaces • Many nature & habitat restoration groups and projects e.g. Going Wild • A Food strategy and resilience partnership, and an active Food Bank • Several allotment groups, and smallholder initiatives, a Seed Bank • Climate Action Group with a Climate Action Plan, also air, river, and soil quality; • Energy-efficiency initiatives, a planned 2 MW community-owned wind turbine • Enterprise House, Dial-A-Ride, Repair, Recycle, Re-use groups • Many social networks and clubs bringing people together, e.g. WI
2	What complementary assets and capabilities can Shropshire and local Town Councils bring to resilience?	• Access to funding pots, e.g. £12 million of unspent CIL fund in Shropshire • (Some) control over taxes and levies: e.g. a visitor levy. Precept funding • Control over planning and regulations: these need to recognise the climate and other emergencies, and move more quickly and flexibly • Oversight of key infrastructures and resources like water, transport, food, emergency services, energy, social support, housing: work with Communities to create short-and long-term resilience plans
3	How can communities work together with the Councils?	In general: • Seeing these new and life-threatening crises, we hope Councils can commit to new ways of approaching things, with:- ○ a stronger recognition of the value of community-led initiatives ○ attitudes of creativity, flexibility, collaboration, and resource-sharing ○ common-sense and the emergency perspective applied to regulations More specifically we need: • Councils' trust and backing: we already successfully do things on the ground! • Prioritisation of community-led resilience activities: you'll get more for your money and your time from initiatives that have community participation • Grants and funds, especially capital funding • Access to underused Council-owned land, buildings, tools and other assets
4	How can we improve funding?	1. Devolved resilience budgets & governance arrangements 2. Encourage villages to form clusters and develop community resilience plans 3. Set up of Community Land Trusts to support asset transfer to communities – especially bringing back redundant buildings into use, 4. Community fundraising can galvanise Councils to give additional funding –