

Climate Emergency Action Plan – 01 Jun 2021

Wantage Town Council has made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. In order to achieve this the Council must come up with a plan to confirm what its carbon footprint is and determine how to tackle it, and ensure it has the powers and resources necessary to achieve this.

In addition, Wantage Town Council is in a position to complement and support other activities that lead to a reduction of carbon footprint overall in the local area.

The action plan is broken up into 3 key areas, some directly related to carbon footprint and others to help bring environmental matters into people's minds:

- Action to determine and reduce the direct carbon footprint of the Town Council
- Assisting, Highlighting and communicating the need for others to reduce their carbon footprint
- Create topics, community projects etc. that keep environmental matters in people's hearts and stimulates conversation.

Action Plan

Action	Action	Leading to...
TOWN COUNCIL CONSUMPTION	1 Calculate Towns Carbon Footprint	2 Determine actions required to reduce carbon footprint 5 Determine Utility use (electricity supplier) and change to a green supplier 21 Reduce carbon footprint associated with Christmas lighting. Changing the Council procurement processes/rules to be Greener and help move contractors to be net zero carbon.
	12 Audit of Council Contracts	19 Flower displays in town

Action	Action	Leading to...
		Christmas Lighting (LED)
DISTRICT / County COUNCIL USAGE	16 Reduce of carbon from Street lighting	All lighting being LED
	20 Reduce carbon use for verge maintenance	18 Minimise use of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides on council land
OFFSETTING	3 Tree mapping 6 Audit of local area	4 Tree planting 15 WTC sponsor and support local tree planting
	9 Town Park – acquire or investigate what can be done	Review furniture, planting, and facilities
COMMUNICATION	23 Publish work being done locally regularly	Regular submission in the newsletter
	8 Determine and influence impact of local events	Review the activities to ensure environmental aspects are considered
	13 Engage schools in local area	25 Litter picks
	17 Encourage companies in the area to become Climate Champions	
PLANNING	11 Neighbourhood plan and influencing on planning.	More investment for the town
INFRASTRUCTURE	24 Improve public conveniences	Clean, well maintained facilities
	30 Review of street furniture and if these can be painted or aesthetically improved.	Use examples from other locations and review

Action	Action	Leading to...
	26 Public benches	Ensure people can use as needed and use for picnics
	28 Look at current provision to assist people making use of outdoor spaces and improvements that could be made	All ages and all mobility can use public spaces
WASTE	10 Council Waste	29 Encourage waste minimisation from local businesses
TRANSPORTATION	7 Determine and influence a transport strategy for the local area	14 EV and charging points Bus routes Cycle paths Footpaths
		22 Influence car use within the town Appropriate parking and safer places
WELLBEING AND SAFETY	Identify unused spaces in town	27 Revitalise unused spaces within Town What tree planting or flower displays?

Detailed List

Key linked items are colour coded

Yellow are linked to town council

Green is linked to SW

Blue is linked to District

Orange is linked to Oxfordshire County Council

Reducing Town Council Carbon Footprint

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
1	Calculate Towns Carbon Footprint	Create a baseline of the Carbon footprint for the Town Council to use to determine actions required for: reduction and measuring changes.	Bill is currently looking into this	Erik	50% complete	High	50
2	Determine actions required to reduce carbon footprint	From baseline generate actions to reduce carbon footprint not covered in actions below.	Part of the request for Bill to complete	Clerk	Next step to 1	High	0
3	Tree mapping	Evaluate Councils existing tree stock on Council owned land.	Work with Sustainable Wantage (SW)	Feedback to Committee		High	0

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
4	Tree planting	Determine if tree planting is possible on any Council owned land.	Find out what is owned by the council and determine if this can be added to the Sustainable Wantage project	Chair to asked Clerk for a map	Next step to 3	Med	0
5	Determine Utility use (electricity supplier) and change to a green supplier	Change utility supplier to a supplier that is from 100% renewable sources or if not within our control lobby key stakeholder with this aim.	Part of the request for Bill to complete	Clerk	Next step to 1	High	0

Actions to improve locally carbon footprint locally (not town Council's carbon footprint).

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
6	Audit of local area	Find a volunteer or pay for an external auditor to look at the local area and determine sources of carbon.	Review the information that Sustainable Wantage (SW) have already generated.	Chair	Review progress with SW	High	0
6a		To determine the potential to reduce, reuse and recycle.	SW project	Chair	Review progress with SW	High	0

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
7	Determine and influence a transport strategy for the local area	Transport strategy for the town and how that links into the local area Pedestrianisation schemes? Making the town car free? Parking and how it is used and EV Local traffic calming Bus and public transport links (Grove railway)	County are progressing Buses on traffic advisory Cycle paths to be mapped (Guy) 20mph proposals being logged	Jenny with Jane	Meeting with the council officer to review	High	10
8	Determine and influence impact of local events	Determine if there are any gains from town events and how they are run, for example war memorials, fetes, fairs etc	Delayed due to Covid, plan to use Zoom, licence purchased by the council	Council	Link to 1	Med	0
9	Town Park	Lobby to take control of the Town park and introduce environmental matters and, carbon footprint into the agenda and the management of it.	In progress and assigned to a district council officer looking at district land and waiting Wantage is on the list	Jenny	Council officer engaged but has not got to Wantage on the list yet	High	5
10	Council Waste	Highlight how our waste is being disposed of, what is recycled, what carbon is released and what improvements are possible.	Invite Biffa to the event to explain the very minimal to zero rubbish goes to landfill. Contamination of recycling can be covered	Chair to work with Jenny	Chair to obtain contact details	High	0

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
11	Neighbourhood plan and influencing on planning.	Introduction of environmental matters on a neighbourhood plan would help plan for better home building.	Identify inputs Discuss how to spend CIL	Chair	To review the status	High	10
12	Audit of Council Contracts	Determine the carbon footprint of contractors used by the council. Create policies that positively influence Council employed contractors to reduce their own carbon footprint and work towards a net zero carbon.	Part of the council review with Bill Review current rules. Moving forward consider the purchasing criteria for staff. Oxford City Council are looking at a scoring process.	Erik / Chris	Next step to 1, awaiting feedback	High	0
13	Influence schools in local area	Talk to and influence schools to determine and tackle their own carbon footprint.	Find out who is resp in schools youth council any spare allotments for school	Chair or other	To link with the sweat box	Med	0
14	EV and charging points	Introduce solar EV charging points into the local area.	District are already working on this	Jenny / Amos from District	In progress	Med	?

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
15	Sponsor and support local tree planting	Determine if there are any schemes in the local area that would benefit from support.	Work with Sustainable Wantage	Mike	Survey underway, check % with Mark	High	?
16	Reduce of carbon from Street lighting	Determine carbon footprint from street lighting and if this can be reduced.	County council replacing with LEDs to review progress	Jenny from District	This is thought to be 25% complete	Med	25
17	Encourage companies in the area to become Climate Champions	Companies can be encouraged to take leadership on tackling climate change and their own carbon footprint.	Review what is needed	TBD		Med	0

Actions to create interest, community projects etc that keep environmental matters in peoples' heart

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
18	Minimise use of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides on council land	Discussion with contractors about effective ways to reduce these products and their use.	Review and how managed Warn help not to put poison down Pellets that don't harm	Jenny	Work with district, in progress	Med	?
19	Flower displays in town	Can flower displays become a community project? Plant growing from seeds in volunteers homes, etc?	Company covered What does sustainable Wantage	Clerk	Contract recently renewed and can review	Med	50

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
20	Reduce carbon use for verge maintenance	Determine if we have any influence in the way this is done – can this become community project?	Reviewing what maintenance and district organise need to cut at junctions, can leave if not needed would leave in new contract in November	Jenny and Jane working with District	Which areas are on the list? That is the progress? Is Stockham covered?	Med	?
21	Reduce carbon footprint associated with Christmas lighting		Are the Christmas lights LEDs. Ask bill Is this town council owned?	Bill to confirm	The Christmas light are LED	Low	100
22	Influence car use within the town	Determine how cars are used in town, and what the barriers are to stopping short journeys.	Market Pedestrianisation	Council	Review the survey data	Med	0
23	Publish work being done locally regularly	Generate information for the public to see what is being done and how they can get involved	Already doing in new letter social media Post on media as chair have permission	Chair to add to the town magazine	Not received in Wallingford Street	High	ongoing
24	Improve public conveniences	Improvements to public conveniences to reduce carbon footprint – for example public loos in beacon car park.	Ownership of park Changing places etc Bill having a conversation about ownership of toilets in town.	Jenny	Part of the Park ownership project	High	0
25	Litter picks	Support and arrange litter picks in local area	Plan event and motivate schools and others. End up in park	Chair	Review risk assessments that would be required	Low	0

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
26	Public benches	Normally public benches are a memorial to someone, could we arrange a series of benches with an environmental message?	Identify the benches that we own. Picnic area in park	Chair to check with Clerk	Awaiting the map and to add benches	Med	0
27	Revitalise unused spaces within Town	Community projects to make unused spaces better used to improve biodiversity	Identify the locations Sustainable Wantage	Committee to review projects with SW	Link to SW project	Med	0
28	Look at current provision to assist people making use of outdoor spaces and improvements that could be made	Recreation – provision of recreation grounds, public walkways, pleasure grounds, open spaces, village greens, gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps. Mobility around town	Park Obtaining walking maps Discussing with Jenny and Jane on cycling Provision of gyms? Cycle paths walking Cycle signs – added to the bottom of Larkhill, review others Heavy goods signs – reducing size of vehicles - ongoing	Jenny with Jane Guy working on cycling activities	ongoing	High	?

No	Action	Details/Deliverables	Current status	Owner	Progress	Priority	%
29	Encourage waste minimisation from local businesses	Look at setting up schemes to promote those that are reducing their waste. Look at existing schemes like becoming a plastic free community. https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/ . Arrange a visit to Biffa to review how waste is handled.	Use information from Biffa to inform Biffa and county working together	Erik & Mike		Med	0
30	Review of street furniture and if these can be painted or aesthetically improved.	Review the street furniture in the town Identify the owners Suggest designs https://dublin.ca.gov/utilityboxart	Not started	TBD	None	Med	0