

Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Climate Emergency Action Plan *Note this is a “live” plan to be modified as appropriate.*

Climate change is affected by everything we do. The Parish Council has committed itself to making the parish net-zero by 2030, in line with Stroud District Council’s goal for the District. This will not be easy to calculate and quantify but establishing the principle is the first step. The PC cannot achieve this alone. Collaboration with residents, businesses and neighbouring parish councils is essential. But there are some measures we can take immediately in our own activities that will both have some – limited – effect, and set an example and allow the PC to take an active role in encouraging and enabling others to act. **Policies are in red in this document.**

With Immediate Effect:

- Recognise that there is also a broader ecological emergency, inextricably related to the climate emergency, of biodiversity and habitat loss, and identify Nature Recovery as a key principle of climate change action.
- Identify one person/group whose responsibility is to ask the question “what is the impact on climate change and biodiversity” of all decisions and actions we take.
- Support and collaborate with any independent climate action group in the Parish.

Within 12 months:

Measures to reduce harm and raise awareness:

- Assess the impact of PC activities, and look for and implement ways to reduce harmful effects, including carbon emissions:
 - energy used in pavilions and sports/playing fields - heating, lighting, materials used, etc.
 - travel by users of pavilions, sports fields etc.
 - maintenance of playing fields etc. owned/maintained by PC – mowing, tree work, etc.
 - as a consultee on planning applications, require plans to reduce energy use/ increase energy generation; enhance biodiversity (including linking wildlife corridors) and benefit flora and fauna, wherever appropriate. (cf. NPPF Ch 14; Climate Change Act; Environment Act).
 - change pavilion lighting to LED.
 - ensure our electricity supply is from renewables.

- review pavilion heating systems – look at a long term plan.
- travel by Clerk and Councillors on Parish business – including to attend meetings
- energy expended by the council office on heating, light, printing etc.

Policy: The Council will take all practicable measures to aid nature recovery and reduce energy use and carbon emissions in its own activities, including travel to meetings, lighting and heating of council offices and facilities such as pavilions, and maintenance of buildings and land for which the Council is responsible.

Policy: As consultee on planning applications, the Council will make Climate Change Mitigation and Nature Recovery primary considerations in all its responses.

Specific planning policies will be developed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Positive (“offsetting”) measures:

- Allotments and local food production – consider how to increase climate/biodiversity-positive effects
- Parish grants scheme: Ask applicants to say how their request would affect climate change/biodiversity; seek “off-setting” projects.
- Set up new grants scheme to address climate change innovations.
- Consider appointing a climate change assistant to the Clerk. This may be a young person’s job opportunity, perhaps for students from Thomas Keble School.

Policy: The Council will take all practicable measures to increase carbon “off-setting” actions in the Parish, including tree-planting, composting, and other carbon-sequestration. It will support such efforts by other organisations within the Parish, for example by making grants to relevant projects.

- Tree strategy:
 - Assess loss of trees by Ash die-back in the Parish - climate and ecological impact of loss and plan to mitigate
 - Plant more trees; seek advice from GWT on where to plant (and not plant) trees to ensure most benefit to wildlife.
 - Establish time scale for target planting.

- Ensure verge and field cutting is in line with best practice for environmental benefit.
- Renewable energy generation:
 - Seek more potential for energy generation on PC buildings and land.
- Reduce or eliminate use of plastic in PC activities and events.

Policy: The Council will seek to increase renewable energy generation on its buildings and land, and where reasonable support such projects by other organisations in the Parish.

Engaging with the wider community:

The role of the PC in helping to achieve the goal of net-zero for the Parish as a whole – and for the District – will involve engaging with residents, businesses and other entities. The aims will include:

- Reduced energy use in housing – especially heating, by insulation and conversion from gas/oil. (In Stroud District 31% of carbon emission is caused by housing.)
- Reduced use of fossil fuel vehicles – by increasing walking and cycling, switching to EVs, less travel for work, etc.
- Increased local energy generation, from PV panels on roofs to larger scale solar/wind projects.
- Increased local food production and reliance on local producers.
- Reduced energy use by businesses, including agriculture.
- Increased environmentally positive farming and land management.
- Increase awareness of the role individual residents can have in enhancing biodiversity and nature recovery: e.g. helping hedgehog initiatives.

These aims will need to be made into action plans – probably by the PC in consultation with residents, businesses, farmers, etc. The role of the PC is likely to be one of enabling and encouraging, bringing people together and facilitating change, rather than direct action. We may be able to promote community projects – such as community energy schemes, car-sharing, and so on. *This part of the plan is not yet an **action plan**.*