

CLIMATE CHANGE! WHAT SHOULD HUCCLECOTE DO?

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

1-4PM SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2022
PINEHOLT VILLAGE HALL



THE HUCCLECOTE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SCRAPBOOK

What happened on 23 April 2022, and what priorities were identified by our residents?

THE BACKGROUND

Hucclecote Parish Council has, for some time, been wrestling with the problem of how it might tackle the challenge of Climate Change. Many councils have declared a 'Climate Emergency'; but few have really worked out how to respond – with a considered Action Plan to make their communities better equipped to deal with the impact of Climate Change.

The parish began by researching what other local councils had done, and discovered that a few had set up an Action Group to spearhead their Climate Change initiatives.

At a parish meeting in early 2022 the council agreed to establish a Climate Change Action Group for Hucclecote. The Group was initially made up of a number of keen councillors, who quickly realised that they didn't really have the technical and environmental knowledge needed to draw up a robust Action Plan. So they reached out to various contacts to try to identify people from the local business community that might be willing to help.

Three respected local businesses agreed to get involved by seconding people to the Group – EDF, Ecclesiastical and HATS. Gem Urquhart is an environmental specialist at EDF; Chris Pitt is the head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Ecclesiastical; and Sarah Watkins works at Hucclecote Accounting and Taxation. HATS are based in the parish and EDF and Ecclesiastical are both on the Business Park, and their premises adjoin the parish.

The four councillors in the group are David Bentley, a Coopers Edge resident and former forestry lecturer; Maria Clutterbuck, the co-ordinator of a very active local litter-picking group; Andrew Pugh, a Sussex Gardens resident and transport campaigner; and Ted Stevens, who lives on Chosen Hill in an eco-house he built 20 years ago.

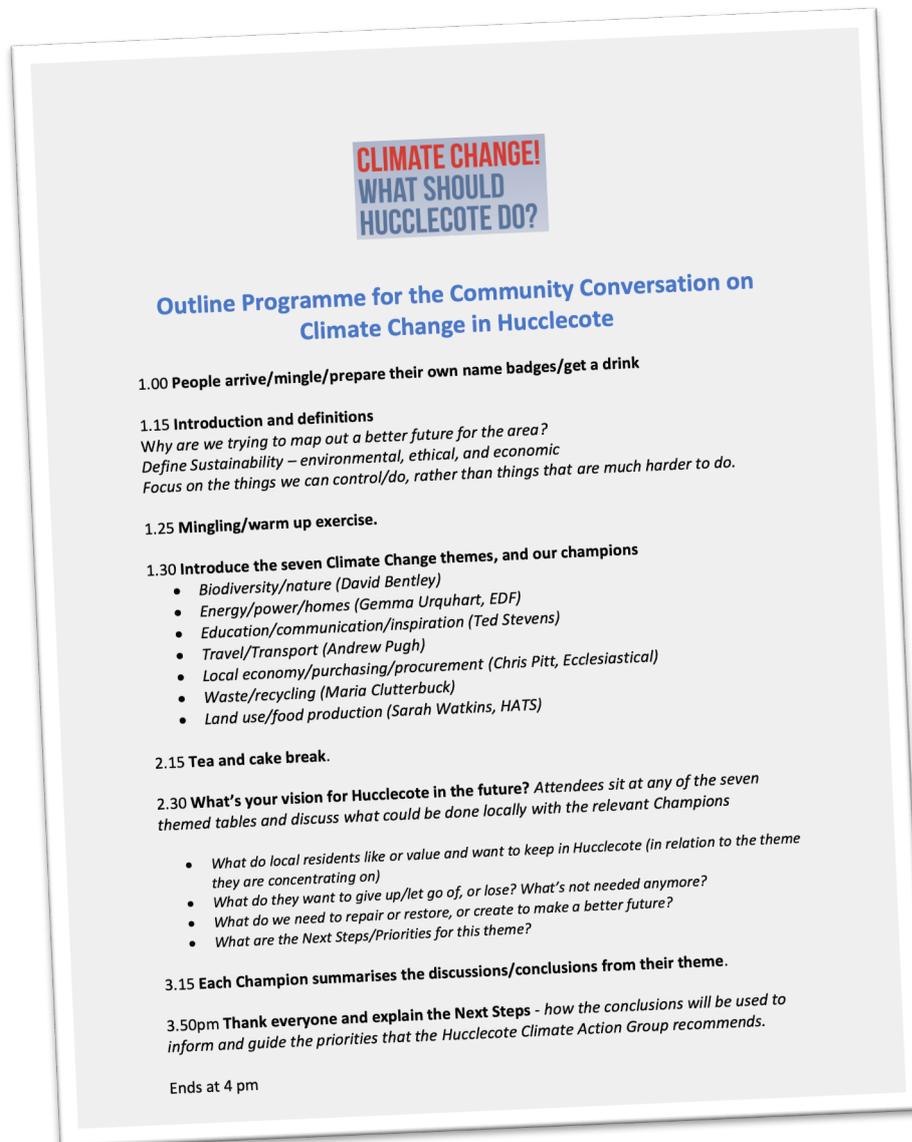
When the Group looked at what other councils had done, they discovered that many councils had opted to organise a 'Community Engagement' event to find out what local residents were really passionate about.

We based the format of our event closely on the one that other councils had used and started to publicise it on our website, our social media platforms and via posters and a leaflet drop to all households in the parish. BBC Radio Gloucestershire also helped, and ran a couple of items in the lead-up to the Community Conversation.

We also explored the wide range of Climate Change initiatives that had been trialled by other parish councils – around 50 different schemes caught our eye, and we promoted these on our Facebook page to encourage people to attend. The case studies are all included in the appendices to this report.

One challenge we had was how to deal with the enormous range of issues impacted by Climate Change. In the end we split the subject into seven broad themes – Nature/Biodiversity; Energy & Power/Homes; Travel and Transport; Waste & Recycling; Land Use and Food Production; the Local Economy and Purchasing/Buying Local; and Communication/Education/Inspiration.

We identified a 'Champion' for each from the members of our Group and they all chaired the individual brain storming sessions that took place on each theme. Inevitably there was some overlap between the themes, and some generated more interest and passion than others.



We were keen to make the programme (see above) as interactive as possible, with various mingling and warm up exercises, short punchy/visual presentations and discussion/feedback sessions.

Around 30 local people attended – young and old, and ranging from people who were very knowledgeable and technically skilled through to others who were just keen to do something to map out a greener future for the area they lived in.

SOME IMAGES FROM THE EVENT



Brainstorming the Travel/Transport options

Lots of interest in the biodiversity theme



Feedback on the energy issues



Evaluating recycling options



Ideas to boost the local economy



100 + ideas were posted on the 'Inspiration Wall'



We split the broad subject of Climate Change into seven main themes



FIRST THOUGHTS – FEEDBACK FROM THE INSPIRATION WALL

Following the three slide presentations (on Biodiversity issues, Energy and Transport) we asked people what had caught their eye or inspired them. Residents were invited to stick 'Post It' notes on our 'Inspiration Wall,' citing the examples they had seen in the presentations, or other ideas or initiatives they had seen or thought of themselves. The spreadsheet below summarises the topics and their degree of interest.

| RESULTS OF THE INSPIRATION WALL | Votes |
|--|-----------|
| BIODIVERSITY (& FOOD PRODUCTION) | |
| Plant more wild flower areas/mow verges less | 13 |
| Gurilla gardening | 3 |
| Community composting scheme/advice | 8 |
| More allotments and/or community veg garden | 10 |
| Expand existing community orchard | 3 |
| Plant more trees | 2 |
| Establish a new Hucclecote Meadow | 1 |
| Community bee keeping/bee week | 5 |
| Create more fresh water habitats | 1 |
| Do a study on current biodiversity levels | 1 |
| Put people who can't maintain gardens in touch with people who want to garden | 1 |
| Watercourse management | 1 |
| | 49 |
| ENERGY/POWER HOMES | |
| Discounted solar panel scheme | 7 |
| Turn off street lighting/use motion sensors | 2 |
| Honest local guidance on performance and suppliers of PV/heat pumps/insulation | 3 |
| Electric car charging points | 2 |
| Community wind turbine | 1 |
| Make electric cars cheaper | 1 |
| Discounted insulation scheme | 1 |
| Lobby to encourage 'net zero' homes/PV's on all new roofs | 2 |
| | 19 |
| TRANSPORT/TRAVEL | |
| Improve cycling infrastructure/paths | 4 |
| Life share scheme for doctors visits etc | 2 |
| Set up a car sharing scheme | 1 |
| 'No car' days | 2 |
| Community not-for-profit mini bus | 2 |
| Low emission zone | 1 |
| Bike repair shop/workshops to encourage people to cycle | 2 |
| Low cost local transport | 1 |
| Better walking access to Business park | 1 |
| Speed camera on Hucclecote road | 1 |
| | 17 |
| WASTE/RECYCLING | |
| Set up a repair café | 3 |
| Bigger/better bins and ones with 3 sections (glass/cans/other etc) | 2 |
| Set up a 'Library of Things' | 1 |
| Set up a 'plastic free' shop and pressure local retailers to reduce packaging | 3 |
| Better guidance on 'hard to recycle items'/set up collection point | 4 |
| More organised/group litter picks | 1 |
| Install litter /fly tipping cameras | 3 |
| Ask TBC to create database of product bar codes that can be recycled | 1 |
| Educate people on impact of littering/cigarette butts | 1 |
| Cut out single use plastics | 1 |
| Set up a recycling hub | 1 |
| | 21 |
| LAND USE/PLANNING | |
| Utilise fields for a wind turbine | 1 |
| Stop building on flood plains | 1 |
| Tighten rules on garages - big enough for modern cars/not used as living space | 1 |
| | 3 |
| LOCAL ECONOMY | |
| Set up a 'Local Produce' shop/buy local | 1 |
| Organise local walks to showcase the area/green tourism | 1 |
| Use technology to help 'share' things - lifts, equipment, ideas | 1 |
| | 3 |
| EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION/INSPIRATION | |
| Myth busting/share local success stories | 2 |
| Encourage people to 'Pledge to Change' | 1 |
| Build a local knowledge bank/information hub | 1 |
| Online register for people needing help/and for volunteers to help them | 1 |
| Sharing vegan/vegetarian food ideas | 1 |
| | 6 |

FEEDBACK FROM THE BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS ON THE SEVEN THEMES

BIODIVERSITY/NATURE – DAVE BENTLEY

This theme attracted the most interest, with more ideas/suggestions on the Inspiration Wall, and a healthy attendance during the three brain storming sessions. The topic is very wide and many of the issues that we thought would be discussed under the original 'Land Use and Food Production' theme surfaced here – such as allotments and community gardens.

The existing things/features that people valued and wanted to 'keep' or preserve in the area were:

- The existing green areas
- The Hucclecote Meadows Nature Reserve (which has been under threat)
- The Champion Trees that are scattered around the parish
- The 'Green Corridors' that make it easier for wildlife to move around the area
- The access we have to amazing countryside, right on our doorstep

The things that residents would be happy to give up, or have less of in the future included:

- Reducing the tarmacked/hard surfaces
- Stop mowing grass as intensively as we do at present
- Stop using peat-based composts
- Stop buying things from garden centres made of plastic (eg pots)
- Stop laying artificial grass
- Stop feeding birds with bread
- Stop paving over front gardens to create parking spaces

Four initiatives were identified that would be very popular if they were addressed in the parish's Climate Change Action Plan. They were:

- Make some allotments available/or create a community garden
- Plant more trees – at both an individual and community level. Explore the idea of creating a 'tiny forest' on the Mound site
- Install insect hotels, bat and bird boxes
- Install some 'plant or seed swap' shelves, so more people can grow their own veg or flowers

The Next Steps that this theme discussed included trying to work out who we need to approach and engage with more – for example who owns the small bits of land that could perhaps be re-used for community gardens or allotments; can councils, farmers and other landowners be encouraged to meet with us and become part of the campaign?

Residents also thought there could be a role for a 'Handbook' that contained information on who to contact to initiate any 'guerrilla gardening' on various tracts of unused land.

There was a strong consensus that the campaign to make Hucclecote a greener area would need to engage with the local schools, to get them on-board, actively involved and supportive.

Finally, there was a suggestion that a simple 'tree nursery' could be established locally, so that residents had access to locally produced young trees.

TRAVEL/TRANSPORT – ANDREW PUGH

This was another popular theme, with some good/new ideas generated.

The main thing residents were keen to hang onto was the good bus service between Cheltenham and Gloucester.

However, there were concerns raised about other bus services:

- Some services are seen as unreliable (post Covid, due to staffing issues)
- Smaller (electric) buses might be more appropriate on less busy routes

The main initiatives residents want to see actioned included:

- A car sharing scheme, perhaps hosted on the parish council website, for residents travelling to work in places directly inaccessible by public transport (e.g. Tewkesbury)
- A weekend long 'car free days' campaign (probably more realistic than a work-day car free day?)
- Better maintained cycleways; they exist in places like Abbeymead and on the business park, but end abruptly and dangerously. Hucclecote Road, in particular, needs better cycleways as presently cyclists often avoid the busy traffic by illegally using the pavements, so bringing a real danger to pedestrians.
- Better education for electric scooter users, as the current hire scheme providers seem helpless in ensuring that scooter users wear helmets, don't carry a friend on their scooter, and use the pavements at a danger to walkers.
- An opportunity to use modern technology to enable a better balance between efficiency and flexibility. There's a compromise to be found in being able to access public transport (beyond existing services) when we need it, and ensuring the transport provider operates without making a loss. e.g. Could an app be developed for individuals to use when booking, so that providers could "map" a route to pick up users. (A Uber type app for small scale local transport?)
- The service buses that go around the business park (and other areas) frequently are seriously under occupied. We want a conversation with Stagecoach about them using smaller and electric powered buses at non-peak times.....has Stagecoach even thought about the environmental value of electric buses??

ENERGY/POWER/HOMES – GEM URQUHART

The discussion on 'Things to Keep' concluded that:

- We want to maintain affordable energy
- We want to keep our sense of community by learning from local residents, and sharing information
- Where installed, solar panels and smart meters are liked – we'd like to expand their use, but feel people don't understand them

Suggestions on initiatives were grouped into these two broad themes:

Empowering and educating our community

- Play on the strong community ethos of Hucclecote – energy workshops, an educational piece, informative pub quiz, Hucclecote Fayre.

- Community café with info on energy efficiency or insulation grants; a handbook on all these things would be useful.
- Community sustainability fayre – showcasing electric cars (Paul volunteered!) and solar panels (so it is community led); plus we could welcome other helpful parties. Would also work as overlap with other disciplines (eg. Biodiversity).
- Greater links between businesses and residents is needed; they are part of our community too.

Infrastructure

- Install a community energy scheme or heating scheme which will reduce household bills
- Need a better infrastructure to support electric vehicles – eg. Planning consents for new developments should insist on solar energy provision or charge points for electrical vehicles; new homes to encompass sustainable features.
- Charge points linked to streetlight network – could we explore this (It is done in London)?
- Open up more charging stations for public. Come to an arrangement with local businesses so that the public can use them.
- Scoping study 1: One local resident was keen that we looked at the viability of water source heat pumps, utilising energy from the local watercourse.
- Scoping study 2: Investigate how much energy reducing streetlights might make – or could we make them solar powered?
- Another resident was keen to stress that electric cars don't take whole life cycle into account – lithium batteries aren't ideal in terms of disposal options; so was less keen that this was one of our initiatives. Perhaps the detail of this could be incorporated into a village magazine or information booklet to enable residents to make their own informed choices

Summary of actions

- Education: A programme of community communication on all things “sustainable” to educate and inform local residents. Eco-schools, community café “drop in” once a month, a “Little green book” (sponsored by Hucclecote businesses); a sustainability fayre featuring info on energy efficiency etc.
- Research into viable energy efficiency and sustainable energy measures (eg, community energy schemes; solar panels on community buildings).
- Lobbying local authority and gaining agreement from local MP's to ensure that all future infrastructure encourages, or incentivises green energy options.

LAND USE/FOOD PRODUCTION – SARAH WATKINS

The area covered by Hucclecote Parish is quite mixed, with significant areas of Green Belt around Chosen Hill, to the north, and large areas of relatively new housing (peppered with numerous large and small green areas) to the south.

The people who participated in this theme wanted to keep/protect the current green areas, perhaps by formally designating some of them via the planning system/Localism Act.

There was a lot of support for making better use of some of the current green areas including:

- Providing allotments or a community veg growing area – any allotments should small manageable plots that are easily accessible, with facilities to securely store tools.
- Setting up (or providing guidance/education) on community composting schemes (for schoolchildren as well as adults)

- Creating a 'showcase' for local food producers. This might take the form of a pop-up Farm Shop or Community Café, where people could share plants/seeds
- Setting an ambitious tree planting target across the current green spaces

The area known as "The Mound", close to the new sports facilities was thought to be well suited to a community veg garden/allotments etc (and it might be possible to create some additional off-street parking here to alleviate pressure on residential streets when the sports facilities are up and running).

Other ideas that were supported included exploring the possibility of offering meals from the community café on a 'pay what you can afford' basis, and setting up a Community Fridge to redistribute excess fruit, veg and dairy products.

There was also support for:

- Lobbying the planners to ensure all new buildings were as green as possible, with solar panels, green roofs and additional tree planting around them.
- Any new car parking should also have solar roofs over them and electric car charging points
- A study to understand/measure the biodiversity that currently exists on our green spaces
- Exploring the creation of a new Nature Reserve and/or re-branding current green spaces with a name to give it more of an identity and encourage people to use the spaces more

LOCAL SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY & PURCHASING – CHRIS PITT

A string of innovative initiatives were identified by this group – all geared to helping to support the local economy/businesses, and residents. Overall people were keen on nurturing a 'sharing and repairing local economy'. The suggestions that garnered strong support included:

- Setting up a community-wide solar panel scheme that could, in time, help to reduce local resident's electricity bills
- Encouraging the establishment of a 'Local Farm Shop'. This could take the form of an occasional 'pop up' shop, a community kitchen, a community-wide food sharing scheme. It was recognised that to be viable it might be necessary to extend the 'catchment' for the shop beyond just the parish boundaries
- Organising a Hucclecote Repair Shop/Café – so that people could share/repair things rather than sending them to landfill.
- A Guide or Directory of local trades/suppliers might encourage more people to 'buy local'. The Guide would probably need to ensure those listed were robustly 'recommended' or 'rated' in some way.
- A Local Green Tourism Guide could be produced that includes suggested footpaths and walks, the Top 5 Places to visit etc. A Guide like this would be useful for new residents moving to the area, as well as encouraging more casual visitors.
- Pressurise the big retailers, like Tesco, to stock local products/suppliers

Collectively initiatives like these would build a stronger community network and a more resilient local economy.

WASTE/RECYCLING – MARIA CLUTTERBUCK

There was good interest in this theme and several passionate residents contributed to the brainstorming.

Under the ‘things we want to keep’ heading the main ‘ask’ was that the current Blue Bins provided by Tewkesbury should be retained.

There was, however, support for changing a few things, including:

- Replacing existing single-item litter bins with new three-container bins, so that people could pre-sort their refuse into glass, cans, and ‘other litter’
- Separate dog waste bins, rather than mixing this with general litter

Looking to the future residents identified the following options for improving recycling and minimising waste across the parish:

- Setting up a Repair Café to items could be up-cycled or reused
- Arranging collection points for items that are currently hard-to-recycle such as ‘veg ware’, clothes that charity shops won’t take, coffee pods etc
- Establishing a ‘Library of Things’ so that people can rent equipment rather than buying/storing it themselves
- The parish council, local residents and any future ‘farm shops’ should be encouraged to stop using all ‘single use’ plastic items.
- There was a plea for more litter bins in certain locations (eg Bird Road)
- And better signage could help too (encouraging people to take their litter home)
- There was also support for installing some litter cameras to catch people who chuck litter out of their cars or to deter fly tippers.

Finally, there was a need for more education on littering and recycling – for people of all ages.

COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION/INSPIRATION – TED STEVENS

The ‘big idea’ that came up under this theme’s brain storming was organising a “Sustainability Fair” to kick-start the parish’s efforts make Hucclecote much greener.

The Fair might become the successor to the current annual ‘Hullabaloo’ and could take the form of:

- Displays by local firms who install PV’s, heat pumps, and insulation etc
- Talks/workshops by local people who have first-hand experience of installing some of the new green technologies. ‘Open House’ visits to see what they’ve done, and how it works
- Displays to show how to do more recycling/how to dispose of items that are currently difficult to recycle
- A Repair Café
- A ‘Eye Spy’ competition/game for Children who gave to identify various insects etc
- ‘How to Compost’ demonstrations
- How to Plant a tree
- A Litter Picking Blitz (eg encourage young people to clean up the skatepark)

- Wildflower sowing demonstration
- Plant and seed swaps

The discussion also suggested we should set a target to be “one of the Greenest Areas in Gloucestershire”, and we should proudly proclaim this on all the signs as you enter the parish.

The challenge of engaging more young people was discussed at length, and one way forward might be to try to recruit a few secondary level youngsters, who could drive a social media campaign aimed at their contemporaries via the latest media platforms.

Linked to this there was a suggestion that we might then be able to develop an ‘App’ that younger people could use to spot examples of nature (eg bumble bees, woodpeckers, newts), and each item spotted would generate a ‘green credit’. And by accumulating credits this would trigger, for example, a local tree being planted for every 10 credits.

There are already online games/competitions a bit like this – eg the ‘City Nature Challenge’ – which could be perhaps adapted for use locally in Hucclecote.

THE NEXT STEPS

This Scrapbook will guide the Hucclecote Climate Action Group's work over the summer of 2020.

The Group will be meeting to discuss how we can make the best use the budget we have available (approx £18,000) to address the challenges of Climate Change in Hucclecote. And the Group will aim to do this against the backdrop of the priorities our residents have identified, which are set out in this Scrapbook.

We won't be able to do everything, but we will aim to come forward with a set of robust recommendations that make the best use of the budget, while, at the same time, delivering some really meaningful and 'visible' improvements to the area.

We anticipate sending our final Action Plan to the parish council in the early autumn, who will (hopefully) then give us the Green Light to proceed.

Our objective will then be to start delivering the Plan in early 2023, and we hope the various initiatives we progress will inspire more residents to get involved, so the impact grows and grows.

Occasional updates/progress reports will be posted on the parish website over the coming months.

Contact us if you're keen to be involved

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Pineholt Village Hall
Bird Road
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3SN

01452 612485 (weekday mornings)

E-mail - hucclecotepc@supanet.com

Website - <https://hucclecotepc.gov.uk>

The Climate Change Action Group initiative has been co-ordinated by Coiuncillor Ted Stevens. If you want to contact him direct his email is tstevens@seafa.co.uk. Mobile 07860 336087

APPENDICES

CASE STUDY DISCOUNTED SOLAR PANELS



Frome Town Council and a local renewable energy co-op offer significantly discounted solar panels when 10 or more households sign up. In the first year more than 70 homes participated

1

CASE STUDY 'BUY LOCAL' AT CHRISTMAS



Bosham Parish Council encourages its residents to buy as many of their Christmas presents as possible from local craftspeople and businesses

2

CASE STUDY FIT WATER SAVING SYSTEMS

Encourage residents to use less water, harvest rainwater and fix leaks. Fit water saving taps to council buildings. Colonley Parish Council provides free water butts and piping to local residents



3

CASE STUDY SUPPORT HOME WORKING

Promote the use of community centres and public buildings for shared workspaces and home working



4

CASE STUDY ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING



Many parish councils have installed electric car charging points for their local residents, like these at the rear of the village hall in Bellingham

5

CASE STUDY CREATE MORE ALLOTMENTS



Brockworth Parish Council will soon be adding new allotments on the Perrybrook site. There could be opportunities in Hucclecote to create new allotments too, if there is keen support for the idea

6

CASE STUDY BUILD OUR OWN WINDMILL



The community in the Lawrence Weston district of Bristol has decided to build a windmill to help bring down local resident's energy bills. It will produce enough low carbon electricity to power 3,500 homes, and it should be up and running by the summer

7

CASE STUDY LABEL ECO ACTIONS CLEARLY

Provide interpretive information and educational signage to encourage better understanding of measures to protect wildlife, farming and the countryside



8

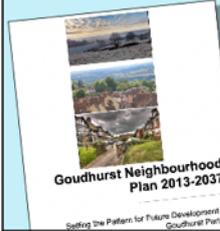
CASE STUDY RUN A SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

Payhembury Parish organises an annual Local Produce & Sustainability Fair to showcase local makers and food suppliers. The Fair also promotes local recycling initiatives



9

CASE STUDY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS



Goudhurst's Neighbourhood Plan supports local economic growth and jobs – like encouraging the conversion of buildings for live/work use. The Plan also addresses a wide range of other land use and sustainability issues

10

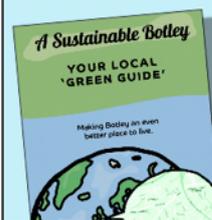
CASE STUDY COMMUNITY COMPOSTING



Bisley Parish Council's community composting scheme transforms unwanted village garden materials into free compost for local residents. The end-product then feeds the gardens of Bisley, increases local soil fertility, helps wildlife, and produces fine crops

11

CASE STUDY IMPARTIAL GREEN GUIDES



Botley Parish has produced an impartial Guide that provides information on accredited local businesses. The Guide has information on renewable energy installers for solar panels, batteries, EV charging points, heat pumps, eco-friendly retailers, green builders and landscape companies

12

CASE STUDY USE YOUR VOICE TO CAMPAIGN

Many major planning or infrastructure decisions increase carbon emissions and/or harm nature. Use your voice to promote sustainable alternatives instead. Press local authorities and MPs to, for example, fund local bus services or improve the energy performance of new homes



13

CASE STUDY 'TOP TIPS' FOR GOING GREEN



Lanner Parish Council's website provides regular tips for local residents on how they can save energy, reduce water consumption, recycle more, support local businesses, improve veg growing..etc etc

14

CASE STUDY SET UP A REPAIR CAFE

Eynsham is one of scores of Parish Councils who have encouraged volunteers to set up a regular repair café to fix everything from toys to electrical goods



15

CASE STUDY DESIGNATE GREEN SPACES

The Localism Act provides an opportunity for communities to protect green spaces in their area. Local people can now play a bigger role in planning, designing, managing and maintaining community green spaces for food growing or recreational and leisure purposes



16

CASE STUDY GUERRILLA GARDENING

Lyrchett Matravers Parish Council works with a volunteer group of 'guerrilla gardeners' who tackle overgrown areas in the village and plant up neglected pockets of land for food production




17

CASE STUDY 'SHOP LOCAL' CAMPAIGN

Support your community
We're working with local businesses to help you shop safely




Dursley Town Council is supporting a Shop Local initiative. The campaign is simple – it helps residents identify local retailers, and it assists businesses to trade profitably, thereby supporting the area's economy

18

CASE STUDY SET UP A LOCAL FOOD BANK



Bishops Cleeve Parish Council works with a large local Food Bank. Residents are encouraged to drop off food at the council offices and volunteers then distribute it

19

CASE STUDY ENCOURAGE GREEN TOURISM



Marlborough Town Council wants to create a prosperous and viable economic future for the area. One way it does this is by promoting attractions, like a nearby long-distance walk

20

CASE STUDY LAUNCH A COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Pill Parish Council (near Bristol) has a community fridge where residents deposit free surplus fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and dairy products. The fridge sits next to the council's surplus food table



21

CASE STUDY 'PLASTIC FREE' CAMPAIGNS

Axminster has persuaded local retailers to replace plastic containers with sustainable alternatives. It also runs litter picking events, and has set up collection points for a wide range of 'hard-to-recycle' items like cables, ink cartridges, inhalers and toothbrushes



**PLASTIC FREE
AXMINSTER**

22

CASE STUDY SET UP A 'LIBRARY OF THINGS'



Kentish Town opened a 'Library of Things'. The community-powered social enterprise helps people save money and reduce waste by affordably renting out useful items like drills, sound systems and sewing machines. It also helps people share practical DIY skills so they can repair stuff

23

CASE STUDY LOBBY FOR NET ZERO HOMES



Parish Councils are always asked to comment on new planning applications. In Teignbridge the Parish has been lobbying the Borough planners, urging them to require all new homes to be 'Net Zero'

24

CASE STUDY LEND FLOOD RELIEF PUMPS

Howden Town Council owns a range of flood relief equipment. In an emergency residents and businesses can get use of a pump free of charge. Councillors and volunteers deliver the equipment, set it up and demonstrate how it works



25

CASE STUDY FIT LOW ENERGY LIGHTS

In Portreath they are fitting low energy LED bulbs in all parish buildings and streetlights. The Council is also looking at switching off streetlights late at night, or using movement sensors to reduce electricity use



26

CASE STUDY REDUCE PACKAGING WASTE



Brixton Parish Council (near Plymouth) supported the launch of a new zero waste/zero packaging shop, as part of its campaign to encourage residents, businesses and the local school to reduce the use of plastics

27

CASE STUDY ENCOURAGE CAR SHARING



Bulwell Parish is working with a local environment group to encourage more car sharing. It is also planning to install electric charging points

28

CASE STUDY ORGANISE A 'BEE WEEK'



Ruddington Parish worked with its school to organise a 'Bee Week', with talks from a local bee-keeper and the children planting bee-friendly flowers in the school grounds

29

CASE STUDY NATURAL FLOOD BARRIERS



Several Parishes in the Stroud Valleys have used volunteers to create natural barriers to slow down water, and reduce the risk of acute flooding

30

CASE STUDY BAN THE USE OF PESTICIDES

Bisley-with-Lyplatt Parish Council has prohibited the use pesticides on the land it owns and manages



31

CASE STUDY RESIDENT'S PLEDGE ACTION

Helston Council in Cornwall asked its residents to pledge their support – the list includes switching to greener power suppliers, walking or cycling more, doing a home energy check, reducing air travel, buying local seasonal produce and learning how to drive in a more environmentally friendly way



32

CASE STUDY LAUNCH NEW BUS SERVICES

Disley Parish Council operates a not-for-profit community minibus scheme. For £1, residents become members and book to travel on the minibus



33

CASE STUDY MANAGE LOCAL WOODLANDS



Windermere Town Council has cut back an overgrown and densely packed 30 acre wood, to bring the woodland floor back to life. The bluebells and birdsong are now both thriving

34

CASE STUDY LIFT SHARING INITIATIVES



Sedlescombe Parish Council runs an informal lift scheme for residents who find it difficult to attend doctors and hospital appointments due to a lack of transport

35

CASE STUDY WORK WITH WILDLIFE TRUSTS



Westerleigh Parish Council funds a range of wildlife projects in partnership with the Avon Wildlife Trust. Two wildlife habitats have been set up, and secondary school children now learn scientific fieldwork techniques. A community engagement scheme includes guided walks and talks at the sites

36

CASE STUDY CYCLE-TO-WORK SCHEMES



Felixstowe introduced a cycle-to-work scheme in partnership with the Youth Forum and the Safer Neighbourhood Team

37

CASE STUDY NEW WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

Stanley Parish in Derbyshire has established a new wildflower meadow on a local Common. Residents, and the local wildlife, both love it



38

CASE STUDY IMPROVE PATHS/CYCLEWAYS



Salford Priors Parish Council is working with others to open up a 10 mile disused railway as a green walk and cycleway – to connect Evesham to Alcester



39

CASE STUDY MAKE VILLAGE HALL GREENER

Buckingham has installed solar panels on the roof of two community buildings, and has set up a £30k grants scheme to help local groups improve the energy performance of their buildings



40

CASE STUDY INVEST IN ETHICAL FUNDS

Charlton Kings Parish Council has introduced a new policy that says that its reserves should ideally be invested in ethical or sustainable funds



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CASE STUDY PLANT LOTS OF TREES



Baldon Town Council is working with landowners and Friends of the Earth to create a new forest with 700,000 trees

42

CASE STUDY PROMOTE 'CAR FREE' DAYS

Woodbridge Council encourages residents to go 'car free' once a month. It has also improved cycle parking facilities and works with the local school to encourage parents and children to walk more





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CASE STUDY PLANT A LOCAL ORCHARD

East Ilsley Parish Council has created a Community Orchard for the village. More than 20 local apple and pear varieties have been planted



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CASE STUDY RECOGNISE GREEN CHAMPIONS

Many Parish Councils now run awards schemes to recognise the people and organisations that are addressing climate change issues at a local level



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CASE STUDY INSTALL WATER FOUNTAINS

Bradford on Avon Council has installed water fountains to encourage people to refill and reuse bottles. This is just one element of the council's 'War on Plastic'



46

CASE STUDY REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Encourage local families (and schools) to use one of the many online tools to calculate their carbon footprint, and to look at the things they can do to reduce it



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CASE STUDY ORGANISE A PUB ECO QUIZ!

Many Parish Councils in Cornwall have run an eco 'pub quiz' to draw attention to Climate Change issues. They are a good way of engaging with local people and helping them to learn more about the subject



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