

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE – 15 JULY 2021**

Responsible Officer: Amanda Spencer - Deputy Town Clerk

CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES BY SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Purpose of Report

To update members on the newly formed Climate Change Standing Committee on initiatives undertaken so far by Shrewsbury Town Council regarding climate emergency related issues.

Background

Below are the key milestones of Climate Emergency:

- 25 March 2019 – Shrewsbury Town Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to developing an Action Plan within 6 months
- April/May – The Town Clerk & Operations Manager convened a group of interested individuals of climate emergency and facilitated an open discussion about what the Town Council was already doing and what it needed to do – presentation appended to this report
- July 2019 – Officers undertook a review of its Carbon Footprint
- 30 September 2019 – Council adopted the draft Climate Action Plan
- 27 November 2019 – the Mayor convened a Mayors & Town Clerks Meeting to discuss Climate Emergency, at which Adrian Cooper the newly appointed Climate Change Task Force Leader at Shropshire Council attended
- 30 January 2020 – Council set its 2020/21 budget and set aside a £250,000 fund to look at climate mitigations measures over the next three years
- 6 February 2020 – Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk facilitated a workshop event with the Climate Change Working Group (Appendix 1)
- January/February 2020 – Officers attended SLCC Webinars on Climate Emergency facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy
- July 2020 – Climate Emergency Working Group met for the first time
- May 2021 – Council agreed the formation of the Climate Change Standing Committee

Actions in 2020/2021

1. The Deputy Town Clerk developed a set of Terms of Reference for a Climate Emergency Advisory Group and the group met three times. As part of these discussions a Climate Emergency Action Plan was agreed.
2. The Town Clerk met with Adrian Cooper (Climate Change Task Force Leader) on several occasions; firstly to understand each organisation's approach to Climate Emergency and more recently areas for collaboration. These included:

- Revisiting the Hydro Scheme works
 - Opportunities for solar and wind power on public estate land
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Points Trials
 - Procurement of Electric/Hydrogen powered vehicles
 - Approach to Trees as mitigation
 - STC Involvement in SC's Stakeholder Mapping Workshop designed to develop a Shropshire/Telford wide Climate Action Partnership with localised Sub-Groups
3. Town Council staff continue to work towards achieving the Action Plan and ongoing work includes:
- Procurement of a solar scheme for the Quarry
 - Procurement of Green Energy
 - Procurement of electric hand tools for the Grounds Maintenance Team
 - Exploration of Electric Vehicles for the Grounds Maintenance Fleet and the Mayor's Car
 - Exploration of installation of EVCPs at Weeping Cross
 - Commencement of a Buildings Audit to determine any energy efficiency measures
 - Procurement of an Energy Efficient Boiler at Grange Youth Centre
 - Shading work at the Greenhouse
 - Expansion of the Tree Nursery at Weeping Cross
 - Development of the Ash Die Back Action Plan
 - Planting 2000 Trees
 - Inclusion of Climate Emergency Criteria in every Tender Proposal
 - Procurement in high energy efficient LED lighting for Christmas 2020
 - Wildflower verge planting
 - Battery Operated kit to replace petrol operated kit
 - New energy efficient boiler at the Grange Youth Centre.
 - Seeded rooves for bus shelters
4. The Town Council has been a key member of a number of critical partnerships with the town. These include:
- The Shrewsbury Recovery Taskforce, part of the Big Town Plan Partnership, along with Shropshire Council and the Shrewsbury BID (Business Improvement District). The group was set up to deal with the impact of the COVID pandemic and, as part of this, funded a range of place-making initiatives to make the town centre safe for users. Many of these initiatives encouraged active travel within the town and it is planned that some of these will continue after COVID restrictions have ended.
 - The Big Town Plan partnership.
 - The Shropshire Climate Action Partnership which has been established to coordinate a collaborative Shropshire-wide community response to the climate and ecological crisis and oversee the creation of a Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan.
5. The Town Council recently submitted a motion to oppose planning permission for the building of the North West Relief Road on the following grounds:

- Lack of consideration for the declared Climate Emergency.
 - Lack of consideration of an Active Traffic Management Plan in Light of the COVID Pandemic.
 - Lack of consideration of the environmental impact.
6. Terms of Reference for the new Climate Change Standing Committee were agreed by Council on 17 May 2021. Elected members have been invited to join the committee and the first meeting will take place on 15 July 2021.

The Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk facilitated a workshop, which included an update on Council activities followed by a breakout session looking at per themes. Tables were asked to suggest areas for consideration. Attendees moved around all tables so that they could contribute to every theme.

Energy

- Promote using events
- Know who can help/skills
- To public and parishes
- Audit of local skills
- Green directory?
- Plus renewable generation, 100% renewable electricity, ESCO (become one), Weir Hydro
- Advice/support for heritage buildings
- Pressure on planning
- Pressure on large building users (University & schools)
- EV charging points (sell the electricity) Heritage buildings, schools & colleges
- Offer to see charging scheme at Environment Agency & air source heating system
- Trial community charging?
- Promotion / engaging with Shropshire & parishes
- Lack of skills

Climate Communication

- George Marshall 'Climate Outreach'
- TC Blueprint for SME's
- Transcend politics – bigger than small politics – forgiving politicians
- Darwin Festival – talk about climate
- Businesses:
- Town Council as a business
- Person in a position
- You get your business carbon neutral – get an award
- Citizen action
- Young people through school
- Eco council made up of students
- Tree planting
- School hedges – better than trees
- Citizen's juries – jury duty – formalise and fund
- already a central grant citizen's assembly
- This Think Tank is not a citizen's assembly
- People have more in common than what divides them
- Advertising misses a majority that can be engaged face to face
- People respond to calls for action – successful tree planting campaigns
- Past convincing stage

- Shrewsbury Climate Emergency accredit action
- Hard to reach people who are not in a position to care – inequality
- Provide families in need reusable bottles or recycling provisions

Community Engagement

- Ashley Street Collective – recycling, tool share on your street
- Rubbish ambassadors – building community by working with neighbours
- 5 x increase in recycling in Shropshire
- Start with 100? to get to 40,000 households – viral engagement
- Key moment to engage – parents picking up their kids from school
- Is scare advertising counter - productive?
- How can XR get academic advice
- XR evolving to mainstream
- Language matters – “emergency” and not “climate change”
- Engage with existing groups and informal networks
- BID to announce a climate emergency – businesses are living in the community
- Pedestrianise - increases financial viability of businesses.
- Car free day once a month
- People switched off from local politics
- Forgive politicians!!!
- Realistic about what (ordinary) person can achieve
- Educating/sharing with neighbours

Traffic/Travel/Transport

- Cancel North West Relief Road!!
- North West Relief Road is not a relief – it does nothing to “economic growth”
- Promote sustainable transport hierarchy (car is last resort)
- Influence planning that is not dependant on cars
- Reduce speed limits to 20mph (safer for pedestrians & cyclists)
- 20mph – air quality issues
- Work place parking charges
- Strategic plan for cycling network
- ‘final mile’ scheme – but hybrid trucks at night are ok
- Electric buses (changing demographic) – new government competition!! £50m
- Access /air equality charging?
- Pedestrianise the Town Centre (Shoplatch)
- New bus station
- Integrated ticketing, more regular services. Sundays!! Evenings.
- Rename Highways department as Mobility/Movement Department
- E Charging infrastructure
- Residential parking scheme
- Park & Ride (resistant to floods)

Waste Campaign Events

- Best practice waste contracts
- Repair Café
- How are events powered?
- Town Collections – public bins
- Recycling bins in town?
- Promoting Shrewsbury Cup
- Veolia - E.V @Energy saving trust
- Food Hub
- Food Waste – how many people separate it? What happens to it? Should the town be campaigning on this? Separation Food Waste Campaign
- Composting for the town? Britain in Bloom – are we producing our own compost?
- Support environment centre
- Information by video/projection onto building
- Promoting campaigns around reducing waste e.g. ways to show where water bottles can be re-filled
- Confusion over recycling

Trees/Community Orchard/Woodlands

- Where? – Homes
- Woodland Trust Home Tree Pack
- Offset
- Woodland Certification Scheme
- Crowd funding
- Tree precept (treecept)
- Hedgerows – Should we cut them?
- Involving Community – Connecting people with nature /through trees
- “Local Trees for local people”
- “The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second-best time is today”
- Shropshire Forest for gifting trees
- Planning regime for Conservation Area - TPO
- Use planning process
- Tree Conservation Officer
- Allotments
- Sponsor a tree (like roundabout sponsorship)

Workplaces

- Buying land in lieu of offsetting
- Badge scheme certification scheme
- Looking after existing trees
- Urban trees
- Land – Schools, Faith groups, workplaces/employees, groups, ENV.AG, Scouts et