



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
5 OCTOBER 2020

Agenda No

11

Officer: Amanda Spencer – Deputy Town Clerk

Climate Emergency Initiatives

Purpose of Report

To inform members on the current position regarding the climate emergency initiatives taken by Shrewsbury Town Council.

Climate Emergency Working Group

The group met for its second meeting on 22 October 2020 and the minutes of that meeting are at the end of this report as Appendix A. The next meeting will take place in January 2021.

The main topic of discussion at the meeting was the draft Climate Emergency action plan 2020-2024 which is attached to this report as Appendix B. This will be finalised at the next meeting.

In addition to the new actions under discussion within the working group, Shrewsbury Town Council is currently undertaking a number of initiatives from the previously agreed capital plan which come under the remit of Climate Emergency. The Committee is therefore asked to agree to the commitment of funds from the Climate Emergency budget as follows:

Project	Total Cost	Original Budget Allocation	Proposed commitment from CE Budget
Solar Lighting Project in the Quarry	£72,710	£45,000	£27,710
Replace Street Light heads with LED	£138,671	£95,000	£43,671
Explore electric Vehicle options for fleet (Electric Mule purchased – a fuel one would cost around £12,000)	£16,704	None. Would come from capital budget.	£4,704 (the difference in cost between electric and fuel)
Installing electric vehicle charging points at the Weeping Cross Depot	£2,200	None. Would come from capital budget.	£2,200
Improve pathways and encourage walking & cycling	Phase 1 £26,581 Phase 2 tbc	Phase 1 £26,581 Phase 2 £48,269	Phase 1 £2,658 (10%) Phase 2 10% of final spend
500 British native tree whips to grow in Nursery	£500	£0	£500
TOTAL proposed commitment			£78,785



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Report and content of the Climate Emergency Advisory Group minutes be noted.**
- (ii) That the committee agree to commit the suggested amounts from the Climate Emergency budget.**



APPENDIX A

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Climate Emergency Working Group
Held via Zoom at 2.00pm on Thursday 22 October 2020

PRESENT

Councillor Julian Dean (JD)	Shrewsbury Town Council
Tom Endacott (TE)	Gfleet Services
Alan Leaman (AL)	Friends of the Earth
James Handley (JH)	BID
Councillor Alan Mosley (AM)	Shrewsbury Town Council
Councillor Alex Phillips (AP)	Shrewsbury Town Council
Adam Purnell (AP)	Young Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury Town Council
Dan Wrench (DW)	Shropshire Council

With Helen Ball (Town Clerk) and Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Bainger, Katy Jones and Robin Mager. Robin has advised that he is leaving Shropshire Wildlife Trust. They will inform us of a new representative as soon as possible.

Representatives from Extinction Rebellion and the Civic Society have still not come forward.

Action: Continue to contact Extinction Rebellion and the Civic Society inviting them to put representatives forward to the group (AS).

2. Actions from the previous meeting on 23 July 2020

The draft terms of reference from the Climate Action Partnership for Shropshire and the comments from the Town Council Climate Emergency workshop held on 6 February 2020 have been distributed to the group.

Outstanding Actions:

Contact the concession in the Quarry about using and promoting the Shrewsbury Cup (JD).



3. Update on Town Council climate emergency actions

Helen Ball gave a presentation on the actions of the Town Council in relation to climate emergency since the last meeting. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following the presentation the Town Council were again commended by the group for the amount of work that had taken place to support the climate emergency agenda so far. There then followed a discussion on a number of the items that had been raised:

Trees

HB reported that the assessment of Town Council ash trees for ash die-back was still underway. The prevalence of the disease wasn't as extreme as first thought but it will still have an impact of thousands of trees both within the town and nationally. DW reported that isolated trees seem to be less susceptible and that there was most concern for immature trees. The Town Council will be joining forces with Shropshire Council to review the issue.

AL suggested that the Town Council could give away immature trees to the public in the same way it did with bulbs. Specific instruction for the care of these would also need to be issued.

Grass Verges

Matt Wilcoxon had recently made a presentation on the five options for grass verges at Recreation and Leisure Committee, which HB summarised for the group. He had reported that the planting of wildflowers worked best in large areas.

Planting

Peat-free compost was now being used as the norm by the Town Council and good results were being seen. There had been a problem with procuring seeds earlier in the year due to COVID so more cuttings had been done this year than had been done previously.

Electric Vehicles

Two charging points for Town Council use only were currently being procured for installation at the Weeping Cross Depot. An electric mule was also being purchased for use in the Quarry.

JD asked if the installation of solar panels at the Depot could also be investigated and suggested Shropshire and Telford Community Energy as a potential partner.

TE suggested that the installation of solar canopies might also be considered. He would pass on the details for these.



Sedum roofs

The Town Council was looking to procure a number of sedum roofs for bus shelters which needed refurbishing in the town. There were a number of advantages to using these in that they allowed old bus shelters to be refurbished, they were a good sequester of carbon and they were good pollinators.

Street Lighting

The Town Council had now replaced 375 lamps and gas trays which had resulted in an energy saving of 65%.

Solar Lighting

The initial solar lighting for the Quarry had now been completed and had received very positive feedback from the public. The Town Council was receiving requests to install more of these.

Hydro Scheme for the Weir

The Town Council was currently in discussion with Shropshire Council regarding the scheme to investigate if collective work could be undertaken.

Following the presentation a number of other items were raised:

Co-Wheels

JD asked if anyone had experience if using Co-Wheels. He had now registered with them and would report back.

DW reported that a bid had been made to Samsung to pay for 25 charging points which would be developed for streetside charging primarily.

Maps

JH asked if there would be the potential to reproduce maps to show where routes around the town are being blocked by infrastructure, as these were now out of print. These were produced in the past by either Shropshire Council or the Tourist Board. It was reported that the Town Council wasn't currently in a position to do this.

Footpaths

There was a discussion about footpaths in the town and the difficulty in maintaining the ones with shared ownership. JD asked if the Big Town Plan could look at these as a work stream.

AL asked if there was potential for local community groups to volunteer to clear these.



Communications

AL recommended that more be done to publicise all of the work that the Town Council was doing in relation to climate emergency and how the public can get involved.

Carbon Audit

DW reported that the Wildlife Trust had recently published a carbon audit and asked if there was potential for the Town Council to do this. HB responded that there just weren't the resources available to carry this out.

4. Action Plan

AS presented the draft action plan and asked for suggestions on both format and content:

- The omission reductions be re-added
- That a co-partner/co-benefit column be added
- That advice on action plans be sought from CSE
- That an indication of low, medium and high impact be added

The plan would then be presented at Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Action: Action plan to be re-drafted and circulated for comment (AS).

5. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be scheduled for January 2021.