

Shrewsbury Town Council Developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan



Climate Emergency Resolution – March 2019

- ***1) Supports the Declaration of a Climate Emergency***
- ***2) Pledges to make the Council carbon neutral by 2030***
- ***3) Calls on Westminster to provide powers and resources to make this possible***
- ***4) Signs up to the Covenant of Mayors***
- ***5) Requests that the Finance and General Purposes Committee develops a detailed Action Plan in pursuit of the above objectives and reports back within 6 months.***
- ***6) To call on Shropshire Council to support the Declaration of a Climate Emergency***

Powers & Duties of a Town Council

- **Allotments**
- **Burial Grounds, Cemeteries, Churchyards & Crematoria**
- **Bus Shelters**
- Clocks – public clocks provided & maintained
- **Community Centres, Conference Centres, Halls, Public Buildings**
- **Drainage** – of ditches and ponds
- **Entertainment and the Arts**
- Highways – **footpaths, lighting, parking places, right to enter into discussions about new roads and road widening, consent of parish council required for diversion or discontinuation of highway, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance**
- **Litter - provision of litter-bins and support for any anti-litter campaigns**
- **Public conveniences**
- Recreation – provision of **recreation grounds, public walkways, pleasure grounds, open spaces, village greens, gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps and boating ponds**
- **Rights of Way – footpath and bridleway maintenance**
- **Seats (public)**
- Signs – **danger signs, place names and bus stop signs**
- **Tourism – financial contributions to any local tourist organisations allowed**
- **Traffic Calming**
- **War Memorials**
- Water Supply – power to utilise stream, well or spring water and to provide facilities for general use

What is local government responsible for?



Shropshire Council

Education
Housing
Council Tax & Benefits
Waste Collection & Re-cycling
Social Care
Public Rights of Way
Highways, Gritting & Street Lights
Public Protection
Planning
Libraries
Leisure & Recreation
Museum & Art Gallery/
Visitor Information Centre
Youth Provision
Car Parks & Blue Badges
Bus Passes

Telephone: 0345 678 9000
E-mail: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk



Shrewsbury Town Council

Allotments
Public Open Space
Leisure & Recreation
Play Areas
Bloom
Christmas Lights
Events & Festivals
Footway Lighting
Bus Shelters
Youth Services
Memorials on Town Council Assets
Toilet Facilities in Shrewsbury

Telephone: 01743 281010
E-mail: enquiries@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

What do we do already?

Plant Propagation

- Recycled Greenhouse from Holland
- Grow our own plants from seedlings/cuttings (particularly traditional varieties) to reduce air miles & carbon emissions
- Composting from green waste
- Reuse plastic pots
- Planters/Hanging Baskets made from recycled plastic with water reservoirs to limit watering
- Water harvesting from greenhouse in 70,000 litre tank
- More use of sustainable planting (even in the Dingle)
- Minimum use of fungicides & pesticides, preferring to use sticky labels
- Reducing growing zones in the greenhouse in off-peak winter period
- Reduce heat evaporation by reflective thermal shading
- Propagation of shrubs from local sources
- School visits to educate young people on the importance of plants and trees in our environment
- Use of electric/battery powered water carts



Roadside verges

- Energy efficient mowers – rotary deck mowers with differing heights
- Wildflower planting
- Leaving areas uncut to promote bees/butterfly
- Planting of highway verges with spring bulbs
- Creation of naturalised and conservation areas to reduce grass cutting regime
- All Councillors have been given land maps of their wards to suggest places that areas could be left natural



Trees

- I-Tree mapping – evaluation of tree stock to reduce carbon footprint
- Tree Nursery – growing of tree whips
- 2 for 1 replanting policy
- Development of in-house Arbor Team
- Shredding on site for mulching beds & creating countryside paths
- Use of chipped tree/shrub waste to bulk out planters and reduce compost
- Water reservoirs on newly planted highways trees
- Use of wood mulch for countryside paths & floral structures
- WWI Memorial Oak Tree Planting Scheme
- Zero use of any chemicals
- Epicormic growth managed by manual methods
- Annual selling of timber to reduce carbon footprint for disposal



Events & Activities in the Quarry

- Park Run – Promoting exercise/free activity
- Ice Cream Seller – has compostible cups/tops
- Fairs – Plug into renewable energy power supply rather than generators
- Festivals – split waste into recycle materials
- Food Festival – promoting local businesses / trail of the Shrewsbury Cup
- Geo sensors to determine usage & footfall



Play

- Splash Park is water recycling facility
- Sensor activated Splash Park to conserve energy and water
- Education via Young Shrewsbury Youth Service
- Assisting Youth Service with sustainable projects



Christmas Lights

- LED Lighting
- 3.30pm – 12.00am
- Local Contractor with storage in the region
- Local Electrical Engineer



Footway Lights

- Replacement LED heads programme
- Scheduled to reduce power by 60%
- Programmed to dim lights by 25% between 12.00am-5.00am
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Reuse of existing Victoriana Heads rather than replace
- Exploring solar lighting



Procurement

- Contract local policy
- 60% power comes from renewable sources
- Minimum use of herbicides, fungicides & pesticides
- Bulk purchase to reduce journeys from suppliers
- In-house fleet management to reduce travel time taking to garages
- Increased servicing of equipment increases productivity & efficiency



Waste Management

- Zero to landfill contractor (Cartwrights)
- In-house Sharps collection
- Cardboard Recycling
- Green waste combined with Shropshire Council Waste to maximise tariffs and sent to Mark Gethin locally
- Green waste composted within the County
- Fly-tipped waste recycled
- Vehicle batteries recycled
- All metals collected & recycled locally
- Tyres disposed of professionally
- Supplies of litter-pickers and bags to community groups
- All vehicle oils recycled
- Use of recycled paper
- Safe disposal of ink cartridges for re-use
- Additional litter bins in public spaces
- Lost bicycles sent to schools in Africa or recycled



Shrewsbury Big Town Plan

- Rethinking movement and place
 - Pedestrian priority in the town
 - Cycle & pedestrian network
 - Reduce through traffic
- Supporting, creating & nurturing vitality, life & mix of uses
 - Balancing Growth
 - Shrewsbury Test
 - “Smart Cities”
- Creating a place for enterprise
 - Shop Local
 - Reuse of old buildings
 - Quality shared space
- Nurturing natural Shrewsbury
 - Green corridors
 - More use of the river
 - Footpath linkages



What to include in an Action Plan

Things Raised at the Annual Town Meeting

- It was hoped that once the Action Plan was agreed the Town Council would publicise and celebrate the fact.
- How many Town Councillors had watched David Attenborough's recent documentary on Climate Change?
- Marches Energy had offered to do a basic Carbon Audit of the Town Council's operations.
- There were many things the Town Council could do to improve their carbon footprint in their day to day operations, including
 - Ecological projects
 - Stop printing Meeting Papers
 - Stop using throw away cups
 - Have recycling bins by the waste bins
- The Council can't manage what it hasn't measured
- Why the Hydro Scheme never materialised
- Better management of trees and increase in planting of street trees
- Sustainable Policies as there seems a disconnect between policy and Development Control
- Needs to be a balance between natural and manicured cultivation
- Reference was made to Shropshire Council's Climate Change Guide to the Community and in particular the impact in changes to extreme weather (heat, rain, flooding)
- Education is key
- Transport and planning is essential to reducing the carbon footprint
- Need to review the bus service cuts proposals as this would force people to make more car journeys
- Rollout solar panels on all council buildings
- Introduction of electric buses – it was reported that Shropshire Council are investigating Hybrid Buses, Hydrogen Cell operated vehicles and Autonomous Vehicles
- Monitoring of Air Pollution Hotspots – it was reported that there are 77 units monitoring air quality in Shrewsbury and 2 exceed the national standards (Station Hotel & Chester Street Bridge)
- Britain in Bloom Campaign should introduce more wildflowers, use less pesticides and plant more pollinators
- Would the Town Council transition from Diesel to Hybrid Vehicles
- Need for more cycle paths, dry cycle parking and better road crossing points to encourage more walking and cycling.

Developing an Action Plan

1. Mobilisation & Leadership
2. Energy efficiency
3. Renewable energy
4. Zero emissions transport
5. Consumption & waste minimisation
6. Adaption & resilience
7. Engaging the community
8. Education via Young Shrewsbury Youth Service
9. Education of Shrewsbury Town Council Staff & Members
10. Monitor agreed targets/Performance Indicators
11. Shrewsbury Energy Foundation

1. Mobilisation & Leadership

- Undertake an organisational review of all council policies to ensure alignment with councils Climate Emergency commitment
- Publicise key emissions elimination achievements
- Join Global Covenant of Mayors
- Convene local Climate Emergency Conference
- Advocacy
- Local Campaigns & Promotions
- Include Climate Emergency info in key communications (website/social media)
- Presentations, events, art-installations to increase community awareness
- Climate Emergency Grant Fund
- Collaborate with other partner's campaigns
- Learn more about Climate Emergency & spread the message
- Promotion & Education via Team Shrewsbury Youth Service

2. Energy Efficiency

- Big Town Plan – Shrewsbury Test – advocating passive design, orientation & shading, heating, insulation, glazing
- Buying appliances with high energy efficiency ratings
- Turn appliances off standby
- Turn lights out when leaving the room and install sensors where appropriate
- Energy efficient street-lighting & part-night lighting
- Building energy performance benchmarking
- Monitor usage
- Insulate/draft proofing property
- Review Energy Supplier's Green Credentials
- Review Energy Performance Certificates of Council Buildings
- Determine Carbon Footprint
 - Scope 1 - Fuel combustion, Council vehicles
 - Scope 2 - Purchased electricity, heat and steam
 - Scope 3 - Purchased goods & services, corporate travel, Employee commuting, waste disposal, Use of sold products
- Understand investment scheduled for replacement vehicles, plant & machinery

3. Renewable Energy

- Purchase 100% renewable energy – we already buy 60% renewable energy
- Install solar PV on Council Buildings
- Creation of sustainable woodland

4. Zero Emissions Transport

- Explore electric vehicle options for Council fleet
- Electrical charging points for council use & public use
- Big Town Plan Green Travel Plan
- Encourage walking & cycling/hire of electric cycles
- Improved access pathways
- Increased road safety – more people walking & cycling
- Bike Storage & Pumps
- Advocate good reliable affordable public transport
- Increased sourcing of local materials in the products we buy means freight has less distance to travel
- More working remotely & flexible working patterns to reduce peak time travel
- Look at ways to increase the safety & confidence of children & adults riding a bike
- Ride to Work Day /Walk to School Day

5. Consumption & Waste Minimisation

- Protect land, water, soil
- Composting
- Build capacity of residents to produce/share food locally (allotments)
- Deepen people's understanding of environmental issues including consumption & waste
- Continue to expand waste & recycling practices throughout council buildings & venues
- Embed strong environmental procurement practices to reduce waste creation
- Continue to reduce waste from council operation
- Advocacy on encouraging household waste recycling
- Continue to reduce Council's paper use
- Paperless Council Meetings
- Implement education on waste minimisation through staff
- Review waste bin locations

6. Adaptation & Resilience

- Open Space Strategy
- Green Street Strategy
- Natural Heritage Strategy
- Land Adoption on new development sites
- Flood/drought resilient space
- Open space that meets the diverse needs of the community and incorporates climate, water sensitive vegetation, healthy ecosystems & biodiversity
- Community based local food systems
- Enhance & increase community capacity to support one another during extreme events
- Reduce properties at risk of flooding
- Ensure new/replacement trees use little/no water & can use alternative water sources for irrigation
- Ensure new open space ground have no irrigation needs
- Rainwater harvesting
- Promote green roofs, walls, facades
- Protect significant trees
- Plant street trees
- Share sustainable knowledge, skills & resources with neighbours
- Big Town Plan Shrewsbury Test – Influencing developers via planning protocols

7. Engaging the Community

- Increase Climate Change & Climate Emergency knowledge amongst residents & businesses
- Engage with & encourage staff
- Ride to Walk
- Walk to School
- Local Green Credentials
- Community Grants to support community action on Climate Change
- Celebrating groups/individuals/initiatives for their achievements in sustainability – Mayors Awards “Climate Emergency Category”
- Promotion via Young Shrewsbury – Youth Service
- Shrewsbury in Bloom Initiatives

8. Young Shrewsbury

- Provide local leadership and mentoring for young people
- Activities in Youth Sessions
- Engagement with Schools
- Promoting Walk to School
- Youth Forum and engagement with the Big Town Plan

9. Town Council Staff & Members

- Promoting alternative routes to work/Council Meetings
- Ride to Work initiatives
- Paperless Meetings
- No more paper cups/Shrewsbury Cup
- Monitor usage
- Turn Lights Off
- Waste minimisation

10. Monitoring agreed targets & performance

- Energy performance benchmarking
- Carbon Audits
- Monitor fuel consumption and routes

11. Shrewsbury Energy Foundation

- Climate Change Think Tank to develop local zero emissions & resilience proposals & solutions
- Harness & encourage community participation & investment (volunteering/donations)
- Develop & contribute to programmes that educate & mobilise the community
- Develop & trial innovative programmes and delivery mechanisms that can be scaled up to achieve significant change
- Advocate to Government/Industry to increase Climate Change action and funding for community and local government action

Who might be able to help



Shropshire
Wildlife Trust



SHREWSBURY
BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT