



Dawn Drury – Acting Town Clerk
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Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1HF
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To All Members of the Environmental and Sustainability Committee:

Keynsham Town Councillors: D Biddleston, C Brennan, C Buxton, D Cooper, A Greenfield (Chairman), B. Simmons and A Wait

Lead Community Organisations: Keynsham Plastic Reaction (F Edwards); Keynsham In Bloom (D Drury); Keynsham Wombles (E Davies); Transition Keynsham (new member to be appointed)

Business Representatives: Independent Trader (One member to attend); Large Business – John Laing (Pukka Herbs)

B&NES Ward Councillor (Cllr H MacFie)

B&NES Officer (Jane Wildblood)

cc. All Other Town Councillors

Dear Members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

In accordance with the Schedule of Delegation approved by Town Council on April 22nd 2021 the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk is required to exercise delegated power (in consultation with the members of the cttee) to make decisions on the following items:

Any matters relating to connecting cycle and footpaths (cross county borders), Keynsham Town Council Environment and Sustainability Project Plan, Woodland Trust Tree Orders, Climate and Ecological Bill and the CTKS Environmental Celebration Day.

Members are therefore invited to a virtual consultation with the Acting Town Clerk on Tuesday 30th November 2021 at time 6.00 p.m. via the following link.

Join the consultation

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89260043276?pwd=N1RJTUdwV3pwVXIIT1NkeGVIZnNQQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 6004 3276

Passcode: 114568

All delegated decisions will go to the next meeting of full Council on 21 December 2021 for ratification.

Signed on 23rd November 2021



By Dawn Drury, Acting Town Clerk

This meeting is open to Members of the Public. For telephone dial in details please contact the Deputy Town Clerk.

THIS CONSULTATION MAY BE FILMED OR RECORDED (PLEASE REFER TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF LOCAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (adopted August 2014)).

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTATION AGENDA

1. RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Notes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee Consultation of the 28th September 2021 be noted at the next physical meeting of this Committee.

2. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

To receive an update.

3. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

Update on the Project Plan by Cllr A Greenfield.

4. WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS

- (i) To note re-schedule planting dates.
- (ii) To decide on tree planting strategy.

- (iii) To designate someone to lead on each planting event.
- (iv) **The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)** is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. See report on page 4.

5. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Summary

To receive and note the information page 4 – 5.

6. UK FUEL EMAIL

To consider the email received from UK Fuel on page 6 – 7.

7. FRIENDS OF THE EARTH – 20 THINGS A COUNCIL CAN DO FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

To consider the information from Friends of the Earth pages 8 – 12.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:

To note that the next Consultation of this Committee will be held on **TUESDAY 25th January 2022 at 6.00 p.m. possibly by virtual zoom conferencing (TBC).**

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Summary

The government's ambition is for all new cars sold from 2030 to be electric. Charging these vehicles, which currently have ranges up to c. 300 miles, occurs at home, workplaces, destinations and locations on key transport routes.

There are a variety of public charging services on offer (see zap-map.com) and the council already provides 7kw charging services in a range of public car parks. In partnership with the other West of England unitary authorities, we successfully bid for funding to install 'fast' (22kw, 20% to full in c. 3-4 hours) and 'rapid' (43kwAC/50kwDC, 20% to full in 30-60 mins) EV chargers and we are now enlarging the network under the [Revive network](#) branding, using 'Go Ultra Low West' (GULW) funding. We will be installing these chargers at seven car parks throughout the district and one on-street location during the 2021-22 financial year. These facilities are being provided at the following locations:

- Kingsmead Square car park, Bath: two fast chargers;
- Charlotte St car park, Bath: two public rapid chargers, 1 taxi rapid taxi charger, and 1 fast charger;
- South Road car park, MSN: two fast charges;
- Larkhall car park, Bath: one fast charger;
- Claverton Rd car park, Widcombe, Bath: one fast charger;
- Church Street car park, Radstock: two rapid chargers;
- Keynsham Civic Centre: two rapid chargers and one fast charger; and
- Railway Place, Bath (adjacent to Bath railway station): one rapid taxi charger

We have also been facilitating workplace charging through grants to employers. Electrical vehicle charging supports national and local policies relating to air quality, public health, climate emergency, transport and economic development (including energy supply). We are seeking to balance pursuit of these policy goals in a cost-neutral way. Any surplus income once operational costs have been met will be reinvested in the network, as set out in the Inter-Authority Agreement we have signed with our partners.

Unlike petrol and diesel, which are sold exclusively by the private sector, there is an expectation that local government will play a leading role in enabling the ongoing electrification of the vehicle fleet. This has several challenges:

- The essential facilitating role of the District Network Operator, in our case Western Power Distribution, over which we have little control or influence.
- Capacity of the council to deliver both capital assets and complex services under financial constraints and compromised working conditions, requiring scarce external expertise.

- Significant commercial risks for local authorities in retailing electricity (especially in relation to covering fixed costs).
- Rate of technological change.

The council is currently receiving suggestions for charge points near people's homes through various channels and we would encourage these to be recorded [here](#) on a link you can share with your residents. Members can also request these through the liveable neighbourhoods programme.

Our Revive network partners are moving ahead with On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme bids and we have been working with Bristol City Council to undertake 'soft market testing' of on street residential charging with potential commercial partners.

Our plans for 2021-23 include:

- Complete GULW delivery (during 2021-22) and establish robust operational arrangements (including a management system that responds and rectifies faults).
- Explore and enable a civil engineering installation service for private charging on public highway.
- Develop an internal business case for trials of on-street residential charging, in line with the Council's [adopted Policy](#) and seek ORCS or other funding. We believe trials preceding further roll-out to be prudent because:
 - Developing a strong relationship with commercial partners will be critical in delivering appropriate and robust charging services.
 - It will enable proper testing of the hardware and software platforms available for conditions with the district.
 - It reflects the critical role played by the District Network Operator.
 - We need to learn how to operate an effective and efficient charging service.
- Encourage off-street residential charging, principally through marketing.
- Further electrify our own fleet operations.
- Support community and other groups, particularly in rural locations in implementing their own EV charging facilities, on the Revive network where possible.

Dawn Drury

From: UK Fuels <hello@comms.ukfuels.co.uk>
Sent: 10 November 2021 17:36
To: Dawn Drury
Subject: Carbon offset your fuel with UK Fuels

Smarter fuel
for your
business

 radius  fuels

Carbon offset with

radius **future**

Account Number: 1053320

Hello,

With our all new biodegradable Radius Future fuel card, you can offset 100% of the carbon emissions produced by the fuel you purchase using our cards.

When you sign-up to the programme, you will pay an additional 1p per litre on your fuel invoices, which will be invested in emissions avoidance projects by both Forest Carbon and UK Fuels.

Who are Forest Carbon?

Radius Payment Solutions, UK Fuels' parent company, is incredibly proud to have partnered with Forest Carbon, the UK's leading developer of woodland carbon capture projects audited under the government's Woodland Carbon Code. Since their formation in 2006, Forest Carbon have removed more than two million tonnes of CO₂e from the atmosphere.

[ENQUIRE NOW](#)

The logo for Forest Carbon, featuring the words "FOREST" and "CARBON" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "O" in "FOREST" is a solid black circle, and the "O" in "CARBON" is a solid black circle. The background of the logo is a light green, textured surface.

WHERE WILL YOUR MONEY GO?

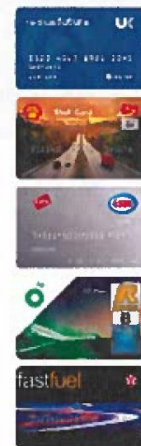
Thanks to our long-term partnership, Forest Carbon will invest your contributions in its renewable energy projects, which include wind, hydro, waste-to-energy and solar power in locations such as India, China, Turkey and Guatemala. These projects have been chosen for their ability to achieve immediate carbon neutrality.

[LEARN MORE](#)

WHICH CARDS ARE AVAILABLE?

The biodegradable Radius Future fuel card is available on a range of pricing tariffs. You can also use a variety of oil company cards, whilst still paying the additional 1p per litre to offset the carbon your fuel produces. This includes BP, Esso, Shell and Texaco fuel cards.

[ENQUIRE NOW](#)



If you have any questions regarding our Radius Future card, please contact our Customer Services team on [0344 880 2468](tel:03448802468) or email radiusfuture@ukfuels.co.uk

Kind regards,
Customer Services Team



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH – 20 THINGS A COUNCIL CAN DO FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Parish and Town Councils may not be as powerful as local authorities, but they can be a force for change in addressing the climate and nature emergency.

This guide complements Friends of the Earth's template Local Climate Action Plan. Action at the local level is essential to meeting the UK's legally binding climate target to reach Net Zero by 2050. More than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level.

In this guide we identify actions that parish and town councils can take on climate change and nature. Its purpose is to support those of the 10,000 local councils across England and 750 community councils in Wales who want to do their bit in addressing the climate and nature emergency.

For councils in England, the Centre for Sustainable Energy, working with the University of Exeter, have also produced a fantastic parish council carbon footprint tool <https://impact-tool.org.uk> to help you understand the sources of carbon emissions in your area. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has resources to help local councils tackle climate change including case studies of good practice.

Encourage the formation of Climate Action groups

Communities across the country are coming together to take climate action in response to the climate and nature emergency. Climate Action groups will encourage and support you to take local political action, build positive community solutions, and join together to demand national action. Parish, town and community councils should encourage and support the formation of these groups. Friends of the Earth will provide resources, training and advice to Climate Action groups (see takeclimateaction.uk).

Support Local Plan policies that help to tackle climate change and boost nature

Use your role as a consultee to the local planning authority to seek strong policies in the Local Plan requiring the highest possible standards of energy efficiency for new housing and other buildings. Sites allocated for new housing should also be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport and avoid loss of local nature sites and green spaces.

Promote practical action by local people

People can often be at a loss about what they can practically do to reduce their own carbon footprint or support nature. An impartial local guide that provides information on accredited local businesses can be invaluable and help keep money in the local economy. The guide could include information on local accredited energy assessors and renewable energy installers for solar panels, batteries, EV charging points and heat pumps, eco-friendly retailers, green builders and landscape companies, etc. It can also encourage sustainable transport options.

Bring together groups of people for bulk purchases

The costs of installing solar PV, or other renewable technologies such as heat pumps, should be much lower if done in bulk, street by street, or area by area. A town or parish council can bring together local homeowners and businesses to develop such a scheme – it's a widely used model in the Netherlands and places such as Suffolk and Frome in the UK. Bulk purchases of energy audits or energy insulation is also possible. Transition Streets is an example of this approach.

Develop and promote lift-sharing scheme

By convening local businesses and car-sharing schemes, such as the social enterprise Liftshare, it's possible to help local people reduce the carbon pollution from car use, save money and foster new friendships. An analysis by Liftshare suggested that 92% of people commuting to work in over 200 locations lived close enough to be able to share a car to work. Lift-sharing may often be a solution for people when public transport, cycling or walking to work isn't. Car-sharing schemes for non-commuting journeys should also be promoted.

Use your voice

Decisions on infrastructure projects are largely made by local authorities, Local Economic Partnerships, or by national government. But too many of these decisions will increase carbon emissions and/or harm nature. Use your voice, when possible, to oppose high-carbon developments, promoting sustainable alternatives instead. Press local authorities and MPs to demand national changes to bus services regulations, so all areas can regulate buses as London does, and urban profit-making routes can cross-fund loss making rural routes.

Save energy

Ensure any council buildings are as energy efficient as possible and any street lighting uses well-directed LED lighting. Getting an energy audit is the first step. Loans for projects in England that have a payback of less than five years are available through Salix funding. Projects with longer term paybacks should still be carried out.

Produce green energy

Install renewable energy generation, like heat pumps and solar PV, at council buildings. Heat pumps benefit from a government grant that will partially cover the cost. Several energy companies provide a smart export tariff, which pays for any electricity generated that isn't used by the building, including offering top prices if the solar PV is used in conjunction with a battery. Funds can also be raised through Salix loans or through crowdfunding. Buildings using renewable energy should also be used as a showcase to help local people see these technologies first-hand, particular less familiar technologies such as heat pumps. An electronic display showing how much energy has been generated and how much money and CO2 emissions saved is one way of demonstrating the benefits.

Reduce pesticide use and other harmful activities

It's possible to reduce activities that harm wildlife, from using peat-free compost to shunning pesticides and ensuring light pollution is controlled. Glastonbury Town Council has stopped

using glyphosate weed killer and instead uses a hot foam system. These steps alone are not enough to protect and restore nature but they're an important first step. To encourage others, promote the actions you're taking, for example use signage on council-owned land where you use peat-free compost.

Manage land for nature.

Parish, town and community councils can have responsibility for allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, commons and open spaces, and village greens. All of these can be managed to enhance nature, particularly through changing mowing regimes. Friends of the Earth and Buglife have produced a guide to developing an action plan for helping pollinators such as bees. Buglife's B-lines project aims to support the development of a network of wildlife friendly corridors. Friends of the Earth is piloting a crowd-funded postcode gardener project to help people green the streets where they live.

Increase tree cover

Friends of the Earth is campaigning for the UK to double tree cover. The Forestry Commission and others have suggested that even urban areas should aim for at least 20% tree cover. Parish, town and community councils should aim to double tree cover and, if necessary, go beyond this to reach the 20% minimum. Much of this will involve encouraging and supporting landowners to take part in tree planting. The Tree Charter, developed by the Woodland Trust, provides excellent guidance on how to increase tree cover. The National Association of Local Councils website provides case studies where it has been used.

Buy green

Buying local can support the local economy and buying green can help protect the planet, rewarding businesses committed to a better future. Buying green electricity helps develop new renewable energy and ensures the council isn't supporting dirty energy financially. Friends of the Earth has identified Ecotricity and Good Energy as the greenest energy companies. Buying green can also extend to any food provided at events, including providing mainly plant-based food and less but better meat and dairy.

Use green transport

Employees and councillors should be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport or car-share. The council should provide bikes or electric bikes for staff as they carry out any work-related trips. It should also provide zero-interest loans for buying bikes. Where a car or van is needed it should be electric only.

Minimise waste going to landfill or incineration

In your own operations, ensure all your waste is recycled or composted, but also consider setting-up community recycling facilities for hard-to-recycle items when the local authority hasn't done so, for example in partnership with Terracycle. Bisley Parish Council has set up a community composting scheme. The best approach for waste minimisation is reuse (e.g. reusable cups) or avoiding unnecessary purchases.

Ensure money is invested wisely

Across the UK, local authorities are investing tens of millions of pounds each into fossil fuel companies, despite having declared a climate emergency. Although town council investments will be tiny in comparison, the council should still ensure any council funds are invested safely in low-risk sustainable banks or investment funds.

Ensure you know the climate change or nature implications of decisions before you make them

It isn't credible to accept the need for rapid action on climate change and nature and then make decisions without knowing whether they'll be harmful or helpful. Requiring every decision to be well informed is common sense as well as good practice. This should extend to demanding that the planning authority provides you with this kind of information when consulting you.

Designate sites within the Neighbourhood Plan for trees, renewable energy and nature restoration

In practice, the development of 90% of Neighbourhood Plans is led by town and parish councils working hand in hand with their communities. The Neighbourhood Planning process is far from perfect and very time consuming, but it offers the community the opportunity to show it means business on protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.

Use the Neighbourhood Plan to require new homes to be energy efficient, nature friendly, and located close to public transport and amenities.

Given the climate and nature emergency, it's unfortunate that the government doesn't require all new homes to be as sustainable as possible. Neighbourhood Plans will identify sites for future housing and should push for these to be zero-carbon (e.g. Passivhaus standard) and nature friendly, even though the local planning authority may seek to override this aim. Homes should also be fitted with renewable energy. Homes need to be located close to amenities and public transport to avoid car dependency.

Designate safe walking and cycle routes in the Neighbourhood Plan

Identify safe walking and cycling routes and where necessary work in partnership with district and county councils to deliver them. The Propensity to Cycle tool identifies the huge potential for increasing cycling in all areas of the country, particularly with good quality infrastructure, such as segregated cycleways and cycle parking, and with the use of E-bikes.

Use differential car-parking charges to support low-carbon vehicles

Any car parks run by the council should offer low cost or free car-parking to electric vehicles and dedicated spaces with electric charging points.