

Shrewsbury Town Council

A Case Study for Addressing the Climate Emergency

Helen Ball (Town Clerk) - Shrewsbury Town Council



Shrewsbury

Town Council

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. Calls on Shropshire Council to support the Declaration of a Climate Emergency***



What did 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 – or is it just engineered planting?
- Leaving areas uncut to promote bees/butterfly
- Creation of naturalised and conservation areas to reduce grass cutting regime



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Trees



- TreePlotter 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
- 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 / 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
- Now have solar lighting



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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
- 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



What to include in an Action Plan

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. Climate Change Think-Tank

1. Mobilisation & Leadership

Organisational review of all council policies to ensure alignment with councils Climate Emergency commitment

Publicise key emissions elimination achievements

Join Global Covenant of Mayors

Advocacy

Local Campaigns & Promotions

Include Climate Emergency info in key communications (website/social media)

Presentations, events, art-installations to increase community awareness

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

Start buying Electric Vehicles

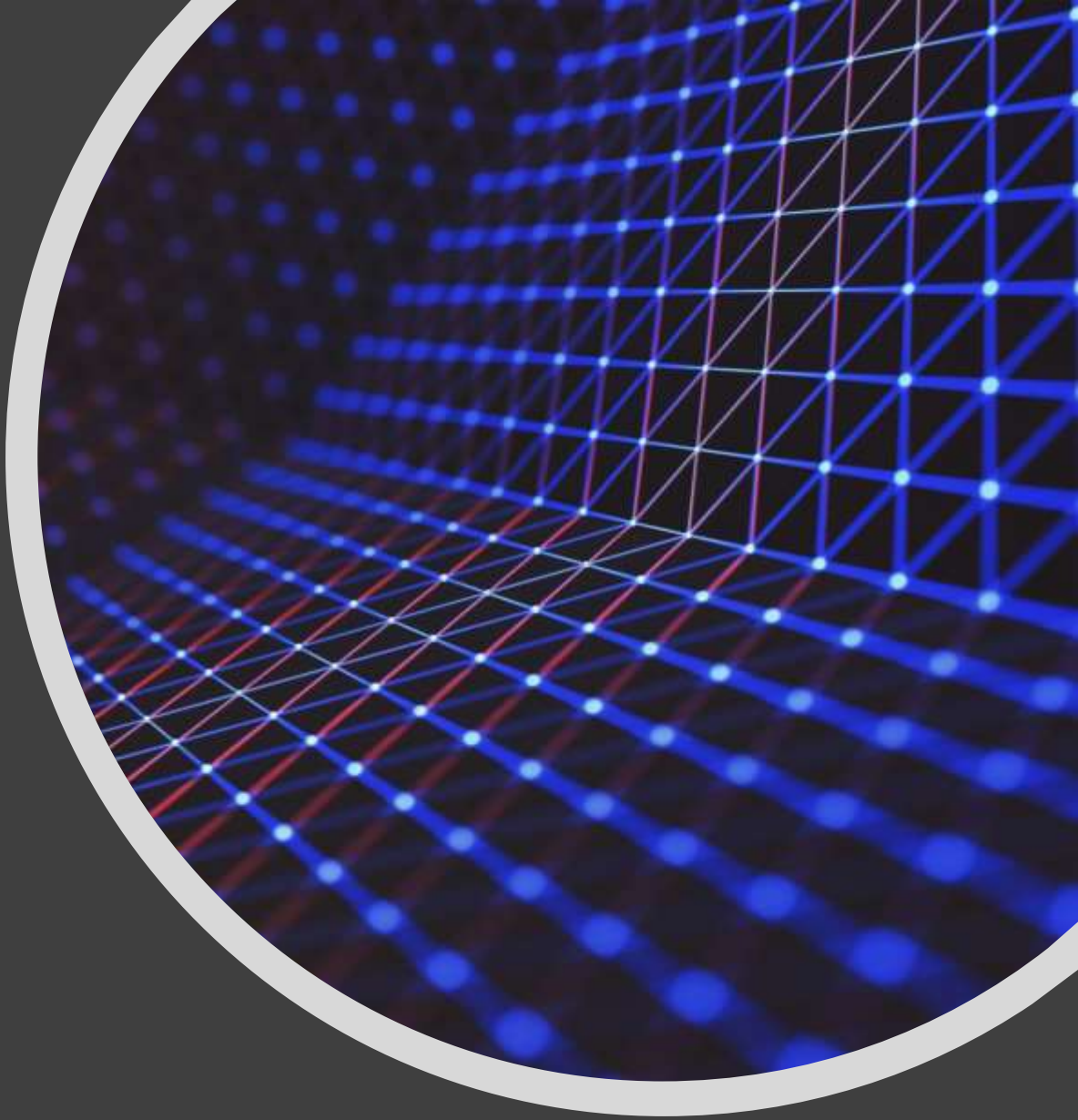


3. Renewable Energy

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

Sourcing of local materials in the products we buy

Working remotely & flexible working patterns to reduce peak time travel

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 – COVID has helped facilitate this

Implement education on waste minimisation through staff

Review waste bin locations



6. Adaptation & Resilience

How do we influence Green Strategies

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 eco-systems & biodiversity

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

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/ 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

Cycle 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 Climate Change Think-Tank

Climate Change Standing
Committee

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



Carbon Literacy Project

Carbon Literacy Course

Course designed solely for Parish & Town Councils

Puts Climate Change in the context of a Local Council

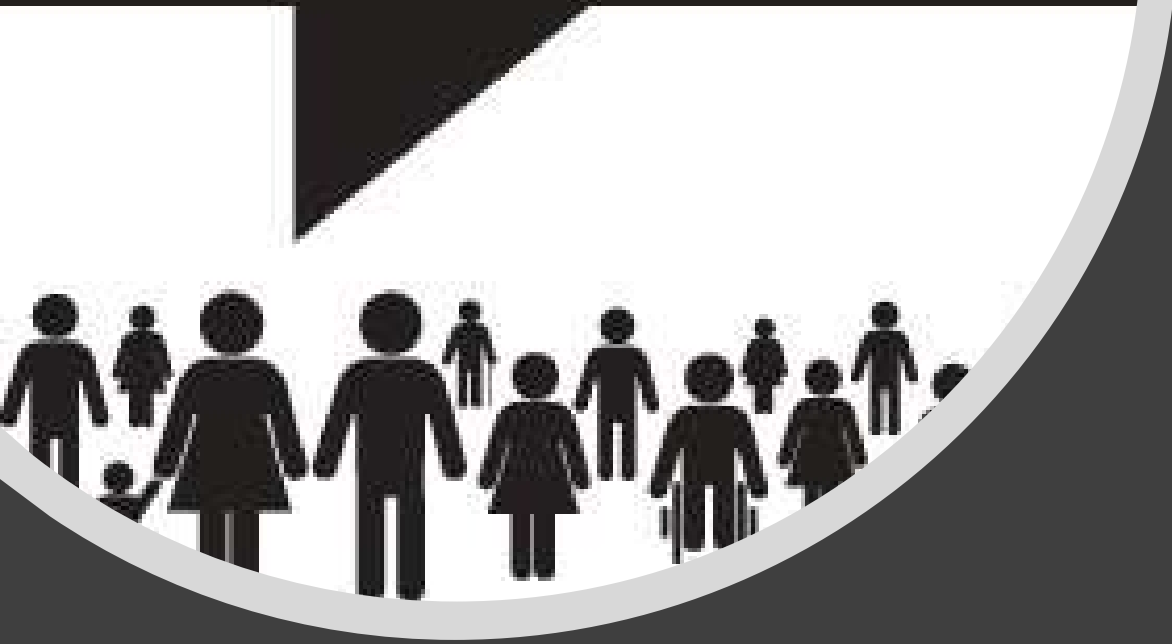
Brings like minded people together

Really useful information about Climate Emergency

Helps Local Councils evangelise about Climate Change

Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & 4 Councillors taken the Course

Follow the lead of Shropshire Council – Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team all done the Course



How has the Carbon Literacy Course changed our thinking

Given us useful tools about how to communicate
Climate Change

Helped us to link Climate Change with what we do at
home

Assured us that what we were think was the right
course

Gave us guidance on how to talk to people about
Climate Change when those don't necessarily have the
same view as us



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Carbon Literacy Project



This is to certify that via
Save Our Shropshire CIO
Helen Ball

has met all the requirements of the Carbon Literacy Standard and thus for the purposes of workplace, education and community should be regarded as Carbon Literate.

signed

Dr Alison Chant, Chair, on behalf of The Carbon Literacy Trust,
Registered Charity Number 1190722

date certificate no.
17th November 2021 00023464/ v2.50



certificate





Climate Change Priorities

Climate Change Priorities

Commonplace Site – encourage others to be the leaders

Climate Change Apprentice – develop youth involvement

Develop Volunteering Opportunities – target those with time

Movement Strategy – changing hearts & minds

Help Save our Shropshire to help us



Food For Thought

You don't have to be
a great hero to
change world
.....we all need to
be a little heroes
and help save it



Shrewsbury Town Council

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