

Shoscombe Climate and Nature Action Plan



How the Plan was put together.

On May 19th 2021 an on-line Community Forum was held to talk about how we can reduce our carbon footprint and protect Shoscombe's landscape and wildlife.

Before the Forum, a Survey was delivered with the Newsletter asking residents about their particular concerns, and also their ideas about what could be done. The Survey gave everyone the opportunity to have a say even if they couldn't attend the Forum. There's a full report on the Survey and the Forum on the Everything Shoscombe website under Climate and Sustainability, but in brief, the programme for the evening was as follows.

Sarah Warren, Deputy Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council, gave the opening presentation. Sarah outlined the Council's ongoing programme of initiatives in response to their Climate Crisis and Ecological Crisis Declarations.

Next were the results of the Survey. They're listed below with 1, the top priority, and 8 the lowest, although it was close; many respondents felt that all the issues are vitally important.

1. Enhance/restore nature and wildlife habitats
2. Reduce waste, reduce single use plastics, increase recycling
3. Promote local clean air and dark skies
4.) Switch to a renewable energy provider
) Increase low carbon/zero carbon transport
5. Reduce energy usage in homes and buildings
6. Increase low/neutral carbon shopping
7. Switch to ethical/zero carbon banking
8. Switch to more low carbon food, organic food, eat less meat and dairy

And lastly, we split into groups to share ideas, and from these discussions the Action Plan was put together.

Since it was published in July 2021, Shoscombe has made an excellent start. Around a dozen ideas for actions are completed, in progress or ongoing. But what's needed is more volunteers. Whatever your age, skills or interests, please get in touch if you see something you'd like to be involved in or would like to know more about. Our contact details are on the website or on the Climate and Nature page of the Newsletter.

The Action Plan

Key to table: NL = Newsletter WS = Website NB = Notice Boards PC = Parish Council

A one-off 'Quick Win' action for an individual or group. It might be a straightforward job like writing an Information piece for the Newsletter, or a group task like clearing invasive plants on the riverbanks. Some 'quick wins' might become regular actions or an on-going project, but there's no commitment to keep doing it if you volunteer to get things started.
A longer term action. Could require planning, research, or consultation with other agencies.
A long term project requiring significant planning, probably also community consultation and contact with other agencies.
Actions completed, in progress or ongoing

1. Wildlife and landscape: nature and the natural environment

Wildlife		
	Project/Action	
Bees and pollinators	Planting native pollinator-friendly species: 'wildflower meadows' in gardens and on verges; Newsletter & Website information , and residents willing to share knowledge and experience.	
The Rec	Make more use of the Rec as a community green space; e.g leave areas unmown, encourage wildflowers; community garden/vegetables.	
Gardens	Information/workshops on organic/wildlife gardening/composting etc	Ongoing
Birds and Bats	Put up bat boxes and nest boxes Information NL/WS and practical help	
	Hold a garden bird watch weekend	
Wildlife Mapping	Using social science apps, map habitats and species to discover what we have, and also to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> raise awareness of rare species, e.g. oil beetles and glow worms monitor health and numbers identify and improve wildlife corridors identify appropriate sites for planting of native species. 	Project started, more help needed
	Involve the school in mapping	
River	Identify aquatic and semi-aquatic species	
	Clear litter / monitor water quality (Rivers Authority)	Ongoing More help
	Clear invasive plant species from river banks	
Trees	Continue to plant trees.	Tree Club
	Care for the mature trees we have. Identify who is responsible for/who is permitted to carry out maintenance of trees in public spaces e.g the apple trees on the cycle way.	
Enjoying the local landscape and wildlife		
	Map of local walks. Liaise with History Group and Wildlife mapping volunteers to identify points of interest on the walks.	

Education		
Talks, events, information in the Newsletter, on the Website and Notice Boards	A 'festival feel' Community event on local Wildlife and Nature	C&N Day Sept 2021 Next event?
	Resident/local experts or wildlife organisations e.g. Somerset Wildlife Trust invited to talk on: e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoying the night sky. The importance to wildlife of darkness/minimal exterior lighting and the effects of light pollution. NL/WS The causes and the effects of air pollution. Caring for trees (should ivy be removed or not?) 	
	Wildlife or climate 'top tips' in the Newsletter	Ongoing
	Residents to research and write Nature information/action suggestions on issues relevant to Shoscombe	

2. Energy: transport, home/buildings insulation, renewable energy

Transport		
Cycle Track	National Cycle Network 'Route 24' runs through Shoscombe and is a potential link to Bath. Could it be more than a health/leisure facility and become a commuting route?	
	Improve safety and condition. 20m.p.h speed limit. Improve signage. Report surface damage to BaNES	
	Look at increasing off-road stretches	
Electric bikes	BaNES Electric Bike loan/trial scheme. Newsletter/Website	Info/demo C&N Day
	Provision of secure parking in Peasedown to access public transport.	
	Investigate residents' interest in discounts for multiple purchase of bikes. Newsletter/Notice Boards	
	Investigate making local lanes more bike-safe. Make Shoscombe Parish a 20m.p.h area.	
Cars	Investigate provision of more parking in Peasedown for access to bus routes	
	Prepare for coming switch to electric vehicles: local charging points e.g Rec Car Park, Montague Road, Hamilton Terrace.	
	Car Club Investigate sharing lifts. NL/Notice Boards	
	Community Car Investigate a community-owned (electric?) car.	
Public Transport	Bus Lobby BaNES to improve bus service.	PCouncil
	Car Fare It was thought this scheme was no longer being run, but it is still active and BaNES is in the process of updating the webpage. Information: NL/WS/NB	July N/L N/B
Insulation: Home & Public/Community Buildings: Village Hall, School, Church, Pub		
Energy efficiency	BaNES and Govt finance schemes Information NL/WS/NB	NB/NL ongoing
	Help to improve energy efficiency of Village Hall and Church.	
	Insulation materials Information NL/WS	
	Energy Efficiency Presentation: BaNES or knowledgeable residents.	

Renewable Energy		
Carbon reduction	A group of residents has investigated local energy generation and established that this isn't feasible for Shoscombe. A joint project with a neighbouring community would perhaps be possible in the future.	
	Alternative energy systems suitable for older houses, e.g Heating Network, Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar Panels. Information NL/WS/Presentation event.	
	Switching to a Green Energy provider: Information NL/WS	
	Bath & West Community Energy is looking for roofs (domestic, agricultural, commercial) as sites for solar panels. This is a shareholder scheme not commercial, i.e owners are invited to become shareholders in BWCE rather than being paid for providing the site. Investigate possible sites in Shoscombe.	

3. Consumer issues: food, shopping, recycling, banking/finance

Food	Allotments – The PC to continue its efforts to find a suitable site	PCouncil
	Investigate support for a Community allotment/garden	
	'Where does your food come from?' Information NL/WS	
	'Buying locally produced food' Information NL/WS	
Recycling, Reuse and Repair		
Recycling	'What happens to our recycling and waste?' NL/WS	
	Recycle-more.com Newsletter/Website	
	Terracycle facility in Peasedown: non-recyclable plastics can be deposited on Thursdays 10 to 12 noon (other times available). NL/WS/NB	N/L Ongoing
Re-use	Clothes bank locations (there is one at the School) Newsletter/Website	
	'Only buy what you need' Article: Newsletter/Website	
Repair	Repair Shops/Cafes: dates and locations. Information NL/WS	
	Buy less, re-use, and repair' Article: Newsletter/Website'	
Plastics Packaging	Zero plastic shopping e.g Scoops, Bath; Fillerup, Radstock. Information Newsletter/Website	N/L Ongoing
Shopping and Home		
Home	Ideas for small lifestyle changes. Newsletter or presentation.	
Consumer goods	Ethical shopping (household goods, banking, electricals, clothing, toiletries etc). Residents can request information from The Climate and Nature Group on specific items sold by ethical/sustainable retail companies. Source: 'Ethical Consumer' magazine. NL/WS/NB	N/L Ongoing
Banking and Finance		
Money	'Ethical banking: who's using your money and for what?' Article/Information for Newsletter/Website	N/L Sept 2021

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