



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



**LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD**

BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned
to the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting
On Tuesday 1st February 2022
at 7:00pm in St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Sandra Bartlett Town Clerk
Date: Wednesday 26th January 2022

AGENDA

1 QUESTION TIME OPEN TO PUBLIC AND PRESS (Not to exceed 30 minutes).
The public are welcome to ask questions on matters that are on the agenda and other matters at the Chairman's discretion. The question should not be a statement and limited to no more than 2 minutes. The Chairman will call the question from those who are indicating that they wish to speak.

A record of any public participation session shall not be included, in the Minutes, but included as an appendix note to the Minutes of the meeting and will be made public via our website and held in archive.

2 Apologies
To accept any apologies

3 Declarations of Interests
To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Regulation 2012 made under Section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011 and under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council.

4 Minutes
To approve the minutes of meeting for the Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 16th November 2021.

5 Chairman's report

6 Domestic Heating project

7 Climate & Ecology Emergency events programme

8 Living Green Wall update

9 Food waste, Fairtrade, Community Fridge projects - To discuss and to ask for more volunteers

10 Green Space update
Green Spaces Officer to give an update on playgrounds, allotments and Becky Addy Woods (BAW)
To note the link:
<https://wickedleeks.riverford.co.uk/news/grow-your-own-farming-biodiversity-cities/allotments-could-be-productive-farms>

11 Lighting Strategy Update - Green Spaces Officer to discuss launch

12 Asset Transfer - Director of Operations to give an update on signage, litterbins, and land management

13 Correspondence to note

- i) *To note the decision that Westbury Town Council has written to the Secretary of State to call in the planning applications for the proposed incinerator on the edge of Westbury.*
- ii) *Decision on Bradford on Avon Golf request to list as an Asset of Community Value.*

14 Date of next meeting



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



**LOCAL COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr A Kay (Chairman)
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr A Potter (Vice Chairman)
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar
Cllr J Vittles
V Baker – Admin Clerk
I Brown (Director of Operations)
C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)

Members of the Public: Lisa Otter-Barry, Dave Green, Chris Humphries, Rachel Berger, Annette Seekings, Simon Forsyth, Adrian Bligh, Jes Wire 31 others.

See Appendix 1 for public comments

30. Apologies- accepted from Cllr Bessant

31. Declarations of interest- there was none.

At the Chairman's discretion agenda item 6i – Becky Addy Woods and die back strategy was brought forward

32. Becky Addy Woods (BAW) Update by Green Spaces Officer – (Full report attached)

Chris explained that it was a tragedy that nationally Ash Dieback (ADB) is not a native disease and as such trees aren't resistant to this. He explained that the meeting tonight was for Town Councillors to establish the Town Council's approach to this matter before going forward. He had worked closely with the Committee of the Friends of Becky Addy Wood (FOBAW) on an approach to surveying trees in the woodland. He added that Bradford on Avon Town Council who as the public body and landowner are legally obliged to carrying out the work for public safety reasons, following professional advice after surveying each tree to identify hazards. The survey administered in October 2021 had assessed the risk and had suggested limiting some access to the woods to reduce risk and to minimise tree works as part of our approach, as described at the meeting. BOATC are committed to managing this ancient woodland in the interest of biodiversity when addressing ADB whilst maintaining its responsibilities as landowner particularly regarding safety when planning this necessary work. Questions and discussion took place between Councillors and the public with Chris Hogg answering questions from FROBAW.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour **RESOLVED:**

- To close the informal footpath in the north-western section of Becky Addy Wood
- To prepare signage on site to communicate and explain the approach, in conjunction with FROBAW (Friends of Becky Addy Woods)

- For the Green Spaces Officer to arrange ecological surveys, gain approval for works to trees covered by Tree Preservation Order, to obtain a Felling Licence, Traffic Regulation Orders and to meet regulations and legal responsibilities to enable the works to proceed
- To commission forestry and arboricultural work to address the hazards associated with the use of the public footpath, the road and the goat track, based on the tree survey carried out in early October 2021
- To fund the above work, following the councils' financial regulations to appoint appropriate contractors for the works
- Commissioning of works will not take place until Bradford on Avon Town Council have undertaken detailed consultation with FROBAW and the tree survey is to be sent to FROBAW leaders

33. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Franklin seconded by Cllr Trimble and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To accept the Environment & Planning Committee minutes held on 28th September 2021.

34. Carbon Counting survey

Simon Forsyth Chairman of Climate Friendly Emergency Group (CFEG) explained that only a few Councillors had responded to the on-line survey so far and encouraged other Councillors to respond. The Chair suggested that the Council enhance the uptake, by hosting various focus sessions/events in the early part of next year that would provide free impartial advice to householders on how they could adapt their heating systems and other energy saving ideas. Simon explained that there were opportunities available to the CFEG to receive training about heat pumps, airtightness surveys and other useful information that could be presented at these events. Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) also provide a footprint tool available on their website www.cse.org.uk/news which allows towns and parishes to access useable data, which is due an update, on their carbon emissions that is easy to share and compare each other or to the national average. The Climate Friendly survey will provide much more detailed local data on domestic energy usage.

- 35.(i) Becky Addy Woods and ash dieback strategy – had already been discussed
- (ii) Tree Planting and nursery – Chris reported that BOATC had been successful in receiving substantial funding from the Forestry Commission via Wiltshire Council (WC) for £96,000 for tree planting and ongoing 3year maintenance of trees. Substantial trees are currently being planted on land owned by BOATC and on future areas of land received from WC's asset transfer once completed. Consultation has been carried out on Poulton Park and Culver Close where work is ongoing on how the council will work with contractors and volunteers to deliver this. A small tree nursery has been set up at the back of the Bowls clubs to store small 'whips and trees; seeds were being gathered from BAW from local trees with providence that they can be so that trees replanted within the local area.
- (iii) Healthy River Project, including Barton Farm Country Park, ash dieback survey, working with river users, and monitoring pollution
Chris explained that primarily this concerns Water monitoring. He said that an organisation had been set up with Wessex Water, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust to look at biodiversity and the impact on water quality. He has been working with this group and it is planned for water monitoring programme to be arranged soon. As BOATC takes on ownership/riparian rights of the river there will be ongoing consultation between the Rowing Club/Canoeist and the Angling club on how to address the balance and needs of the river whilst maintaining the health and safety issues of the river and the trees that line the river. BOATC now have a riparian owner register.

36. Lighting Strategy – (Report attached)

A first draft was circulated with the agenda, and it was noted that part three of the document was still to be added. Cllr Gibson commented that there was no reference to the EU regulations on lighting levels and recommended that this is included in the final document. It was noted that the final document will be revisited at a future Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting.

37. Climate Emergency Focus session

A timetable of Focus sessions had been circulated with the agenda with suggestions that events could be planned regularly between 1-2month intervals. Other topics were added like 'Moth trapping' Garden Wildlife and in the Summer a Healthy River camp. Annette Seekings suggested using wildlife camera's that could be 'live' streamed in a Biodiversity promotion theme
It was agreed that Cllr Kay will circulate an updated version for the Focus sessions.

38. Living Green Wall

It was noted that the Director of Operations had been in correspondence with the contractor and was awaiting a start date.

39. Chairman's report – (As Attached)

40. Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency & Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategies.

This document (attached) was circulated with the agenda and the response made by BOATC was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Appendix 1

Lisa Otter-Barry gave a report on FROBAW's concerns – see attached report.
Dave Green also commented on the number of trees designated for felling.
Rachel Berger, Climate Friendly provided an alternative resolution for FROBAW management.

Kate Nottage

Kate reported that she had gathered some acorns from a large Oak tree near Woolley and had propagated them on but now hoped that Chris could take over the care of the young saplings and possibly replant them somewhere.

Environment and Green Spaces Committee

Tuesday 16th November 2021

Becky Addy Woods and Ash Dieback (ADB)

Becky Addy Wood

Becky Addy Wood is an ancient woodland, 4.13ha or 10.2 acres in area. Ancient woodland means that the site has been woodland since 1600. The importance of ancient woodlands is not just the trees, but the entire ecosystem including soils, other flora and fauna. There are notable ancient wood indicator species, such as Toothwort, Herb Paris, Yellow Archangel as well as Bluebell and wild garlic (Ramson).

There have been impacts in the past at Becky Addy Wood, including felling (likely during the construction of the canal, associated or other quarrying, and on at least one occasion in the early 1900s). Past management has included coppicing and other harvesting from the woods, with the wood named on the Tithe Maps in 1841 as Inner Hanger Coppice, Addy Wood and Outer Hanger Coppice.

In the 1970s the structure of the woodland was radically changed by the effects of Dutch Elm Disease, a fungal disease that caused the death of over 30 million Elm trees in the UK. Whilst ash is native to the woodland, with some ancient ash coppice, Becky Addy Wood is now dominated by ash and sycamore, both species that quickly occupy open ground. The history of the wood means that the current mix of trees is limited and the woodland structure does not reflect the true natural state of the woodland.

Over recent years, the wood has been inappropriately managed and neglected including use for motorcycle trials that caused extensive damage. This has led to erosion, damage to the understory and ground vegetation of the wood.

There is little evidence of woodland management in recent years, apart from limited work following the attention of Wiltshire Council in dealing obstruction of the public footpath from fallen and dangerous trees.

However, the wood is an important ancient woodland, a habitat which is now rare in the wider landscape, with extensive features of ecological importance, which, with careful management can be enhanced to improve its biodiversity value.

The woodland is a County Wildlife Site and is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (for the entire woodland). The woodland is bounded by private meadows, a road and a public footpath runs east-west through the centre of the wood.

Becky Addy Wood and Bradford on Avon Town Council

Bradford on Avon Town Council are the landowners of Becky Addy Wood.

Following the advertisement of the sale of Becky Addy Wood by auction, local people around Becky Addy Wood approached Bradford on Avon Town Council and the woodland was purchased in April 2020, with an agreement established between Bradford on Avon Town Council and the Friends of Becky Addy Wood. The Town Council and the Friends of Becky Addy Wood have worked closely on plans for the wood and its management. Given the past damage and neglect, there is an opportunity to improve the biodiversity of the woodland to bring it into a favourable condition.

This has included, with funding from the Cotswold AONB's Caring for the Cotswolds grant scheme, a project to carry out tree surveys of the wood, improve biodiversity, establish volunteers and communicate qualities of the wood with the public. Some of this work is complete (such as the installation of bat boxes) but the rest is on hold with the agreement of the Cotswold AONB, to be completed when the current issue with Ash Dieback is resolved.

Partly funded by the Caring for the Cotswolds grant, with a licenced ecologist working on a voluntary basis, we have been carrying out a bat project, initiating a long-term study of bats in the woodland and environs. This is relevant to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bat Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a European designation that reflects the importance of the area for bats. The study has included the erection of 24 bat boxes in the wood that can be inspected under licence, as well as bat transect surveys, and autumn swarming surveys. Other surveys of botany and birds have been undertaken.

Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)

Ash dieback (ADB) is a highly destructive disease of ash trees (*Fraxinus* species), especially the United Kingdom's native ash species, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). It is caused by a fungus named *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (*H. fraxineus*), which is of eastern Asian origin. The disease is also known as 'chalara', ash dieback, and chalara dieback of ash.

ADB is a fungal disease, that spreads from airborne spores, initially infecting newer growth of ash trees, such as buds and leaves, then spreading through the tree. Trees can be infected with ADB for a number of years before the visible signs are obvious.

ADB It is likely to have been introduced into Europe by infected plant material, and spread within Europe through tree movements, and via tree nurseries. Its incidence in the UK is likely to be a combination of this as well as airborne spores. It is more likely occur and spread quickly in woodland settings compared to open grown ash trees. The spread of ADB is variable, as is the effect on individual trees.

Trees infected with ADB are also vulnerable to damage from other diseases and environmental effects. Trees can become unstable, with leaf and limb drop and can be dangerous to climb to undertake works. It is expected that not all ash trees will be affected by ADB, and the speed of the effect of the disease in each tree will be different. There is also evidence that there can be cycles of affect and recovery in trees. Fortunately, some trees are likely to be resistant to ADB, but trees that are infected with ADB are expected to eventually succumb to ADB as well as other diseases.

Proposed approach to trees.

The approach to the management of Becky Addy Wood has been for the benefit of biodiversity, whilst maintaining our responsibilities as landowner, particularly regarding safety. The Friends of Becky Addy Wood have been involved in the preparation of this approach throughout, including regular site visits and correspondence, though they have not made any formal decision of their view.

This approach takes account of guidance and advice from Forest Research, the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, the Arboricultural Association, Wildlife Trusts, Tree Council, Natural England, Wiltshire Council. The preparation of this approach has involved ecologists, bat ecologists, botanists, and discussions with individuals in the above organisations. Where possible, we are taking an innovative approach, and we will continue to do so in the ongoing recovery and maintenance of the wood.

We have monitored the progression of ADB in the woods and the additional risk has informed this approach. Visible signs of ADB have been present in the woods for at least three years, increased during 2020, but in the summer of 2021 the extent of the visible impact of ADB has become extensive.

This responsibility means the Town Council has to survey trees on our land to ensure that risks from them to users and property are kept below an acceptable level. This is based on assessing the risk on 'targets' – the people or property that might be hit from a falling tree or part of a tree, and for how long those people or property are exposed to that hazard. This dictates the need for surveys and the frequency of those surveys. Once risks are identified by this process they need to be addressed. We have zoned the woodland in terms of risk. Broadly, in Becky Addy Wood, the zones have identified areas that require the surveying of trees, and areas where there are negligible levels of access so full ground level surveys will not take place.

In terms of ash trees, rather than take overall assessments of the woodland, the survey was instructed on the basis of 50% of canopy leaf loss in each ash tree, surveyed individually, with recommendations based on the professional expertise and experience of the tree surveyor at the time of the survey. The tree surveys were carried out by Lantra qualified arborists, approved by the Arboricultural Association and with relevant British Standard accreditations, with the survey undertaken to British Standards. The contractor has completed the Bat Conservation Trust and Arboricultural Association approved Bats in Trees course. The surveys included a walk-through of the site to define the survey zones, and to brief on the overall biodiversity approach to the woodland.

The principal targets in the wood are the public footpath, the adjacent road, the path along the western edge known as 'the goat track' and informal paths within the wood. There is also an area where there is evidence of a fire pit where people gather. The survey zones of the wood were defined as the fall distance of trees from the targets.

From the initial walk-through survey, it was clear that the north-eastern area of the woodland near the informal path was extensively affected by ADB. There are also significant veteran trees in this area, including ash, sycamore and field maple, and there is a known bat roost in this area. It is proposed to close the informal path, rather than be required to carry out extensive tree felling. This, with appropriate signs, will mitigate the risk in this area. A similar approach is proposed for other informal paths in the woodland – to inform visitors to the woods to keep to the public right of way, in order to prioritise the biodiversity. It might also be possible to address the area of the fire pit and the upper areas of the woodland in this way.

This leaves the risks to users of the public footpath and the road, as well as the 'goat track' at the west of the wood. Risks here cannot be mitigated by removing users or by advising them that access is at their own risk, as the use of the path and road is by right. Therefore, the professional survey has mainly identified hazards alongside the public footpath and road. Because of the gradient in the wood, trees below the path lean away from users, and any risk is reduced because trees would fall away from the path, so where possible, the tree survey has accounted for this reduced risk.

The resulting survey, carried out at the beginning of October before any autumn leaf fall, is shown on the map below. Unfortunately, a significant number of hazards have been identified in the survey. The map shows further work necessary on approximately 128 trees. These are predominantly ash trees but also include other tree species that have hazards. This work needs to be done within six months. Many of these trees will need felling or significant reduction, and some need further inspection or monitoring. The map shows that these trees are mainly associated with use of the public footpath and road.

We propose to take an approach that carefully considers and enhances the biodiversity of the woodland the to this work as feasible, including:

- Carrying out ecological assessment as part of the preparation of tree works, considering ground flora, bats, badgers and other protected species
- To limit the works to trees, for instance in leaving standing deadwood, 'monoliths', to reduce trees.
- To install enhancements to the trees, such as veteranisation features
- Where possible, to limit works to felled trees, to mimic natural processes such as storm impact
- To install bird boxes alongside the bat boxes already installed in the wood
- To carry out the work in the winter to limit ecological impacts
- To mark and seek to protect areas of particular botanical interest
- To widen the species mix of the woods, with native species to enhance the biodiversity, considering planting of disease resistant elm

Following this work, it is expected that following a season of monitoring, there will be opportunities to restock the wood, following guidance from Forest Research and other organisations.

External Funding

No current funding has been identified to manage the tree work necessary, including that resulting from ADB. A Forestry Commission pilot is available in some regions of the UK relating to tree health, but it is not available in this area, and is unlikely to be rolled out during before 2022/23. We will continue to look for opportunities for funding from other sources, particularly for replanting or managing natural succession in the woodland. Funding from the Cotswold AONB is on hold for completion of projects after this work is completed.

Proposed Resolution

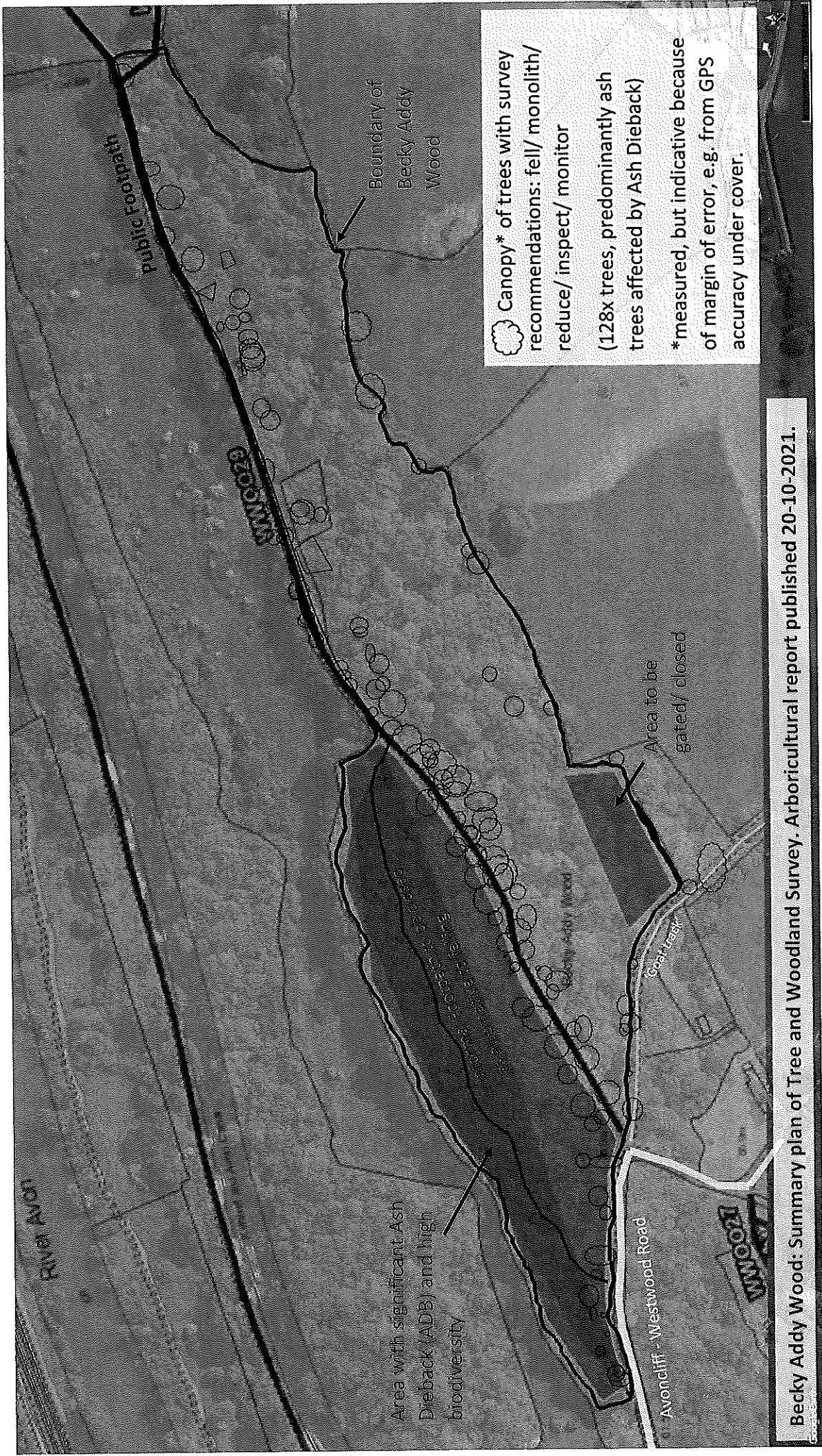
To close the informal footpath in the north-western section of Becky Addy Wood.

Prepare signs on site and communications to explain the approach.

To commission forestry and arboricultural work to address the hazards associated with use of the public footpath, based on the survey carried out in early October 2021.

To arrange ecological surveys, gain approval for works to trees covered by Tree Preservation Order, to obtain a Felling Licence, traffic regulation orders and to meet regulations and legal responsibilities to enable the works.

To fund the above work, following the council's financial regulations to appoint appropriate contractors for the works.



☁️ Canopy* of trees with survey recommendations: fell/ monolith/ reduce/ inspect/ monitor
 (128x trees, predominantly ash trees affected by Ash Dieback)
 *measured, but indicative because of margin of error, e.g. from GPS accuracy under cover.

Becky Addy Wood: Summary plan of Tree and Woodland Survey. Arboricultural report published 20-10-2021.

**Carbon counting proposal: Simon Forsyth
E&GS 28/09/21 (Draft AK)**

Climate Friendly Bradford's Energy Group are planning to do a carbon survey of the town and surrounding villages. We feel there is little point planning for net zero unless we can measure what our footprint is now, and whether it is reducing (or not) year by year.

Excellent though the 'Impact' tool from Centre for Sustainable Energy is (image below), it provides at best an estimate based on national and regional databases (AK: *actually has very local input from 'post-code -pixel' consumer databases*). Our view is that we need a bottom-up survey to corroborate the top-down estimate it offers.

To this end, one of our members has drafted a Google Forms survey, designed to be simple enough to fill in quickly but complete enough to provide a footprint estimate for the filler-in. Our thinking is that if we get enough of the households in the town to complete it, it will give us sufficiently many data-points to estimate a meaningful footprint to set against that from the Impact tool. It feels to us that it would form a natural part of the Council's response to the climate emergency - but we are very aware that from your perspective there will be a number of practical constraints to address.

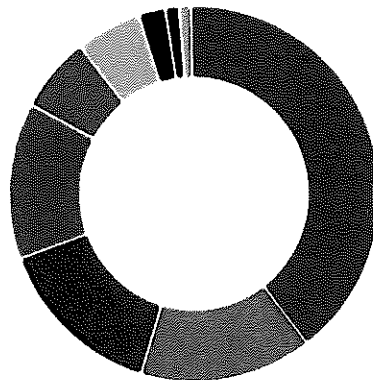
PROPOSAL: Request Town Council support to promote and distribute such a questionnaire. At this stage no funds are requested.

Bradford-on-Avon

40,698t CO₂e'
total territorial footprint (p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Housing	16187
Road Transport	6349
Aviation	5591
Industrial and commercial	5499
Agriculture	2692
Shipping	2386
F-gases	919
Diesel fuelled railways	416
Waste management	419
Other Transport	28





JOHNS
ASSOCIATES

BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Public Guidance Document Text

Nocturnal Animals and Artificial Lighting

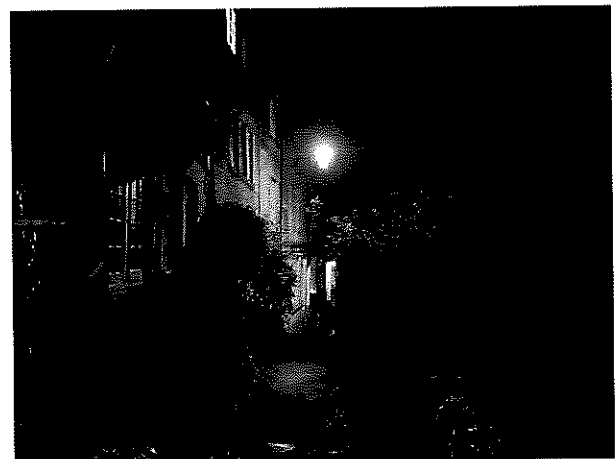
1 FIRST DRAFT TEXT

1.1 NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

Nocturnal animals are a much loved and charismatic part of British wildlife and include hedgehogs, badgers, bats, foxes, owls, newts and dormice. Unfortunately, human lighting interference has a significant negative effect on many of these species, which tend to avoid well-lit areas for fear of being seen by predators.

1.2 LIGHTING AND WILDLIFE

With global and UK wildlife populations in decline as a result of human pressure, we want to provide some simple steps and advice to householders and local businesses to reduce the overall lighting levels in and around Bradford-on-Avon which will be of benefit to our local nocturnal wildlife (and also your electricity bills!) by providing safe darker corridors for animals to move through at night.



External lighting on buildings is required for us to be able to move safely around properties and walkways in the dark, however the number of lights can be minimised and certain lighting may be able to be avoided all together to increase the chances of seeing nocturnal animals in gardens and natural habitats around Bradford on Avon. Careful placement of lighting in the right place and setting lighting further apart should result in a reduction in the number of lights on a property or land and even some lighting being avoided all together. This consideration can also help with planning new internal lighting and the location of new windows and skylights in property alterations. The location and height of internal lights and windows can be planned to minimise lightspill onto dark corridors.

1.3 LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS

We appreciate that avoidance of lighting is not always possible so the next step is to try to reduce the lighting levels and/or the duration of lighting. This can be achieved by focussing and directing the light on exactly where it is needed and not allowing light to spill out onto green habitats such as trees, hedgerows, gardens and the River Avon. Using lighting with hoods and shields, placing it as low to the ground as possible and directing it in a downward direction away from vegetation helps to illuminate the required area only. The use of short duration timers and well-aimed PIR sensors are a very successful measure to ensure that lighting is off or dimmed when not in use.

Lighting with the following specifications are proven to reduce the negative effects on nocturnal animals:

- Metal Halide, mercury light and fluorescent sources should not be used.
- LED lights should be used.
- Use low level illuminated bollards, down-lights and handrail lighting where possible.
- Position light to point away from the river/trees and vegetation.
- Position light to point towards the ground.
- Position light as low as possible.
- Warm coloured lights should be used (<2,700 Kelvin).
- Avoid blue-white lights.
- Keep garden lighting to a minimum, place in locations away from native vegetation and turn off when not in use.
- Placement of new windows, home extensions and skylights should be considered to create the least lighting impact.
- Curtains and blinds and light-reducing tinting/film should be considered as should placing internal lighting away from windows and at heights to reduce reflection and direct lightspill to vegetation.

With a small amount of planning the levels of lighting can be greatly reduced.

1.4 LIGHT SCREENING

Where light spill on natural habitats can't be avoided, screening can be used to minimise the illuminance. This can include putting up panel fencing with a small hole at ground level for nocturnal animals to pass through. Fencing can be planted with night scented climbers to attract insects which provide night time food for animals. Night time scented species include:

- Cherry pie (*Heliotropium arborescens*)
- Evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)
- Night-scented catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*)
- Night-scented stock (*Matthiola bicornis*)
- Nottingham catchfly (*Silene nutans*)
- Soapwort (*Sapnoria officinalis*)
- Sweet rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)

- Tobacco plant (*Nicotiana glauca*)
- White jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*)

1.5 IMPROVING YOUR GARDEN FOR NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE

Gardens and outside spaces can be enhanced to increase shelter opportunities and food for nocturnal animals.

- Bat, bird and insect boxes can be installed in suitable trees and on buildings and fences to increase the habitat available for nocturnal animals.
- Hedgehog shelters can be installed in gardens or alternatively habitat piles for species like hedgehogs and newts can be created with brush and grass clippings.
- Bird baths and ponds are great way to provide some hydration to wildlife.
- Planting native tree, shrub, plant and climber species attracts native insects to provide a food source; variants of native species should be avoided.
- Avoid using lawn treatments including pesticides, insecticides and slug pellets to ensure the highest number of worms are available for birds and hedgehogs to eat.

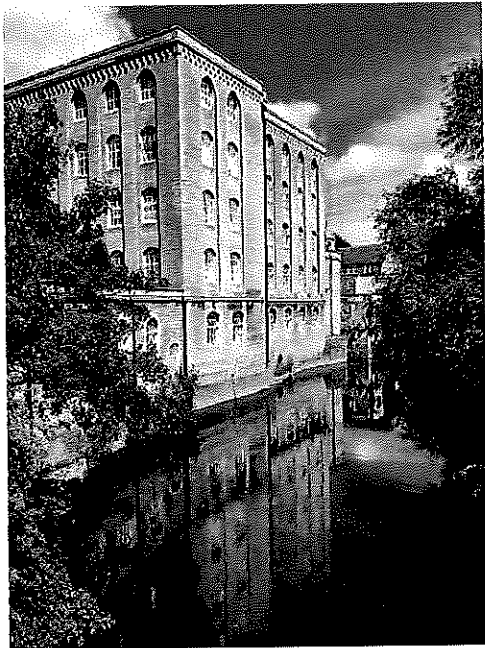
Why don't you go into your garden at dusk or dawn to have a look at what nocturnal animals you can spot? It is best to avoid using torches!



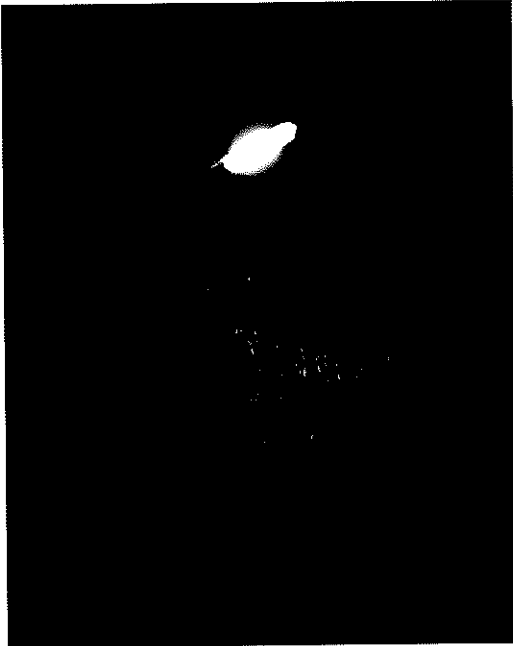
Alexas fotos



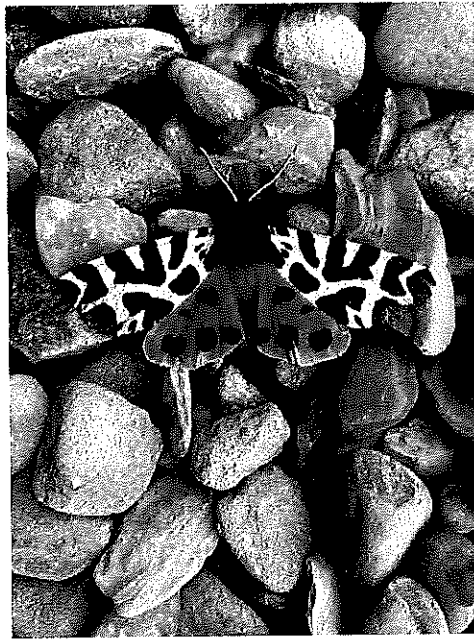
Andy Chiltern



Nis Bouillard

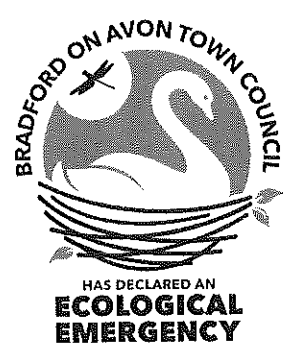


Juntus Menke





Bradford on Avon Town Council Comments for Wiltshire
Council Climate Emergency and Blue-Green Strategy
Response



October 2021

Bradford on Avon Town Council welcomes the fact that Wiltshire Council (WC) is developing a Climate Emergency (CE) Strategy. We appreciate that this a complex issue and approve of the range of ideas included in the draft strategy. The lack of integration of this document with the WC Local Plan reduces its efficacy. The CE Strategy lacks vision and commitment to achieving its goal of seeking to make Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. The recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) predicts that the world will reach or pass 1.5°C between 2030 and 2035 and is likely to exceed 2°C between the early 2040s and early 2050s. Every fraction of a degree of warming leads to more dangerous and costly impacts. Urgent actions could remediate this to some useful extent.

Without WC commitment and urgency, there is little chance of us making much progress at all, and the impact of the Local Plan (unless the final is significantly improved from the draft) is likely to increase the County's carbon footprint rather than address the problem. It is interesting to note, that excessive, poorly thought out housing in the wrong places, of the wrong type and not of environmentally sustainable quality, is referred to as a *Plan*, whereas the Climate Emergency and Blue-Green Infrastructure documents are both referred to as *Strategies*; some of the right words, but not really a plan! The CE and BGI need to be fully integrated with the Local Plan and of at least equivalent weight of importance.

Comments about the consultation process:

1. Hard copies are difficult to come by for those less able to engage with the internet (but a few were at Climate Festival and in Library);
2. The online Teams information session was tricky to join, the link was partially lost during (my) session and deleted my questions, attendees could not see who/how many attending, attendees could not see questions from others, responses were poor;
3. The documentation is attractive and nicely illustrated, although key figures, especially maps, have poor resolution, and generally text is repetitive and lacking in detail making it difficult to respond in the questionnaires;
4. Examples of answers (other answers to follow from all sessions):
 - a. Clean Air Zones are generally not a good idea, because WC didn't expect any problems in BoA with the Bath CAZ start-up, although everyone in BoA knew about it and expected it to be a problem for the town whilst WC did no preparation;
 - b. Wiltshire cannot press for more sustainable housing (and several other issues) because they can only do what central government say ... which in effect have no intention of making any effort for a 2030 target, as Westminster have committed to a less ambitious 2050 (with little real progress). Wiltshire Council has a position of significant influence to change government position on planning regulations, other Unitary Councils have pushed for stronger standards of sustainability.

WC Climate & Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy response.

1. The Climate Emergency should be at the heart of all Wiltshire Council policies and have primacy;
2. Climate Mitigation should be a significant goal in its own right, bringing a focus on carbon sequestration projects;
3. We would like to see significant changes to policy and real action sooner than the suggested 2 years;
4. There is no detail of how objectives will be delivered, referring simply to 'future delivery plans';
5. It seems clear therefore that Wiltshire Council's decarbonisation objectives will be no more than a 'wish list' in the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and other plans, most of which have completely contrary objectives and will not be in place for at least 2 years.
6. There is a lack of measurable objectives and associated milestones. If the strategy is to be succeed, there needs to be more detail on clear aims on a yearly or every two years basis;
7. There is a lack of capital investment and budget commitments;
8. If the Strategy is to achieve its aims, immediate reversal of plans implementing climate destructive, high emission plans and policies, until such time as detailed carbon reduction delivery plans have been adopted, including the excessive housing target and poor housing standards, Westbury Incinerator etc.;
9. Active travel infrastructure needs significantly better emphasis: more than 'encouragement' for active travel. Greater provision of safe walking and cycling routes, EV charging points, EV taxis, car-sharing/clubs and all other possibilities to help reduce emissions as well as reducing the total number of vehicles on our roads;
10. There is no clear path for improving public transport which should be so much more than buses, especially improvement and protection of existing routes on the train services as these efficiently removes vehicles from the roads. This is highlighted by the local outrage about removal of the direct route to Waterloo with no consultation and expectation that Wiltshire Council should champion that cause;
11. No detail on sites to generate renewable energy, plant trees, apply regenerative agriculture or produce food for local consumption;
12. Complete dependency on other plans and strategies that are yet to be developed, which in themselves present a significant risk of increasing the County's emissions (e.g. through more commuter based development and road building);
13. All Wiltshire Council business should aspire to carbon-zero operationally. Recently announced, the Silverwood School extension approval with a recommendation to be operationally carbon-zero is commendable. However it is needs to consider all aspects, including that a majority of students will be transported there (cars? buses?), rather than gaining education and support within or near their own communities.
14. Lack of detail of what is included specifically in BGI Strategy, makes it difficult to comment as a community;
15. The BGI has limited definitions of what types of protection will be provided at designated sites and what are those sites;
16. The consultation response from Bradford on Avon was overwhelmingly in support of protecting existing greenspaces for well-being and wildlife; it is uncertain whether (for example) the Old Golf Course is 'in' the BGI and if it is, what protection it would be given;
17. The BGI document focuses on 'access' to wildlife and economic impacts, but despite all the evidence of massive loss insect, bird and mammal wildlife both in quantity and species, there are no actions suggested for enhancement or regeneration of habitats and safe corridors for wildlife. BOATC's made Neighbourhood Plan has green space protections, but the green corridors policy was removed due to *lack of evidence* (pre-2016). We now have a significant amount of evidence and consultation, which will be incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan update.
18. BOATC employing a dedicated Green Space Officer putting our community in the vanguard of BGI;

19. The Council could do more to indicate how it will use its influence to educate and lead residents and businesses to do more to reduce their own carbon footprint and protection of wildlife in areas beyond the Council's control.

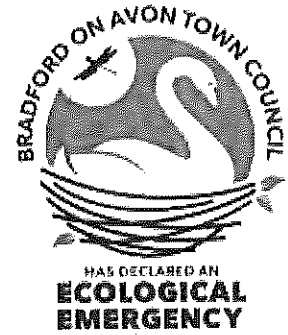
Bradford on Avon Town Council is keen to continue to support Wiltshire Council and its councillors in taking the urgent action that is now required. We declared a similar Climate Emergency within days of WC's declaration in 2019, which we augmented in 2020 with an Ecological Emergency.

<https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council-commits-to-a-greener-future/>

We have been working hard to engage with our community, doing projects and taking actions as best we can, but we are a small town and need support and leadership for the County to make any significant impact. There is little need for more evidence gathering, investigations and assessments; the evidence is irrefutable. There is an urgent need for more ambition and immediate action.

Bradford on Avon Town Council is extremely interested in the BGI, strategy particularly along the River Avon which is central to the wellbeing, biodiversity and heritage of our whole community. We would be keen to work with Wiltshire Council to protect and enhance our riverside and other green spaces and continue to take a strong lead on this, as we take on responsibility for these in the imminent asset transfers.

Prepared by Cllr Alex Kay 14/10/21, in conjunction with BOATC and support from residents and groups including Climate Friendly BOA, BOA Preservation Trust.



Alex Kay, Environment & Greenspaces Chairman's report for Tuesday 01/02/22

Environment

1. Greener Christmas cards: 750 cards distributed around town.
2. Climate & Ecological Emergency Display in Library: new material needed: domestic heating info.
3. CHEESE & CFBOA domestic energy meeting 21/01/22
4. FairTrade meeting 26/01/22
5. Wiltshire Council Neighbourhood Planning presentation 27/01/22
6. Eco-Pavilion update meeting 28/01/22
7. Christine's Sustainable Supermarket Climate Challenge, ?March 2022: teams of 5 needed, get info from Christine's, a big prize can be won ... be the neighbourhood doing the most towards reducing your carbon-footprint

Press release from Wiltshire Council 25/01/22 on Climate Emergency and Green-Blue Infrastructure Strategies:

Cabinet to consider next steps for tackling climate change in Wiltshire

At its meeting on Tuesday 1 February, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will look at the next steps for tackling climate change and improving the natural environment in the county, as it seeks to approve the Climate Strategy and the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan.

There were more than 1,300 responses from residents, businesses and organisations across Wiltshire in the recent Climate Strategy consultation and Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan consultation, held between 1 September and 17 October 2021.

The Climate Strategy sets out the next five years of the council's journey to becoming a carbon neutral county, covering seven themes: transport; homes and the built environment; natural environment, food and farming; energy; green economy; waste; and carbon neutral council. The strategy also features high-level objectives for each of the themes. As part of the consultation, respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the objectives. Most people agreed with the objectives, with 90% of respondents 'agreeing' or 'strongly agreeing' to all but five of the objectives.

Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan sets out the future for supporting and enhancing Wiltshire's natural environmental assets for the benefit of people, nature and to help address climate change.

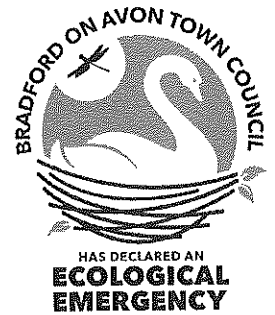
Cllr Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, said: "We had some very valuable responses to these two consultations, and this feedback have been thoroughly analysed, with officers providing detailed reports, which we'll consider in Cabinet.

"If approved by Cabinet and then Full Council, we'll adopt both the Climate Strategy and Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan, and their principles and objectives will be weaved into everything we do as a council. Using these strategies as a framework, services are drawing up delivery plans to help us to reduce carbon emissions both as a council and across the county.

"We have already reduced our own carbon emissions as a council by 80% since 2013/14, but we have more to do. If Cabinet agrees to these two strategies it will be another huge step forward for our plans to tackle climate change and support the natural environment in Wiltshire."

If Cabinet agrees to take the revised strategies forward, they will then go to Full Council on 15 February for final approval and adoption.

To read the Cabinet reports, people should go to <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=13780>



C&EE events and projects calendar

Theme (suggestions)	Date	Owners	Format ideas
CARBON COUNTING: DOMESTIC HEATING	February-March 2022 Event poss 11 March?	S. Forsyth, AK, SG, CHEESE	Training, talk & discussion group, development of case studies, open-homes, survey launch, heat-trace survey results?
FOOD WASTE TO GARDEN COMPOST DEMONSTRATIONS	?April -May	AK, KV? CH?	Demos, food-waste collection start up Community fridge? Combine with FairTrade
GARDEN & WILDLIFE	?March-April-May	?AK	GrowBoA, seed swap, bird watch, moth trap, guided walks, tap into Secret Gardens, SWinBloom ...
HEALTHY RIVER MANAGEMENT		AK, CH, BOARC?	
LIGHT STRATEGY AND THE VALUE TO ECOLOGY	Sept/Oct/Nov?		Bat talks, night walks????
LOW-CARBON TRAVEL		TT	



**C.H.E.E.S.E & BOATC & CFBOA:
Domestic Heating Project
Meeting Friday 21st January 2022**

Attendees:

Michael Andrews, CEO THE C.H.E.E.S.E PROJECT C.I.C
Patch Young, Survey Manager THE C.H.E.E.S.E PROJECT C.I.C
Matthew Roake, Climate Friendly BOA, Energy Advisor
Simon Forsyth, Climate Friendly BOA, Energy Advisor
Cllr Sarah Gibson, (BOATC & WC), Mayor
Cllr Alex Kay, BOATC Energy & Greenspaces Chair
Ian Brown, Director of Operations, BOATC

Background

- It is recognised that domestic energy use is a significant component of the carbon footprint of Bradford on Avon and is potentially something that as a community and as individuals, it is one that we can make an impact. The rapidly increasing fuel costs make this even more important for the wellbeing of our residents.
- The Town Council agreed (Sept, '21) to support a Climate Friendly Questionnaire to gather details of BoA domestic heating use, the results of which would provide data granularity to the carbon-foot print calculations (e.g.3.6t Ce on average per household from <https://www.cse.org.uk/>) . By multiplying up for the town as a whole this survey data could help build a baseline view on the scale of the “fabric” problem in the town’s entire housing stock (Current CO₂ impact, potential for CO₂ savings and budgetary cost of remediation).
- CHEESE (Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts) <https://cheeseproject.co.uk/> is a not-for-profit organisation set up specifically to address fuel poverty by using bespoke heat-tracing technology and methodology which can provide detailed heat-loss information from homes. These leaks can be addressed, often quite simply and cheaply to some extent, resulting fuel and cost savings.
- We discussed a practical way forward to support Bradford on Avon homes by combining the CFBOA questionnaire design and results with sample thermal-tracing survey results on a range of different houses, with the aim of providing some simple solutions to save energy and thereby also fuel and engaging residents to consider improving efficiency (and reduction in waste) of their domestic heating.
- This is considered the beginning of a longer-term project which could act as a pilot for other communities across Wiltshire.

Actions & recommendations: subject to approval/detail:

1. Climate Friendly (Simon F) to work with CHHESE to align questions to optimise data-gathering and for release via BOATC and CF channels asap (already approved);
2. Purchase thermal-trace surveys and advice for a sample of 5 or so basic house types in the near term for preliminary results to be used in local workshop/event.
3. Provide budget for thermal-tracing surveys in (near future, maybe next early next winter) as prizes for completing the domestic heat use questionnaire and/or subsidised surveys of more housing to add to database and improve cover of understanding of problems and remedial actions.
4. Consider other small fuel-saving ‘prizes’ to raise profile
5. Details of budget for 2022 to be established, but approval for immediate heat-trace survey costs to be made available (up to £2k).
6. Delivery of anonymised data on the energy efficiency status of all houses surveyed in BOA, ideally by at least type and age of property (aligned with survey classifications?) to build a baseline.

7. Obtain advice on what CHEESE has done in conjunction with other local authorities and what they think has worked for improving the energy efficiency in those areas.
8. BOATC event pm Thursday 11th March (tbc)
 - a. presentation from CHEESE and others as appropriate,
 - b. display of findings of local surveys (as available),
 - c. provide quick clues for heat loss improvement,
 - d. further promote survey and advice,
 - e. demos or displays of other technologies etc., concerning sustainability of domestic fuel.
9. To be discussed at Environmental & Greenspaces Committee Meeting Tuesday 1st Feb 2022 from 7pm, St Margarets Hall, Bradford on Avon.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

"To approve the BoA domestic heating project as outlined above to work towards more sustainable homes with reduced fuel waste and carbon-footprint and to help provide practical and affordable 'retrofit' approve. To achieve this E&GS recommend a budget of up to established for 2022 and approve up to £2k for project launch."

Note E&GS can approve this much, but it may be useful to raise at FTC too for better permeability. I also request that Operations Mgr suggest other budgetary sources.

From: Sarah Harris <sarah.harris@westburytowncouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 September 2021 16:45

To: Sarah Harris <sarah.harris@westburytowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Proposed Westbury Incinerator FAO The Clerk.

Dear Clerk,

Westbury Town Council has written to the new Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, to reiterate our request to his predecessor to call in the planning application for a proposed incinerator on the edge of our town.

At a meeting of the Town Council on Monday 6th September 2021, council resolved to apply for Rule 6 and approved a sum of money to seek legal advice and representation in our challenge to the decision by Wiltshire Council to approve the planning application. Our councillors have discussed many of the issues surrounding the decision however we will be relying on specialist lawyers to advise us where we have the strongest case.

Whilst a sum of money has been set aside, it is difficult to predict what this legal challenge may cost. We are looking at other options to help fund this and we would like to ask your council to consider making a contribution to this fighting fund.

I would be grateful if you would take this request to your members as this incinerator isn't just a Westbury problem; if it is built it will be all of our problem.

On behalf of Westbury Town Council, we thank you for your time and ongoing support.

Sent on behalf of Deborah Urch, Town Clerk

Many Thanks

Kind Regards
Sarah



Sarah Harris
Committee & Communications Officer
sarah.harris@westburytowncouncil.gov.uk
01373 822232 | DD 01373 480918
The Laverton, Bratton Road, Westbury
Wiltshire, BA13 3EN
www.westburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Our Ref: ACV/2021/00015

Enquiries to: Simon Day

Date: 02 December 2021

Economic Development & Planning

Tel: 01249 706634 or 0300 456 0114

email: simon.day@wiltshire.gov.uk

www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Decision not to list Bradford on Avon Golf Course, Avon Close, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1JJ as an Asset of Community Value

Having considered all the information and submissions provided, following the nomination of the above asset to be listed as an Asset of Community Value, Wiltshire Council has decided not to enter the property onto the list of Assets of Community Value.

The asset has been entered into a list of unsuccessful nominations, maintained online at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningcommunityrighttobid.htm#relateddocuments>. Documents in relation to this nomination can be viewed at <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z000016pWhe>.

This decision has been taken for the following reasons:

The former Bradford on Avon golf course is a privately owned piece of land with limited public access. The site has always been in private use, with the only permitted public access, being to those that previously paid to play golf. There is no evidence of the land being used to host any social events for the local community, nor is there likely to be in the future.

It is therefore considered that the current use of the land (or use of the land in the recent past), that is not an ancillary use, does not further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and it is not realistic to think that now or in the next 5 years there could be non-ancillary use of the land which will further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.

Signed

Simon Day

Performance & Service Development Manager

Economic Development & Planning