

## Wem Town Council Climate Emergency Change Action Plan

This climate change action plan was considered by Councillors and representatives from Wem Area Climate Action (WACA) on 12.12.24 and the proposed changes/ updated are highlighted in yellow






**Priority 1** - Planning Applications – The Town Council should submit comments on every planning application for domestic and commercial new builds, extensions, conversions that request conditions relating to use of appropriate insulation / the installation of low carbon heating systems / use of low carbon products in the build installation of EV charging points / tree planting etc. **This is not being done Edward Towers agreed to discuss with Shropshire Council's climate change team to produce a list of suitable comments that could be used when planning applications are considered by The town Council decides to submit comments. The standard comment could say something like "If planning permission is to be granted for this application. the Town Council request that the following conditions .....are placed as part of any permission**

**Priority 2** – **Remove this priority as investigations have found Bowensfield is not suitable due to network issues and rapid charges are now in place on Wem Business Park, slow charges are in the process of being installed on the main car park**



**Priority 3** – To consult with schools and youth groups in Wem to seek views of young people to understand what Wem related projects / initiatives the Town Council should progress to tackle the climate Change. **This objective has been taken on by WACA who have done an incredible job consulting with local schools and groups so it is suggested to change the objective to Support the Work of Wem Area Climate Action to enable the group to continue to engage with schools, youth groups and the wider community of Wem in order to understand what Wem related projects / initiatives the Town Council should progress to tackle the climate change**

***New priority suggested – Review Emergency Plan to ensure it contains up to date information relating to extreme weather events especially flooding and storms***





		<b>S/M/L Term</b> S – 2019/21 M - 2021/25 L – 2025/30	<b>Time Commitment</b> 🕒 low 🕒🕒 medium 🕒🕒🕒 high	<b>Cost</b> £ low ££ medium £££ high	<b>Update 19.12.24</b>
<b>Lobbying and Leadership</b>					
	Organisational Review of Policies to align with Climate Change Commitment	Short	🕒 🕒	£	Ongoing
	Publicise commitment	Short	🕒	£	Ongoing
	Climate Change Page on Website	Short	🕒	£	Page updated to include link to WACA website but still needs more information
	Commenting on planning applications – The Town Council should submit comments on every planning application for domestic and commercial new builds, extensions, conversions that request conditions relating to use of appropriate insulation / the installation of low carbon heating systems / use of low carbon products in the build/ installation of EV charging points / tree planting etc.	Short	🕒	£	Ongoing – awaiting discussion on appropriate comments to include
	Add Climate Change References in all new contract specifications and Tenders and add to the evaluation process	Short	🕒	£	Ongoing reference included in Floral planters, Streetlighting and Public Toilets contracts
<b>Carbon Reduction of Assets</b>					
	Undertake Carbon Footprint Audit	Short	🕒 🕒 🕒	££	Completed by Marches Energy Agency 2019 no update needed as no new buildings taken on.
	Replace Street Light heads with LED	Short	🕒 🕒	£££+	Completed 2018

5 year plan to replace all concrete street lighting columns	Medium		£££+	Started 2022 – ongoing 2024
Consider climate impact on new purchases of plant & machinery	Medium		££	Groundsman has trailed 2 different types of battery operated hand tools currently nothing suitable on the market
Reduce carbon footprint of toilets	Medium		£££	As rainwater harvesting unit installation is not cost effective as water savings would be limited. <b>Rainwater and waste water harvesting to be built into new schemes.</b> PIR sensors fitted for lighting. Sensors fitted to reduce flushing of urinals.
Consider carbon footprint of any buildings to be taken on by the Town Council in the future	Long		££	Ongoing.
Reduce carbon footprint of Town Council office activities	Short		£	Reduce printing, request minimal packaging on items ordered e.g paper. All appliances with exception of phones and CCTV turned off each day Use bicycle for travel to meetings / inspections within the town.





## Renewable Energy

Request energy from Town Council's electricity providers is renewable	Medium		£	Switched to renewables complete.
Explore potential for installing Solar/Wind mitigating measures on Council Land/Buildings	Long		£££+	2020 RCEF report identified options for Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre, works on hold due to funding and other more pressing items <b>Work with WACA to explore community energy Schemes eg wind turbines/solar panel farming on roofs.</b>




## Transport

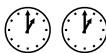

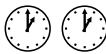






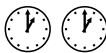




	Installation of rapid vehicle charging unit in the town	short		£££+	<b>Remove as unit now on Business Park</b>
	Improve pathways and encourage walking & cycling	Medium	  	£££+	Deep clean of Drawwell Walk in 2024 has improved area, Other pathways being monitored for overgrowth and reported. Parish Paths Partnership Established in Town.




## Waste Minimisation

	Paperless Council Meetings	Short		£	10 councillors now receiving meeting papers via email. <b>Consider purchase of lease of tablets for new council to completely remove need for paper</b>
	Encourage Contractors to have a “Zero to Landfill” policy	Long	 	£	To be written into new contracts
	Ensure all waste is recycled and reused wherever possible	Short		£	ongoing

## Open Spaces

	Develop Open Space Management Plans	Medium	   +	££	Since 2022 two areas of long grass left on Trentham Road and The Wheatfields Public Open spaces – Wildflower Meadow created in 2023 in The Wheatfields and new meadow created on Trentham Road POS <b>BIODIVERSITY AND ACTION PLAN TO BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS OVERALL PLAN</b>
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	Identify potential new open space areas		 	£££	Worked with Wem Area Climate Action to identify locations. Millfields and Fothergill Way Open Spaces are possible areas. Consider establishing a Wildflower meadow/unmown area on the rec.
	Develop a long-term approach to tree planting, including encouraging community tree planting and identifying locations for bulk planting	Medium	  	£££	2021 Tree planting has taken place on Wheatfields Play Area, Trentham Road Play Area and Wem Recreation Ground. 70 trees planted for the Jubilee in Town gardens in 2022 Continue to explore areas for new tree planting.
	Purchase Peat-Free Compost	Medium	 	££	Floral planter's 100% peat free.
	Continue replacement of floral planters with built-in water reservoirs to reduce the need for watering	Medium	 	££	All new planters have built in reservoir Use of the IE/Jubilee Sq bowzer to water tubs
<b>Community Engagement</b>					
	Consider amending Town Council's grant application form to request evidence of applicants' commitment to tackling the climate Change	Medium	 	££	Completed
	Establish Area forum to encourage the community to embrace the Climate Change agenda	Short			WACA Established with links to Town Council. Council website needs up dating.
	Encourage Councillors to promote climate change	Short		£	Ongoing
	Publicise and promote achievements in reducing the Council's carbon footprint on website and in the Wemian	Medium		£	Council needs to be linked with National and Shropshire based environmental interest groups for advice, publicity and

					campaigns. Encouraging community and young peoples involvement.
<b>Young People</b>					
	To consult with schools and youth groups in Wem to seek views of young people to understand what Wem related projects / initiatives the Town Council should progress to tackle the climate Change.	short		£	Work with WACA to support them to achieve this objective
<b>Monitoring</b>					
	Report 6 monthly reviews against plan	Short		£	Not achieved, no review in 2023 Needs amending to annual review as 6 months review not feasible
<b>Emergency Plan</b>					
	Ensure emergency plan remains up to date to include information on extreme weather events with particular focus on flooding, storm damage and heat	Short		£	New objective