

At the Town Council meeting on 9.2.24 the Town Council's Emergency Action Plan was reviewed and the resolution 648/24 was passed

**RESOLVED**:- to refer to the action plan to Wem Area Climate Action for comments and consider at a future meeting.

Wem Area Climate Action has now reviewed the document and their comments are copied below and highlighted in yellow on the plan

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The Secretary and Chair of WACA, Malcolm Adkins have worked through the Wem town Council Climate Emergency plan this morning. We also looked through the biodiversity plan. We welcome this addition and think it could be linked as part two of the overall plan. As the Council has rightly identified this area is key to our practical climate response.

Within the biodiversity plan, we are particularly concerned to focus on the following areas, Rivers and watercourses, wetlands, trees and grasslands. We would also like to focus on particular animals and insects which need specific support, which could well be an area to encourage community engagement. There is focus on new build biodiversity net gain but perhaps less so in shared or community spaces.

We did not have time on this occasion to look through Wem Rural's climate plan, but, as our name suggests (Wem Area Climate Action) we are keen to look at the whole and hope working together is also a priority for the Council, as we certainly need connectivity to promote biodiversity. We have recently welcomed Helen Mc Cabe, Wem Rural Clerk attending WACA meetings.

I am attaching a copy of the plan with highlighted additions. These comments are meant to be helpful and hopefully adding to the scope of the council's response.

WACA is of course committed to taking every opportunity at every local event to encourage and inform the community of changes they can make to mitigate climate change and reduce their carbon footprint. We are currently working with Marches Energy Agency and Community Climate Connectors to promote low-cost energy home improvements, reducing bills and carbon footprints.

We gained charitable status in November 2023. We are a CIO, Wem Area Climate Action Charity number 1205938

Our email is [wemclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:wemclimateaction@gmail.com)

Our website is on the to do list for grant funding and a reboot. We would probably not direct people to our current website.

Yours Barbara Cotterell

### Wem Town Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

This climate change action plan was last updated in October 2022 when the following recommendations were identified as the Town Council's key priorities in 2022-23.

**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.** The Working Party consider that this is essential to ensure that comments about low carbon development become more mainstream so that in time they can become material considerations. Edward Towers is to seek advice from Shropshire Council for suggestions on the type of comments that could be considered – *2024 this is considered in all planning applications. Any development should take into account embedded carbon in the infrastructure.*

**Priority 2 - Installation of rapid vehicle charging unit in the town - Working party consider this to be a priority as there is no rapid vehicle charging unit in the area.** This project will be dependent on Shropshire Council permitting the use of its car parking spaces for this purpose and there being sufficient electricity supply in the area. The Bowensfield car park has been discounted as the electricity supply is already at capacity in this location – *2024 update - Shropshire Council are still to install electric charging units and these are not fast chargers Chargers on lampposts?*

**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 emergency.** Work will need to be carried out prior to this to identify the best way to communicate with young people either through use of a digital survey or paper based questionnaire. *This has not been progressed by the Town Council however WACA are working with Thomas Adams School on projects. Broaden involvement to include the whole community. WACA involvement in 2024 has been to attend all community events to inform and highlight Climate issues*

		<b>S/M/L Term</b>	<b>Time Commitment</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Update 29.2.24</b>
		S – 2019/21	· low	£ low	
		M - 2021/25	·· medium	££ medium	
		L – 2025/30	··· high	£££ high	
<b>Lobbying and Leadership</b>					
	Organisational Review of Policies to align with Climate Emergency Commitment	Short	··	£	Ongoing Plans all need updating and Smart targets
	Publicise commitment	Short	·	£	Ongoing
	Climate Emergency Page on Website	Short	·	£	Ongoing requires more information – and link

					with Climate Emergency Group
<b>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.</b>	<b>Short</b>	.		£	<b>Ongoing</b>  <b>Solar panels, heat pumps and EV charging points as standard</b>  <b>Conservation and repurposing rather than new builds.</b>
Add Climate Emergency 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 update needed. Last published on town council page 2019!
Replace Street Light heads with LED	Short	..		£££+	Completed 2018
5 year plan to replace all concrete street lighting columns	Medium	...		£££+	Started 2022 – ongoing 2024  Explore EV charging
Consider climate impact on new purchases of plant & machinery	Medium	..		££	Groundsman has trialed battery operated hand tools and hopes to change in Spring 2024

Reduce carbon footprint of toilets	Medium	..	£££	<p>Consider rainwater harvesting unit installation – <b>not cost effective as water savings would be limited. Rainwater and waste water harvesting to be built into new schemes.</b></p> <p>PIR sensors fitted for lighting.</p> <p>Sensors fitted to reduce flushing of urinals.</p>
Consider carbon footprint of any buildings to be taken on by the Town Council in the future	Long	..	££	Ongoing Current premises heating and energy efficient measures in place.
Reduce carbon footprint of Town Council office activities	Short	.	£	<p>Reduce printing, request minimal packaging on items ordered e.g paper.</p> <p>All appliances with exception of phones and CCTV turned off at plug each weekend.</p> <p>Turn off copiers at end of each day.</p> <p>Use bicycle for travel to meetings / inspections within the town. Town council to have a 6 electric bikes for council use</p> <p>Consult with MEA to reduce energy use and costs</p>
<b>Renewable Energy</b>				
Request energy from Town Council's electricity providers is renewable	Medium	.	£	Switched to renewables complete.
Explore potential for installing Solar/Wind	Long	...+	£££+	2020 RCEF report identified options for

mitigating measures on Council Land/Buildings				Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre, works on hold due to funding and other more pressing items  Explore community energy Schemes eg wind turbines/solar panel farming on roofs.
<b>Transport</b>				
<b>Installation of rapid vehicle charging unit in the town</b>	<b>short</b>	.	<b>£££+</b>	<b>Not currently progressed as most suitable location owned by Shropshire Council Approach local MP's to push this forward</b>
Improve pathways and encourage walking & cycling	Medium	...	<b>£££+</b>	Deep clean of Drawwell Walk in 2022 has improved area, vegetation needs cutting back, Needs a deep clean now/improvements to walls Other pathways being monitored for overgrowth and reported.  Parish Paths Partnership Established in Town.  Cycle repair kit and pump donated for cyclists visiting town, suitable central location to be found to house it. Footpath link to town from Football club to Noble St. New St footpath unfit for purpose
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>				
Paperless Council Meetings	Short	.	<b>£</b>	10 councillors now receiving meeting papers via email.

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	.	£	Office waste is recycled  Contractor collecting waste from recreation ground and cemetery to be asked about recycling of waste.
<b>Open Spaces</b>				
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 to be created on Trentham Road POS Whitchurch Road Cemetery.  BIODIVERSITY AND ACTION PLAN TO BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS OVERALL PLAN Grassland, Tree, Riverine and wetlands management schemes
Identify potential new open space areas		..	£££	Worked with Wem Area Climate Action to identify locations. Millfields and Fothergill Way Open Spaces are possible areas. Wildflower meadow/unmown area on the rec.
Any future Public Open Space adoption to include any Climate Emergency Needs	Medium	..	££	Ongoing repetition?
Develop a long-term approach to tree	Medium	...	£££	2021 Tree planting has taken place on

planting, including encouraging community tree planting and identifying locations for bulk planting					Wheatfields Play Area, Trentham Road Play Area and Wem Recreation Ground.  70 trees planted for the Jubilee in Town gardens in 2022 Forest bathing copse for Thomas Adams School. Tree species to maximise biological diversity. 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 emergency	Medium	..		££	Completed
Establish Area forum to encourage the community to embrace the Climate Emergency agenda	Short	.			WACA Established with links to Town Council. Supported creation of Green Market Information on Council website needs up dating. Better links with Wem Rural.
Encourage Councillors to promote climate change	Short	.		£	Ongoing
Publicise and promote achievements in reducing the Council's carbon footprint on	Medium	.		£	Articles have been published

	website and in the Wemian				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>					
	<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 emergency.</b>	<b>short</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Contact schools and youth groups to identify the best format to engage</b>  <b>Improved contact with St Peters Primary and other Wem Rural Schools</b>
<b>Monitoring</b>					
	Report 6 monthly reviews against plan	Short	.	£	Not achieved, no review in 2023  Needs tightening up please. Finance to improve monitoring at all levels?
	Undertake annual carbon footprint audit	Medium	..	££	Next review due

This Action Plan was last reviewed by Wem Town Council on October 2022

### **Suggested Decision needed**

**To establish a working party to consider these comments in more detail and undertake a review of the Action Plan with a view to reporting back to the December meeting**