

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

18th OCTOBER 2022

RW/2022

12th OCTOBER 2022

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 15 – REVIEW OF CARBON FOOTPRINT

AIM

1. To review the activities to reduce the carbon footprint of Bridgnorth Town Council.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Town Council meeting held on 17th March 2020, Members received a report from the Climate Change Advisory Group.
3. The following resolution was passed at that meeting:

'0461/1920 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

RESOLVED:

To acknowledge the contribution of the Climate Change Advisory Group in documenting the activity of the Council and making recommendations that seek to reduce the Town Council's carbon footprint.

To acknowledge that the Town Council has already and previously implemented change that has contributed to reducing/ offsetting carbon omissions.

To acknowledge that there is much scope to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and for the Town Council to continue its efforts and review the matter in 12 months' time.'

DISCUSSION/ COMMENT

4. Recent discussions have been held between the Interim Town Clerk, DLF Supervisor and Senior Property Maintenance Operative.
5. The original report from the Climate Change Advisory Group was reviewed.
6. The report covered the following areas: energy, waste, water, biodiversity, grass verge mowing, amenity mowing in green spaces/parks, meadows, hedgerows, trees and invasive non-native plants.
7. Noted below are the actions that have been taken/are to be taken in response to the recommendations held within the report.

Energy:

- *DLF Canteen has LED lighting*
- *Town Hall Court Room has LED lighting*
- *Mayors Parlour has energy saving bulbs*
- *Castle Hall currently all Halogen*
- *We are in the process of obtaining quotes for converting the halogen uplighters in the main hall to LED*

- *Castle Hall large round bulkhead lights are energy saving*
- *Underneath the Town Hall currently Halogen*
- *College House – A quote has been obtained to change the office strip lights to LED strip lights = £480 fitted (£60 x 8)*

Waste:

- *BTC has an in-house maintenance team; repairs are carried out where appropriate*
- *Stationery is re-used (ie folders, wastepaper is used as note pads)*
- *All paper is recycled/shredded*
- *Separate recycling bin in the kitchen area at College House for all plastic, glass, cans etc*
- *Recycle bin located in the DLF canteen*
- *All staff are encouraged to recycle*
- *All kitchens in all buildings are stocked with proper crockery and cutlery (no plastic or paper items)*
- *There are 2 compost bins in the Cemetery and 3 in Castle Grounds*

Water:

- *We are looking at PIR systems on urinals – motion sensors*
- *Water meter readings are taken regularly*
- *Both the Town Hall and Northgate Museum have been fitted with new motion sensor taps*
- *There are currently 2 large water tanks in Castle Hall; one emersion and one header. Contractors would be needed to complete this work. These could be removed and instant water heaters could be fitted in the toilets.*

Biodiversity:

- *Trees recently planted on Crown Meadow and The Grove Park*
- *Work with Sustainable Bridgnorth and Shropshire Wildlife Trust whenever possible*
- *Management plans in place for all our areas*
- *A recent plan was drawn up with Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Buglife. This runs from September 2021 to September 2031 and encompasses Grove Park and Wellmeadow*

Grass verge/amenity mowing:

- *Buffer strips are left on all areas where possible*
- *We work with B-Line*

Meadows:

- *BTC manages meadow sites at the Cemetery, Wellmeadow and 2 at Grove Park*
- *Contractors complete our 'cut and collect'*

Hedgerows:

- *Volunteers are currently 'laying' a hedge at Foundry Park*

Trees:

- *In the last 18 months, 25 trees have been planted at Grove Park and 5 at Crown Meadow*

Invasive Non-native plants:

- *The eradication of the Japanese Knotweed has begun over a 3 year period.*

Other initiatives include:

- *Use of local contractors, where possible, to cut down on fuel usage*
- *Looking at multi zonal heating for the Castle Hall*
- *Replacing broken grounds equipment with re-chargeable electric alternatives*
- *Investigating 'green' skips for flowers and leaves with current waste contractor*
- *Non concussive taps to be fitted in all buildings*

RECOMMENDATION(s)

8. It is recommended that the Town Council **RESOLVES:**

To acknowledge the Town Councils ongoing commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of the Council and the activities being undertaken to achieve this.

Ros Williams
Interim Town Clerk