

Environmental Action Plan

Adopted by the Town Council on 25 July 2024, Minute 122/24-25

Environmental & Financial Impact Analysis

Area	Action	Analysis	Environmental Impact	Financial Impact
Education	That the Town Council would both actively promote its own actions in reducing its carbon footprint, and any advice or schemes available to the wider community to aid in making the town greener.	This could be achieved by setting a dedicated web page on the Town Councils website with advice and links to activities the Town Council are undertaking or supporting. This could then be regularly shared with social media.	Unmeasureable without knowing the potential content.	Officer time in updating the site and regular social media posts.
	This promotion would be undertaken via the Town Councils website and social media feeds.	As above	As above	As above
	That all appropriate planning responses by the Town Councils Planning Committee include the need for developers to have considered the installation of both Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) and renewable energy products i.e. solar panles, heat pumps and LED lighting.	This would become a standard set of wording included with all plannins response to DBC, EDC, GBC and KCC.	Whilst this would have no direct impact it would send out the Town Councils positive message on the aspiration for net zero technology use within the Town.	Minimal officer time.
Procurement / Contracts / Waste	That, where possible, the Town Council ensure when purchasing items these are the most environmentally friendly (low carbon) options possible and are recyclable. In addition steps are taken to reduce the level of printing undertaken and in turn postage of documents.	This would require a review of all regular purchasing items within the Admin Office, Parks Department, Café and Caretaker cleaning supplies. This is already being undertaken at the café with the use of recyclable takeaway materials and within the admin office for paper supplies. Measures have been taken to reduce postage by 85% of members adopting email only communication for agendas and paperwork.	Potential to lower carbon footprint by reducing wastage.	On the basis of current stock ordering the more environmentally friendly or recyclable items are more expensive and therefore will increase consumable budgets.
	That, where possible, any contracts issued are to suppliers that are either local, therefore minimising commuting distance, or from environmentally friendly contractors i.e., those that use electric vehicles.	This is currently being undertaken where possible.	Would lower the carbon impact of our suppliers but is not a measureable target against the Town Councils impact.	Whilst beneficial to support local businesses, every effort would have to be made to ensure best value is obtained.
	That a review would be undertaken of the Town Councils current waste management, with a view to making it more environmentally	This would be best left until the Town Councils building assets are resolved with the completion of the Community Hub and transfer of Ingress Park Community Centre. This would allow a better understanding of the total waste demands and look for economies of scale with procurement.	Unknown at this time	Unknown at this time

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Reducing Electricity Usage	That the Town Council replace lighting fixtures, at the point they fail, with LED or the lowest energy option available on the market	This has been started within the Town Council offices over the last 12 months.	This would reduce our energy consumption and therefore our carbon footprint	Would help to reduce the Town Councils overall electricity bills. The replacement units purchased have cost between £100 and £200 to purchase. This cost has been on a par with the repair cost for a standard (non LED) unit. Consideration needs to be given to the cost of replacing the high ceiling bulbs in the chamber and the whole lighting systems in both the chamber and hall as these work from a dimmer system. Work is underway to look at options.
	That staff are reminded about switching off both lights and equipment when they are not in use.	A memo would be issued to all staff.	Would need to take a snap shot of electricity usage before the memo and then take a comparable measurement in 12 months time.	Once known could indicate a reduction in electricity.
Buildings	That any new buildings constructed with the Town Councils involvement are undertaken with a target of being as low carbon as design, technology and resources allows, this is with the aim of being an example to the wider community	The Town Council have agreed a decision to ensure this is in place for the new Pavilion. Work has been undertaken to ensure this is being factored into the energy package for the new building.	This would result in the building being designated as low carbon with water consumption being the only direct utility, but water harvesting and grey water recycling is being considered.	Whilst the initial equipment costs of solar, heat pumps and tanks are greater than a conventional system they would be repaid in savings from utilities within 5 years.
	That the practicality, environmental impact and cost of retrofitting its existing buildings with environmentally friendly technology (solar, heat pumps & insulation etc) is explored.		This would result in the buildings being designated more energy efficient as the Council Offices, Mess Room and Church Road Hall have all had energy efficient glazing installed.	We have sought quotes for Solar across the x 3 buildings where it is possible (Council Offices, Mess Room and Knockhall Changing Rooms). The average cost to install across these three sites is £78,000 with an expected annual cost saving of £10,000. Indicative prices were sought for air source heat pumps for the same sites plus Church Road Hall. The total cost of the installations would be £122,000. This would save around £8,000 per year on gas bills but would also push up energy consumption for electricity.
Vehicles Plant	That the Town Councils fleet of vehicles / equipment are replaced, when required, with the lowest carbon option suitable for the task.	All 3 diesel vehicles have now been replaced with x 2 petrol vans and one electric vehicle.	The Town Council would see a reduction in its carbon footprint due to the change to either electric or lower carbon vehicles.	Whilst the expense of purchase is currently looking to be around £7,000 to £10,000 for a used vehicle, the Town Council would see a reduction in fuel bills for the new vehicles purchased.

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Biodiversity	<p>That the Town Council continues to actively plant new trees where space allows and areas of hedging, on land it owns, to both promote areas for nature and reduce carbon levels within the town.</p> <p>That every possible enhancement to the biodiversity and eco-system within the Swanscombe Heritage Park is undertaken.</p>	<p>The Town Council continues to engage in the Woodland Trust free tree planting scheme each year and has also continued to work with NWKCP on corporate tree planting events within our sites.</p> <p>Work continues in partnership with NWKCP on a programme of improvements to the Heritage Park, including restoring the pond, creating meadows, hedge planting, installation of bee post and hibernacula.</p>	<p>The tree / hedge planting would have an environmental impact and be beneficial to nature. The amount is not measurable within the carbon calculator the Town Council uses.</p> <p>The creation of enhanced biodiversity at the Heritage Park is being measured as part of surveys and a site wide plan.</p>	<p>The procurement of trees has been free, and parts of the labour due to corporate events. The Town Council would still have the ongoing maintenance costs, including man hours. It is also worth noting that the hedge planting will create an additional burden on the level of green waste we produce from cuttings. The Town Council also has limited space for potential further planting schemes.</p> <p>The funding for the works to the Heritage Park has been sourced from a successful bid to the LTC Fund.</p>