



Tupton Parish Council

Serving the people of Tupton



# Climate Action Plan

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PLAYING OUR PART IN THE WIDER CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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REPORT AND MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING OF TUPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Contents:

Introduction	2
Background	2
North East Derbyshire District Council	2
Key Goals for the Parish Council	3
Committing to the Climate Emergency	3
Form a Climate Action Network	3
Take responsibility for the impact of Council decisions	3
Short-term actions (Quick Wins)	3
Medium and longer-term goals	3
Short Term Actions (Quick Wins)	4
Medium and Longer-Term Goals	5
Policy 1. Engaging and Enabling the Community	5
Policy 2. Reducing Consumption and Waste	5
Policy 3. Reducing Energy Demand and Producing Clean Energy	6
Policy 4. Transforming Green Spaces	6
Policy 5. Changing How We Move Around	7
Policy 6. Support Local Businesses	7
Policy 7. Building a Stronger, Healthier and More Resilient Community	7
Motions to Council	8
Motion 1: To accept the Climate Action Plan	8
Motion 2: Climate Action Network	8
Motion 3: Inter-Parish Working	8

# Introduction

## Background

There is now international scientific consensus on the fact that carbon emissions (alongside other greenhouse gases) are causing climate change. In the 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC warn that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. The IPCC stress the importance of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

## North East Derbyshire District Council

North East Derbyshire District Council has declared a Climate Change emergency and given the go ahead for a wide range of tough-tackling measures intended to reduce the authority's impact on climate change.

The actions, which go beyond what the government have set, include a push for the reduction in energy consumption and changes to how new and existing developments can become more sustainable.

The measures were approved at a meeting of the Council on Monday 8 July 2019 and had been put forward as part of the Council's Transformation Programme which looks at improving the sustainability of the Council, delivering excellent services to the community, when and how they want them.

The approved measures will also see a reduction in the need to travel and a review of fleet management and young people in local schools will also be encouraged to develop ideas and plans that lead towards a carbon considerate culture.

# Key Goals for the Parish Council

## **Committing to the Climate Emergency**

Show commitment to the community, support other local Councils and join the body of Councils demanding meaningful action from Westminster.

## **Form a Climate Action Network**

Include local councillors, experts, organisations and representatives of the community to focus on addressing the emergency, explore ideas and prioritise actions, feeding back regularly to council meetings.

## **Take responsibility for the impact of Council decisions**

Engage with the community and ensure that all policies and decisions of the council are informed and led by the impact they will have on securing a safer and better future for the Parish within the context of a Climate Emergency.

## **Short-term actions (Quick Wins)**

Instigate the actions that can be taken by the Parish Council almost immediately for little or no cost, and that will have an immediate impact.

## **Medium and longer-term goals**

Agree to undertake policies and projects that may take more resources to achieve or need to be planned further in advance.

## Short Term Actions (Quick Wins)

To be initiated ASAP by the Parish Council

- Pledge to support the target set out by North East Derbyshire District Council in its Climate Change Plan and set a target for the Parish to be net carbon neutral by 2030
- Use information in the public domain to benchmark current carbon output, identify targets for the Parish and track progress against these targets
- Establish a Climate Action Network which will work in the interest of the Parish and allocate a lead Councillor to link with the network and the Parish Council
- Switch to a renewable energy supplier for all Parish Council-run buildings
- Install LED/low energy bulbs in all Parish Council-run buildings
- Actively work to reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle. Minimise the amount of printed matter and where this is essential use recycled paper and recycle all waste
- Use recycled paper and environmentally friendly cleaning products in all Parish Council facilities
- Stop the use of weedkillers and other chemicals in parks, green spaces, verges and paths
- Reduce bonfires on Parish Council owned/maintained land (ideally to bonfire night only)
- Use public notice boards to promote awareness and environmental initiatives
- Commit to using local suppliers wherever possible for the supply of goods and services and consider potential carbon emissions not just price when awarding contracts
- Commit to minimising the impact of Parish Councillors' activities on the environment. Eg avoid unnecessary travel
- Maximise use of social media platforms to engage with the community. Accepting that not all parishioners will have access to social media, use printed matter sparingly and target those that will benefit most
- Make use of opportunities to engage with other Parish Councils, North East Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire County Council and national government to promote policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change. Link with other organisations to share expertise, experience and knowledge
- Ban the use of sky lanterns

## Medium and Longer-Term Goals

The Council has an important role to play in achieving these goals by embedding them in its own policies and actively supporting initiatives designed to meet them. Some of the actions listed below will be outside the direct remit of the Council and will be explored in more detail in the Community Action Plan to be produced over the next 6 months by the proposed Community Action Network (CAN).

### Policy 1. Engaging and Enabling the Community

The Parish Council will commit to engaging with and supporting the community, empowering it to take the actions required to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council will:

- Develop a Communication and Outreach Strategy to share information with households, businesses and organisations within the Parish
- Engage with other parish councils, North East Derbyshire District Council and national organisations to promote actions, policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change, sharing information and experience
- Combine resources with other parishes and stakeholders for larger cross community events
- Promote initiatives in the newsletter and social media and notice boards
- Help promote and support events to raise awareness, educate and upskill
- Encourage as many people as possible to calculate their carbon footprint
- Engage with the school and other community groups and local stakeholders
- Support the actions of the Climate Action Network

### Policy 2. Reducing Consumption and Waste

The Parish Council will actively support and promote initiatives that seek to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill from the parish.

The Council will:

- Continue efforts to reduce its own consumption and waste.
- Engage with North East Derbyshire Council to secure strategically placed local recycling facilities
- Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community led initiatives. This may include for example:
  - Support the Parish Council in lobbying for recycling points in the parish
  - Increasing household recycling rates
  - Community composting schemes
  - Advice sessions - recycling, composting, food growing
  - Repair/upcycling/reusing projects
  - Plastic free initiatives
  - Community litter picking
  - Link with Severn Trent Water and promote water saving
  - Community fridge/larder – sharing surplus food

### **Policy 3. Reducing Energy Demand and Producing Clean Energy**

The Parish Council will promote initiatives to reduce the use of energy originating from fossil fuels and encourage the generation of 'clean energy' within the parish.

It will:

- Support planning applications that optimise the use of good environmental design, technology and materials which minimise the carbon cost of the building itself and the lifetime running costs
- Support local and national initiatives to increase environmental standards in planning reforms and local plans
- Help identify suitable sites for community led renewable energy projects
- Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community led initiatives. For example:
  - Encouraging households to check the energy efficiency of their homes
  - Promote grants available to improve energy performance of buildings and aid with applications for those that need it. Eg pop up surgeries
  - Explore options with potential suppliers for a community rate for renewable power
  - Establish a project team to explore the potential for a community-led renewable energy project which would produce energy locally for the benefit of the community

### **Policy 4. Transforming Green Spaces**

The Parish Council will work to conserve and enhance the natural environment, making space for nature and wildlife through the restoration of valued habitats, biodiversity and green spaces whilst protecting key landscape features.

It will:

- Consult with contractors and other stakeholders to formulate a plan to manage green spaces, verges and pathways to maximise carbon sequestration and promote biodiversity.
- Identify potential sites for tree planting, and bird and insect boxes.
- Stop using weed killers and pesticides on Council owned land and work with stakeholders to reduce mowing and encourage rewilding within the Parish. Where possible, making play areas more natural and providing more habitats for wildlife
- Monitor, preserve and protect existing natural wildlife habitats
- Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community led initiatives. For example:
  - Community tree planting scheme.
  - Encouraging households to eliminate the use of weed killers and pesticides
  - Educational workshops to encourage rewilding of gardens, food growing and planting for biodiversity
  - Community growing projects
  - Establish corridors for wildlife and space for nature for example pocket parks

## **Policy 5. Changing How We Move Around**

The Parish Council will work to help reduce dependency on fossil fuels for travel and improve safety and accessibility of pedestrian routes.

It will strive to:

- Promote cycling and walking (including walk to school initiatives)
- Improve safety. Slow vehicles down, maintain safe walking paths and keep road signage clear
- Lobby for safe road crossings particularly at the school entrances
- Encourage the use of electric cars. Aspire to all new buildings having sufficient charging points to meet future needs. Consider sites for communal charging points for homes without off road parking, and for visitors.
- Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community-led initiatives

## **Policy 6. Support Local Businesses**

The Parish Council will encourage the use of local services and products and work closely with local businesses to help them to reduce the environmental impact of their activities.

It will:

- Undertake to give priority to local suppliers in its own procurement process.
- Engage with the parish businesses, including the farming community and encourage them to reduce their carbon footprints
- Support initiatives to welcome visitors such as information points and signage and promote environmentally responsible behaviour.
- Aim to install fibre optic technology to the hub to encourage local working
- Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community-led initiatives. This may include:
  - Creation of a 'Green' directory of local businesses and services
  - System for waste food
  - Consider introducing a climate charter/pledges for businesses.

## **Policy 7. Building a Stronger, Healthier and More Resilient Community**

The Parish Council recognises that many of the initiatives to tackle the Climate Emergency also reap benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. It will promote and encourage initiatives which help build a stronger and healthier and more resilient community.

It will:

- Use meetings, social-media, and co-ordinate with Tupton Matters and Wings to acknowledge and promote initiatives and the positive impacts that they have
- Allocate council meeting time to review the lessons that can be learnt from the COVID-19 Lockdown and consider how these may influence policies and priorities in the future
- Look for opportunities to engage with younger members of the community and understand their needs
- Support events that bring the community together
- Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community-led initiatives. For example:
  - Consider post COVID-19 pledges for individuals
  - Community transport scheme – Helping the more vulnerable to get to essential appointments
  - Community Hub – weekly 'drop in' social events

## Motions to Council

### **Motion 1: To accept the Climate Action Plan**

That Tupton Parish Council notes the content of this report and accepts it as the basis for its Climate Action Plan.

### **Motion 2: Climate Action Network**

To establish a Climate Action Network of Parish Councillors and members of the public, as a working group of the Parish Council, to further develop and proactively implement the Climate Action Plan.

### **Motion 3: Inter-Parish Working**

To investigate the willingness of neighbouring parish councils to increase the effectiveness in the local environment and share the experience and expertise of those communities.