

Minutes of Tattenhall Neighbourhood Plan Review Committee

Held virtually via ZOOM.

23rd July 2020

PRESENT

Chairman: Iain Keeping

Steve Densley,

Peter Weston,

Public 6

Adele Evans,

Esther Sadler-Williams,

Doug Haynes,

Ann Wright (Clerk).

Andrew Hull,

APOLOGIES

Pat Black, Sheila Chapman, Lisa Fearn, Rebecca Robinson.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

DISCUSSION – LOW CARBON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Daniel Stone from the Centre for Sustainable Energy led a discussion on low carbon neighbourhood planning which included the following information:

‘Low carbon ’policies can be very different depending on the area you are looking at and the needs of that area. Neighbourhood plans must promote sustainable development and be in accord with strategic policies as such there is flexibility about how neighbourhood plans can tackle this issue.

Key themes of low carbon neighbourhood planning

Renewable Energy

The way energy is provided is changing fast in the past energy was supplied in a linear way from large power stations to homes and businesses, that is no longer the case with energy coming from a number of sources, this results in both a threat and opportunity:

Threat – The amount of renewable energy produced needs to quadruple which will result in renewable energy plants being imposed on communities where they don't want them.

Opportunity - Communities have a chance to decide where they would like renewable energy to be generated and what criteria they want to see met. This can lead to Community Energy Companies.

Good renewable energy policies should include:

- Support for renewable energies.
- Identify the types of renewable energy generation which are acceptable in the community and the criteria it should meet.
- Identify the resources available in the area.
- Allocate sites.

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Examples of good policies can be found in:
Colwich Neighbourhood Plan 2016,
Farringdon Neighbourhood Plan 2016
Gwinear-Gwithian Neighbourhood Plan 2017

Sustainable Building

Key to reducing carbon emissions is to create more energy efficient buildings.
Currently CSE is working on a list of evidence which can be used to support policies in Neighbourhood plans including inspectors' comments.

BREEAM – standards for commercial buildings

Retrofitting of Historical and Listed Buildings – consider policies which support the reduction of emissions from historic buildings without destroying their historical character.

Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity

Policies which map areas of biodiversity and policies to protect them.

Drainage & Flood Management

Consider natural flood defenses and sustainable drainage features.

Sustainable Transport

Walking and cycling routes, appraise what is already in place.

Community Engagement & Consultation

It was noted that many neighbourhood plans did not include climate policies as their original surveys did not ask climate questions.

Workshops can be organised which help residents to understand the magnitude of reducing carbon emissions and to identify what the community could do by looking at the landscape, energy needs and generation and identifying acceptable options.

Questions & Discussion

It was noted that Tattenhall has a number of these things already in place but has no way of coordinating its efforts.

The majority of land in and around Tattenhall is owned by one landowner and with the Agriculture Bill going through the Lords currently and the 25 Year Environment Plan substantial change is on the way and their needs to be a conversation with that landowner.

Ashton Hayes

Representatives from Ashton Hayes explained when writing their Plan, they had initially wanted to include sites for renewable energy generation, but CW&C had not allowed this. The Plan did include support and criteria for acceptable renewable energy.

Although there were sites identified for solar power generation these had not been allocated in the Plan due to the complexity to officially allocate them in terms of reports etc.

CW&C had not supported them including policies for sustainable buildings beyond normal building standards a policy had been included for imaginative buildings that went beyond building standards, but this had proved not to be wholly successful.

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Where applications had been approved with higher standards when these had not been delivered CW&C had not carried out any enforcement.

Ashton Hayes had also undertaken work to identify green spaces and resources which some of landowners were not aware of, using the <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> website.

They had allocated a set amount of land for the generation of renewable energy but not specified the technology as that is changing so quickly.

It was noted that energy efficiency policies are complex and as such if the local authority has appropriate policies which are going to make a noticeable difference there is no need to include them in a neighbourhood plan. Part of the reason for the complexity of this area is that there is very little government guidance in place.

It was noted that CW&C had declared a climate emergency and were regularly publishing update of what they are doing.

It was noted that one major issue will be how to address and reduce gas consumption.

Initially a working group had developed in Ashton Hayes looking at becoming Carbon Neutral and had been endorsed by the Parish Council in 2006, this later became a Committee of the Parish Council, in 2011 they group received a large grant and separated from the Council forming a CIC, Community Energy Company which reports annually to the Council.

It was noted that it was not enough to just include policies in the Neighbourhood Plan but there had to be action.

It was noted that a number policies had been included in the original Tattenhall Plan including carbon neutral buildings, ground water storage etc. and that these had been rejected by CW&C.

It was noted that building regulations have slowly tightened but they still have not reach 100% carbon neutrality in addition increases in permitted development had resulted in more development not requiring planning applications.

Heat recovery systems are worth considering as these can be very effectively installed in existing buildings, reducing emissions and energy costs.

It was noted that CW&C have published their Place Plan which includes 10 pledges, page 77 of the minutes.

Mr Stone confirmed he would forward a copy of the presentation slides, he confirmed that from December CSE may charge for his services which are currently funded by a grant although it is hoped another grant will be received.

The Chairman thanked Mr Stone for his presentation and the attendees for their input.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters raised; it was agreed to allow members of the public to speak during the agenda items.

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MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th June 2020.

MONITORING REPORT UPDATE

It was reported that the Monitoring Report and recommendations had been approved by the Parish Council at their July meeting and had been submitted to CW&C for consideration. The officer looking at the document had suggested the proposed changes were likely to result in a referendum, but this would not be decided until final analysis, the committee will meet with the officer at its next meeting in September to discuss the changes and options.

Concern was noted about Start 9 which prevents development in Newton by Tattenhall and Gatesheath.

It was suggested the Committee might want to link the local connection criteria in Policy 1 with definition of local connection used in CW&C Local Plan Part 2, policy DM24 although the Committee could agree its own connection criteria.

NEXT STEPS

It was noted there was a need to look at climate and low carbon policies in more detail and the link with Transition Villages and the Parish Council look at establishing a working group or task group to investigate and move this forward, noting there was a need to include the Bolesworth estate in these discussions.

Sustainability Review – it was thought this would be led by CW&C when new policies have been identified but should be raised in the discussion with CW&C.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

As below.

Meeting closed at 8.42pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th September 2020
7.30pm virtually via ZOOM.

Ann Wright 24/07/2020

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Neighbourhood planning in a Climate Emergency



Who are we?

- Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Low Carbon Neighbourhood Planning Programme
- Published guidebook, collating exemplar low carbon policies

www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2079

Neighbourhood planning in a climate emergency



A guide to policy writing and community engagement for low-carbon neighbourhood plans

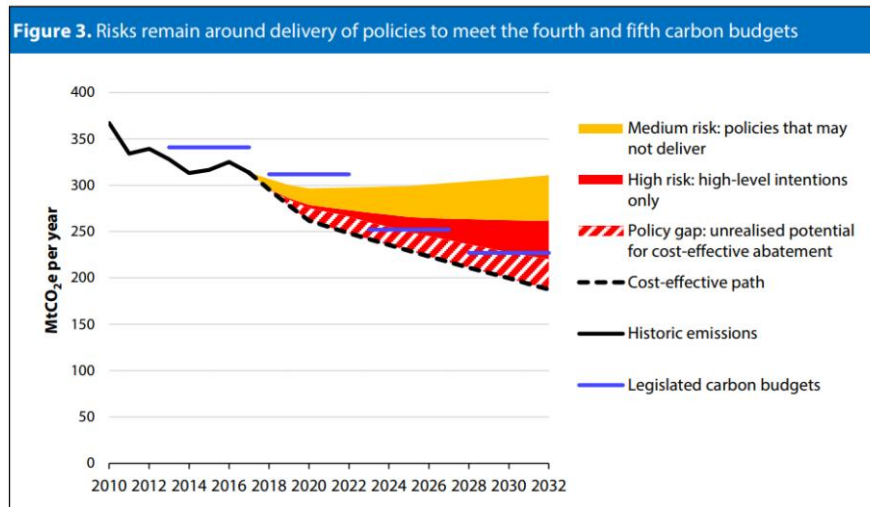
3rd Edn | February 2020

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Why encourage “low carbon” neighbourhood plans?



“The UK is **not** on course to meet the legally binding fourth and fifth carbon budgets.”

Committee on climate change - 2018 Progress Report to Parliament

Why encourage “low carbon” neighbourhood plans?

Basic Conditions:

- Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- Is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan
- Does not breach EU obligations

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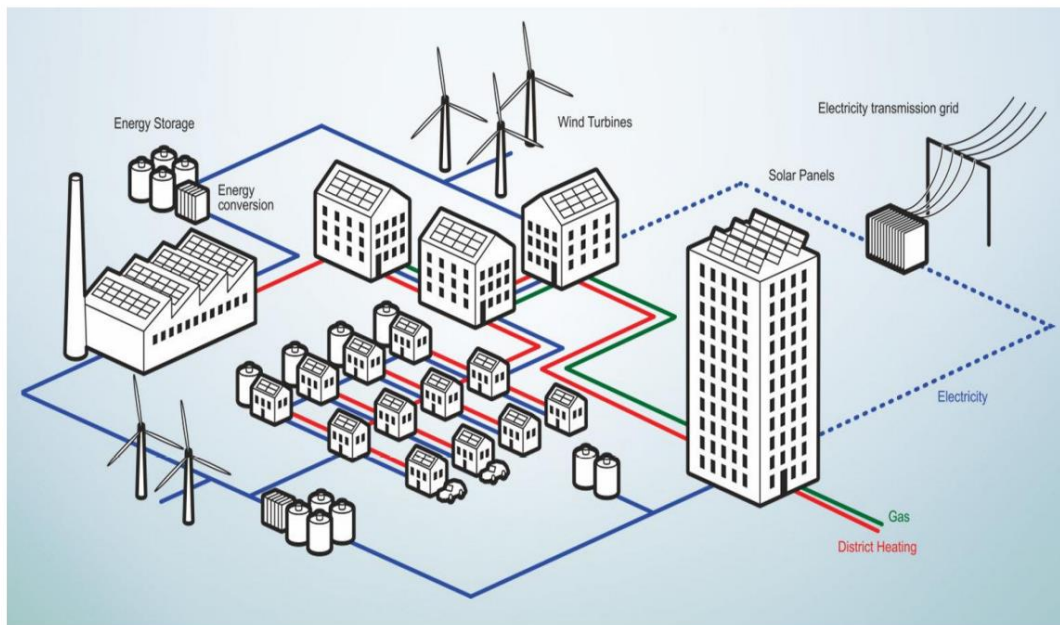
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What is a “low carbon” neighbourhood plan?



Renewable Energy



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Energy generation – Elements of a Renewable Energy policy

Good: Supports renewable energy in principle

Better: ... and specifies types supported and criteria for support

Better: ...and identifies potential renewable energy resources

Best: ... and identifies specific sites or areas for renewable energy production



Renewable Energy

Colwich Neighbourhood Plan (2016)

Opportunities to contribute to energy efficiency and renewable low carbon energy generation will be encouraged, particularly if they conserve or enhance biodiversity. A solar farm proposal will be welcome alongside the river on the site shown in Map 20 as this could take advantage of a possible adjacent hydro-electricity scheme. It will also allow grazing beneath the panels and the creation of wildlife meadows. Hedges and landscaping around the perimeter of such farms should provide screening and important wildlife habitat.

Policy CE4: Proposals for a solar farm.

Map 20 identifies land north of Gt. Haywood marina for a solar farm to provide photo voltaic power. The solar farm should be less than 5ha, carefully designed to protect the local wildlife population and landscaped to enhance the scenic beauty of the area.



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Renewable Energy

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan (2016)

Within the parish we have a river frontage and lock at Radcot. This has the potential for development as a micro hydroelectricity scheme. This would be of low impact to the surroundings and environment and have the potential to supply 60kw of electrical power, subject to Environment Agency permits. A proposal is being prepared to develop this scheme as a community project.

Policy 4.13C: Alternative energy schemes

A micro hydroelectricity scheme at Radcot on the River Thames will be supported, as will other alternative energy schemes

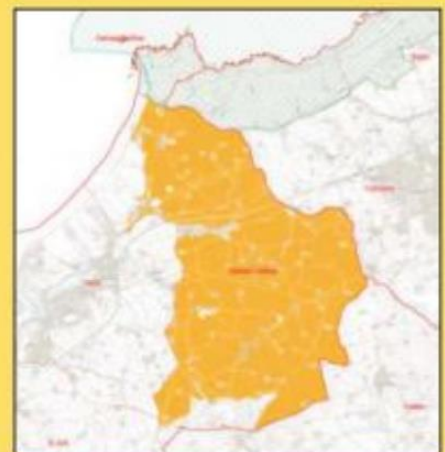
Renewable Energy – onshore wind

Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2017)

Policy GGP 12a: Wind turbines

Proposals for wind turbine development should be located in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in Map 8: Map of Potential Sites for Wind Energy. Wind turbine proposals should address the planning impacts of the scheme in accordance with guidance in the Cornwall Renewable Energy SPD and ensure that the potential harmful impacts on the following are appropriately avoided or mitigated:

(a) Residential amenity through noise generation, shadow flicker or overbearing visual impact.



Sustainable Buildings

To mitigate emissions that worsen climate change it is essential that buildings minimise energy use and maximise energy efficiency and the production and use of renewable energy to meet their needs. Major development must minimise energy use and maximise the proportion of energy used from renewable sources.....

Incorporating renewable energy in new development

“All new developments must secure at least 10% of their total regulated energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.”

Sustainable Buildings

"All non-residential buildings to aim for BREEAM standards of 'very good' or 'excellent'



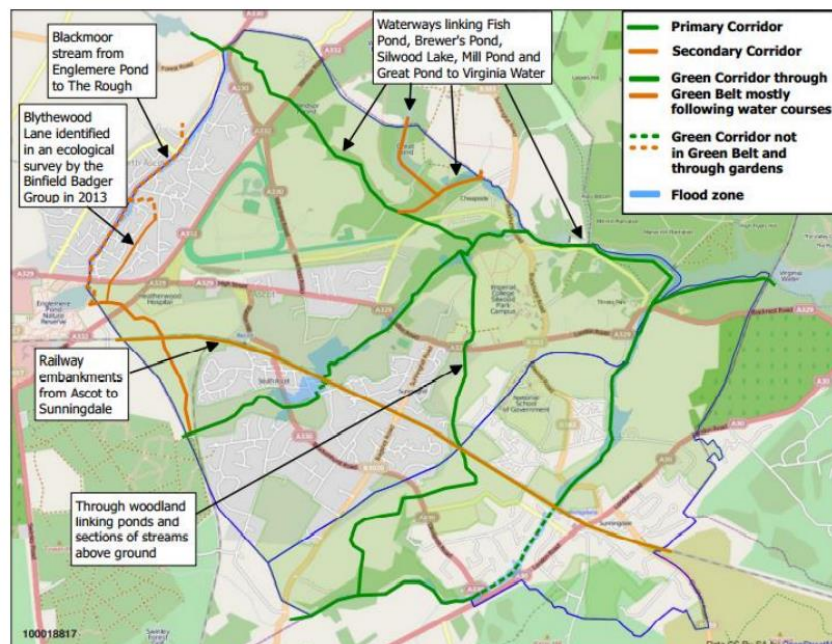
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Retrofitting Historic Buildings

“.. The sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures and the appropriate use of micro-renewables in historic buildings will be encouraged, including the retrofitting of listed buildings, buildings of solid wall or traditional construction and buildings within in conservation areas...”



Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity



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Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

POLICY NP/EN5 – GREEN CORRIDORS

NP/EN5.1 Development proposals should seek to maintain and enhance the connectivity of all green corridors wherever possible.

NP/EN5.2 Proposals for development on or adjacent to primary green corridors, as defined by Map 8, must maintain and if possible enhance the function of the corridor. Planning applications for new dwellings must clearly demonstrate how they have incorporated appropriate measures to secure the connectivity of the corridor and the freedom of movement for species on or through the site.

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity and flooding

Policy I7: Sustainable Urban Drainage System

New developments must incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to reduce the run-off of surface water in line with the requirements of Buckinghamshire County Council... The SUDS must (where the feature is communal rather than building specific) be designed as an integral part of the green infrastructure and street network, so that SUDS are positive features of the development.



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Sustainable transport + service provision

Funds raised from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be put towards the costs of maintaining and improving the network of footpaths and cycle paths...

Development will be encouraged to provide links with safe walking and cycling routes to the village centre, facilitating access to schools, the surrounding countryside and station...

New development should be built round the idea of a walkable village with integrated adequate pathways directly connecting to the centre of the village.



Use of community infrastructure Levy funds

Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan (2017)

Community infrastructure priorities to be funded from developer contributions

- Support provision of infrastructure for district heating, sustainable energy generation, storage, and dedicated local distribution.
- Community energy projects to address fuel poverty and investment for community projects.
- Support the development of car clubs and use of electric and alternative fuel vehicles.

See www.tinyurl.com/bristol-gov-uk-lawrence-weston

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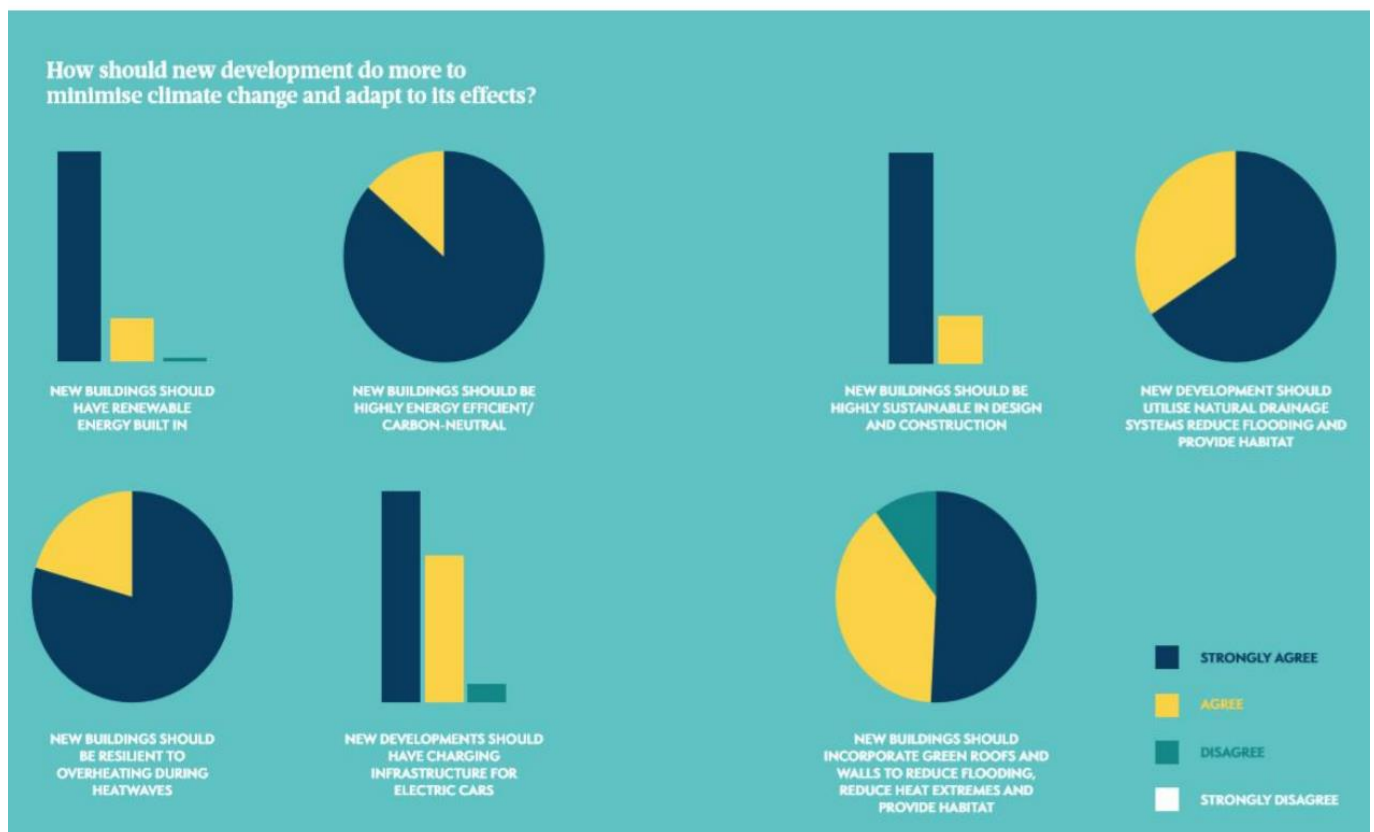
Approaches to community engagement

1. Ask questions about the climate crisis from the start of community engagement processes.

CSE “pick-list” of questions to incorporate in household surveys:

www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/Neighbourhood%20Plan%20Questionnaire%20-%20picklist%20of%20questions%20-%20final.docx

1. Ask questions about the climate crisis and sustainability from the start of community engagement processes.



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Approaches to community engagement



2. Get people to take a long term perspective

Workshop - Policies for a zero carbon future

-“Imagine its 2050. We have cut carbon emissions to zero and have a stable climate. What have we done to achieve this? How have we adapted our village to reduce carbon emissions and how have we adapted to the impacts of climate change?

What actions have we carried out and what policies do we have in place. Think about your neighbourhood and how and where you live now.”

Workshop: www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/neighbourhood-plans/community-engagement

Approaches to community engagement



3. Move slowly and foster the development of informed consensus around difficult issues e.g. renewable energy development.

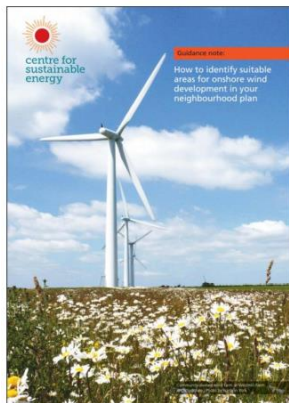


Workshop: www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1315

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CSE Resources



www.cse.org.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

neighbourhoodplanning@cse.org.uk



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Extract from CW&C Place Plan

We will:

- Jointly plan and develop environmental and other planning decisions, ensuring that they take account of all aspects of wellbeing
- Support infrastructure developments that support healthy lifestyle choices for all our residents, including the borough's gypsy and traveller communities
- Embed active design principles within all new developments
- Explore opportunities for further developing our programme of work around 'one public estate'
- Work together in partnership across Cheshire West to promote shared - and committed - responsibility towards sustainability
- Sign up to the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Social Value Charter
- Implement the 10 climate change pledges agreed by the Cheshire and Warrington sub-Regional Leaders Board
- Purchase sustainably - selecting and promoting goods and services using purchasing criteria which balance economic, social and environmental factors and require suppliers to do the same
- Encourage sustainable travel amongst our residents, visitors and key employers, including the Council and the NHS
- Work towards reducing road traffic injuries and zero deaths
- Ensure that safe natural environments and green spaces are accessible, functional and provide maximum benefit to the local community in terms of both recreation and biodiversity
- Monitor air quality and work across the area to reduce carbon emissions
- Work to reduce crime and disorder
- Help people feel safe in their homes and on the streets
- Encourage residents, visitors and businesses to minimise waste - reduce, re-use, recycle
- Support plastic-free initiatives across the borough.
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www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-and-performance/council-plans-and-strategies/place-plan/cheshire-west-place-plan.aspx