

CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY

Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (BGPC) is committed to address the climate and ecological crisis that we face in keeping with the national and regional strategies. BGPC's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy aims to support the local community in contributing to the minimisation of climate damaging pollution and ecological harm. The strategy also aims to protect and enhance biodiversity.

This strategy document is based on best practice at the time. The Parish council will review this strategy annually from the date of its implementation.

Tackling the ecological and climate crisis presents major opportunities locally to improve quality of life, health, well-being, and the economy.

1. Planning:

BGPC will seek to apply conditions to the approval of local planning applications and other local schemes (transport / highways / sewage) to ensure that they do not increase carbon emissions and/or cause damage to ecology. We will consider the environmental and climate impact of all planning applications, development proposals and other local schemes and comment as necessary.

Aspects for consideration include, but are not limited to:

- Energy use.
 - Proposed building materials, especially concrete.
 - Domestic water use and water run-off.
 - Ecological impact on local species and habitats.
 - Provision of ecologically informed landscaping/replanting.
 - Climate resilience.
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- BGPC will encourage changes to reduce the climate and ecological impact of any local building or development proposals that are not zero carbon and/ or climate resilient.

- BGPC will support planning applications for new renewable energy schemes in the area, provided they meet rigorous low-carbon standards, fully comply with planning regulations, and are not likely to cause ecological harm, nor harm to wildlife.
- BGPC will support owners of listed buildings in their attempts to reduce their carbon footprint as long as the changes are sympathetic to the building's history and the local vicinity.
- Listed buildings suffer from the impact of bow-waves resulting from passing vehicles driving through surface water. BGPC will work with Dorset Council to find remedies for this.
- BGPC will support projects that enable the installation of renewable energy measures such as air-source and ground-source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels and sustainable drainage systems. Government grants are available (currently ECO4 for people in fuel poverty, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, and the Home Upgrade Grant) and these along with any others will be publicised.

2. Transport:

BGPC aims to support initiatives which provide more accessible public transport and safe cycle-ways such that we are all encouraged to consider public transport as a viable option, cycling as a safe alternative to motorised transport and that walking, where possible is the healthiest option of all.

BGPC will support projects that enable:

- the provision of more electric vehicle charging points
- resilience in the infrastructure that provides renewable energy to the community.
- BGPC will endeavour to better publicise the current public transport provision to encourage more use. The less public transport is used, the more likely it is to disappear entirely at a time when it should be encouraged. BGPC will also consider the most effective ways of publicising public transport consultations.
- Encourage car-share schemes.

3. Community:

BGPC aims to strengthen local community links by fostering projects that contribute to our environmental aims.

To do this we will:

- consult with parishioners of all ages on the issues that concern them most.
- work to bring in partnership grants / funding as appropriate.
- consider ways of sharing resources within the community.
- contribute to projects that improve the health and wellbeing of people in the BGPC area.
- promote innovations to help eliminate waste and improve environmental performance.
- encourage re-use and recycling
- consider everyone within the grouped parishes and their preferred method of communication, recognising that not everyone is on-line.
- network with neighbouring Parish and Town Councils via the online Dorset Climate CEE Support Group, to exchange ideas.

4. Farming / Landowners:

BGPC will actively support local farmers in their efforts to adapt to climate change and develop forms of regenerative agriculture.

The farming community is well represented on the Parish Council. However, BGPC will also look to engage with groups that represent the farming community, to better understand how collaboration on climate change issues can be improved.

BGPC will promote ecological projects that are particularly relevant to Farmers and Landowners.

BGPC will seek to encourage debate on farming / landownership issues that concern others in the local community such as 'run-off' into the waterways and road flooding. BGPC will encourage projects that monitor water quality.

5. The natural environment

BGPC will promote the management of green spaces across the parish area to benefit nature and biodiversity as well as to promote the well-being of residents of the local communities through:

- Management of the woodlands and public spaces of Hursey Common according to the advice and actions set out in Dorset Wildlife Trust's Management Plan for the area;
- rewilding of verges and hedgerows to connect and enhance the wider ecological network and create wildlife corridors and will seek to help protect our waterways.
- support the local ECO Groups (Broadwindsor and Beaminster) in their tree planting initiatives; and help to identify places within the parish where tree and hedgerow saplings can be planted annually to increase carbon capture.
- participate and contribute to the work of Dorset Climate Action Network (DorsetCAN), the network of community groups working together for a shared vision of a clean, green, sustainable Dorset.
- engage with local stakeholders to help support the work of organisations such as Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset National Landscape caring for the Dorset AONB
- increase the biodiversity value of our public green spaces by wildlife-friendly management and habitat creation.

September 2024