

Bruton Climate and Ecological Emergency Core Working Group

Review of Council's activities and services in light of Climate and Ecological Emergency

22 October 2019 (BTC Activities v3.0 JHD.docx)

Introduction

Bruton Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency on 26 March 2019, pledged to do everything within the Town Council's power to make Bruton carbon neutral by 2030 and to work with Bruton's residents, businesses and other organisations to meet the 2030 target.

If everyone in the world lived as we do in the UK we would need three planets to support us. One Planet Living¹ is a vision of the world where everyone everywhere enjoys happy, healthy lives within the limits of the planet. One Planet Bruton is a local community response to the Town Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

Bruton Town Council is responsible for the following activities:

- **Services and amenities** – responsible for the planning and delivery of all the Council's services
- **Planning** – coordinates the Council's responses to planning applications in the town
- **Finance and general purposes** – makes recommendations to full council about all matters relating to finance and employment, including grant applications, investments and contracts
- **Transport** – devises the Council's policies on transport issues, including footpaths and cycling
- **Communications** – coordinates the communication between the Council and the residents of the town, and promotion of Bruton to visitors
- **Land and properties** – responsible for carrying out negotiations relating to and advising the Council about the acquisition and divestment of land and property, whether owned or leased
- **HR committee**

Bruton Town Council is responsible for the following services:

- Allotments
- Station road car park
- Cemetery
- Grit pile locations
- Parks, playgrounds, open spaces (Jubilee Park, Dovecote Field)
- Street furniture
- Toilet scheme

The council has the following policies:

- Access policy (dated 30 June 2013) This covers requests for vehicular and pedestrian access over council-owned land or from its car parks
- Code of conduct (dated 28 August 2012)

¹ One Planet Living is an initiative by environmental charity Bioregional (www.bioregional.com) and is underpinned by a framework with 10 principles: Health and happiness, Equity and local economy, Culture and community, Land and nature, Sustainable water, Local and sustainable food, Travel and transport, Materials and products, Zero waste, Zero carbon energy.

- Financial regulations (dated 29 July 2014)
- Standing orders (dated 30 June 2015)
- Social media policy (dated 28 July 2015)
- Planning policy (This is undated)
- Multi-use games area (dated 15 November 2016) – this is a project brief
- Jubilee Park development programme (dated 27 October 2015) – this is a programme mandate
- Grant application policy

Overarching objectives and recommendation

Bruton Town Council has already adopted a target to make Bruton carbon neutral by 2030.

On 24 September 2019, the Town Council adopted the One Planet Living Framework, principles and goals:

Principle	Objective	Goal
Health and happiness	Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase, or support high levels of physical, social, mental and emotional health • Increase, or support high levels of life satisfaction by fostering good social and environmental conditions
Equity and local economy	Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diverse community where there is opportunity for all, across abilities, gender, race, age and sexual orientation • A vibrant and resilient economy where a significant proportion of money is spent locally • International trade that is conducted fairly and without exploitation
Culture and community	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster a sense of place and belonging • Active citizenship • Enhance local culture, heritage and sense of place • Nurture a new culture of sustainability
Land and nature	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A positive contribution to local biodiversity and wildlife corridors • Maximise carbon sequestration in the soil and biomass • Maximise synergies between agriculture, forestry, biodiversity and carbon storage • Enhance 'ecosystem services' such as clean water and air • Engage people in recognising the value of nature, including its value to human health
Sustainable water	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone to have access to clean drinking water • Water used efficiently and returned to the environment clean • Manage water sustainably and reduce the risk and impact of flooding and drought

Principle	Objective	Goal
Local and sustainable food	Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it easy and attractive for people to enjoy fresh, local, seasonal, healthy produce • Promote diets high in vegetable protein • Promote sustainable farming which supports biodiversity and builds soil • Promote humane farming • Reduce or eliminate food waste
Travel and transport	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce car dependence and the need for daily travel • Make it easy and attractive for people to walk and cycle • Promote car-sharing and public transport • Promote low / zero-carbon vehicles including electric cars • Raise awareness of the impacts of, and promote alternatives to, air travel
Materials and products	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy and accessible sharing of resources to reduce consumption of materials • All materials and products chosen for positive social and environmental benefit or for reducing negative impact • Promote materials and products that are not toxic to humans or wildlife at any stage in their lifecycle • Support a circular economy prioritising upcycling, reuse and recycling (Cradle to cradle)
Zero waste	Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce wasteful consumption • Maximise upcycling, reuse and recycling • Zero waste to landfill • Aim for zero pollutants to enter air, water or soil • Promote the waste hierarchy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce consumption ○ Prevent waste ○ Reuse materials and products ○ Recycle and compost ○ Recover energy from waste <p>Dispose to landfill (Aim to get this to zero)</p>
Zero carbon energy	Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings and processes are energy-efficient compared to a stated local or national benchmark • 100% of energy consumed is supplied by non-polluting renewable energy generated onsite or offsite • People are able to reduce fuel costs and adverse impacts on health from poorly heated or ventilated buildings

Recommendations

In light of Bruton Town Council's adoption of the One Planet Living, the Climate Emergency Core Working Group makes the following recommendations.

Activities

	Recommendation (link to OPL principle)
Services and amenities Responsible for the planning and delivery of all the Council's services. Management of Council's land and properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make council buildings energy-efficient compared to a stated local or national benchmark, i.e. upgrade insulation, LED lighting, energy- and water-efficient appliances (<i>Zero carbon / Sustainable water</i>) • Maintain a contract with a 100% renewable energy provider (<i>Zero carbon</i>) • Restore, enhance and create habitats in line with Somerset Wildlife Trust advice for the area (<i>Land & nature</i>)
Planning Coordinates the Council's responses to planning applications in the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend that planning applications in Bruton commit to exemplary targets, i.e. Zero Carbon new homes, Passivhaus, BREEAM Outstanding (<i>Zero carbon</i>)
Finance and general purposes Makes recommendations to full council about all matters relating to finance and employment, including grant applications, investments and contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants: Apply social and environmental conditions to grant awards so that projects are delivered in line with One Planet Living principles (www.oneplanetbruton.org) • Grants: Require grants towards events to be linked to sustainable event guidelines² (e.g. see footnote) • Contracts: Support local economy • Contracts: Require contractors to follow One Planet Living principles • Investments: Divest from fossil fuels
Transport Devises the Council's policies on transport issues, including footpaths and cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support initiatives that reduce the need to travel, e.g. faster broadband, shared office space (<i>Travel and transport</i>) • Encourage walking (<i>Travel and transport</i>) • Encourage cycling and improved cycle routes and bike parking facilities (<i>Travel and transport</i>) • Understand Bruton's travel needs and desired destinations • Lobby for better public transport and integration of different services e.g. bus and train (<i>Travel and transport</i>) • Support shuttle bus service between key destinations (<i>Travel and transport</i>) • Promote carsharing (https://liftshare.com/uk/community/carshare-somerset) (<i>Travel and transport</i>) • Provide EV charging points (<i>Travel and transport</i>)
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a culture of sustainability (<i>Culture and heritage</i>)

²

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130403015702/http://learninglegacy.independent.gov.uk/publications/london-2012-sustainability-guidelines-for-corporate-and-.php>

	Recommendation (link to OPL principle)
Coordinates the communication between the Council and the residents of the town, and promotion of Bruton to visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information about Climate and Ecological Emergency • Link to www.oneplanetbruton.org for information about how to address it • Support initiatives to raise awareness of issues and to provide advice, e.g. energy efficiency
Land and properties Responsible for carrying out negotiations relating to and advising the Council about the acquisition and divestment of land and property, whether owned or leased	<p>This relates to acquisitions / divestments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support acquisitions that enable the Council to deliver One Planet Living Objectives, e.g. habitat creation, affordable housing, community facilities, recreational space, renewable energy • Support retrofit proposals for housing in Bruton to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save bills
HR committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to follow the One Planet Living principles at work

Services

	Recommendation
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage allotment holders to follow organic principles • Ban use of glyphosate and similar herbicides / pesticides • Ban use of peat-based compost • Support sharing of excess produce • Support events / workshops to promote food-growing
Station road car park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install wildlife-friendly lighting • Install EV charging points • Investigate opportunity for solar PV canopy
Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review mowing regimes to reduce use of fossil fuels and / or switch to electric tools charged with renewable energy • Ban use of glyphosate and similar herbicides (Materials and products) • Ban use of peat-based compost (Land and nature)
Grit pile locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
Parks, playgrounds, open spaces (Jubilee Park, Dovecote Field)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban use of glyphosate and similar herbicides (Materials and products) • Ban use of peat-based compost (Land and nature) • Review mowing regimes to reduce use of fossil fuels and / or switch to electric tools charged with renewable energy • Identify areas for habitat creation (natural regeneration, grassland, meadows, tree-planting) (Land and nature)
Street furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any new street furniture should be made from FSC timber or 100% recycled content
Toilet scheme	n/a