

Kingsteignton Town Council - Climate Emergency Strategy

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Background

In recognition of the findings of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) report, Kingsteignton Town Council (KTC) declared a Climate Emergency on 4th September 2019. This was formalised by KTC adding their name to the list of [signatories to the Devon Climate Declaration](#) on November 4th 2019. This represents is an agreement to endorse the principles laid out in the [Devon Climate Declaration](#) following the agreed timescales where they are included.

Climate Change is recognised as a wide-reaching strategic issue that impacts on all aspects of modern life. Areas of concern include; Built Environment, Ecology, Food, Farming, Horticulture & Forestry, and Transport (Source [Action on Climate in Teignbridge \(ACT\)](#)). As a council, KTC are in a position to influence, promote and lead local initiatives to protect and enhance our environment.

The Councils own activities impact on climate change through its carbon footprint made up of emissions consumption and production. KTC has already undertaken a range of initiatives and actions to reduce its carbon footprint and has plans in place to affect a further reduction but it is recognised that further urgent action is needed.

Scope

Kingsteignton is a small council with limited powers. While KTC endorse the wider principles in the [Devon Climate Declaration](#), realistically KTC are constrained to focus attention in the areas most likely to gain traction. These include (but may not be limited to):

- Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
- Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric vehicles
- Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
- Reviewing economic decisions including consideration of ethical sourcing/practice values of those they do business with
- Divesting from fossil fuels
- Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
- Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
- Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction
- Empowering the people of Kingsteignton with the knowledge and skills to act collectively
- Build resilience to extreme weather

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the KTC Climate Emergency Strategy is:

1. To consider and decide all matters relating to the formation, roles and structures of KTC's work streams.
2. To determine which working groups should be established, changed or disbanded. The initial list of work streams forms Appendix 1 to these Terms of Reference.
3. Engage with other regional, county and national initiatives as active participants contributing the reduction of carbon emissions
4. To coordinate and encourage work streams to use, effective and structured ways of communicating and working with community organisations and residents of Kingsteignton.
5. To review, in discussion with work stream leads, each working group's proposals for action, particularly to understand how each will contribute to KTC's strategy.
6. To refer the final decision regarding whether any proposed initiative is implemented, reviewed, amended or ended to full council.
7. To propose, initiate and oversee public engagement activities, to secure maximum participation of local people in developing and delivering initiatives. Such engagement may be face-to-face, or through appropriate social media.
8. To develop and use effective ways of lobbying for change, in partnership with Teignbridge and other councils, and community organisations, wherever appropriate.
9. To develop and deliver ways of changing behaviour in relation to carbon emissions, where this is appropriate and can be done in partnership with other organisations.
10. Seek and secure funding and other external support.
11. Recommend to the membership any changes to its terms of reference, and adopt any which are approved.

Reference Material

The Council are engaged-with and guided-by the principles and recommendations from a range of sources including (but not limited to) the following:

- [A Councillor’s Workbook on Climate Change](#)
- [Action on Climate in Teignbridge \(ACT\)](#) – with copious links to other useful sources
- [Ashden Group](#) – has published a [guidance for all councils](#)
- [Devon Climate Emergency](#)- taking action to get Devon to net-zero carbon
- [Devon Towns and Parishes for Climate Action](#) – Facebook Group
- [Friends of the Earth](#) – 20 actions parish and town councils can take
- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)
- [NALC Tree Charter](#) – newsletter including link to [Tree Charter Toolkit for local councils](#)
- [National Lottery Community Fund’s Climate Action Fund](#)
- [PlantLife](#) – road verge campaign
- [Teignbridge Climate Change Emergency](#) – our regional advocate
- [The Merton Rule](#) – guidelines for new developments
- [20 is Plenty](#) – reduced speed limit for safer roads and reduced emissions

The councils challenge is to turn conceptual guidance into practical applications within Kingsteignton.

Approach

In order to help define scope, initiatives may be summarised as:

Council	What can the council do to our own assets and working practises - to lead by example?
Town	What can the council influence in the wider community through committee and policy?
Region	Outside our direct influence but able to recommend to Teignbridge District Council mostly for the built environment...

In order to help define priorities, initiatives may be summarised as:

Impact / Effort matrix		Effort required	
		Low	High
Impact achieved	High	Quick win	Major project
	Low	Small Project	Uneconomic

Appendix 1 – Work Streams

Title	Notes	Scope	Impact / Effort	Progress	Done %
Paperless-office	All council buildings and activities	Council	Quick win	Work in progress	50%
Ban single-use plastics	All council buildings and activities	Council	Quick win	Complete	100%
Solar panels	On Council Buildings - capital outlay to reduce annual costs	Council	Major project	Agreed by Council – awaiting installation	20%
Insulation	On Council Buildings – capital outlay to reduce annual (heating and cooling) costs		Major project		0%
Electric vehicles	Ideal for Council vehicles which do not travel long distances [added 13/11/2019] Council considering leasing option	Council	Small Project	Agreed by Council – awaiting natural replacement date of current vehicle	5%
Ethical sourcing	of goods and services. Local sourcing / Fair-trade / Organic / Bio-degradable / low carbon / Fair employment practises. St Michaels school dinners are an excellent example of locally sourced produce. Maybe influence Teign School to do the same.	Council	Small Project		0%
Smart metering	on Council Buildings	Council	Small Project		0%
Cycle/footpaths	Increased cycle/footpaths to reduce-cars and promote health i) Kingsteignton has one of the lowest cycle-path/population ratios in Devon. ii) The town has new housing estates on the edge of town which are poorly connected to the local amenities (Badger Close and Broadway Road path to New Cross Housing development, Hackney Lane to new housing, Newton Road etc). iii) The town is close-to, but disconnected-from Dartmoor National park SSSI/AONB iv) Broadway Road houses had a covenant to reserve space for footpath	Town	Major project	Grant application for funds unsuccessful. Seeking alternative approach	5%
20 mph limit	Option 1: Mandatory 20mph limit to be considered Option 2 : Voluntary 20 mph limit in the old town to align with a national initiative 20 is Plenty Maybe considered as an interim measure as Option 1 may take some time. Safer walking and cycling – lower carbon emissions Suggested routes: – All narrow roads where footpaths and cycle lanes constrained: Broadway Road Gestrige Road / Exeter Road Sandygate ?		Quick win	Awaiting outcome of Newton Abbot and Kingskerswell trial	0%

	Around all Schools Rydon Lane / Ley Lane / Chudleigh Road / Fore Street / Newton Road [added 13/11/2019] suggest solar-powered LED warning signs				
Biodiversity	Increased biodiversity in parks and verges. Planting of wildflowers on public open spaces and roundabouts to encourage insects and pollination. i) See PlantLife – road verge campaign ii) Suggested locations: Strap Lane Roundabout and verges by Ten Tors Entrance to town from Teignmouth Green Hill Way iii) Consider leaving areas of parks uncut with meandering paths mowed through. [added 13/11/2019] c£4000 spent on grass and verge cutting in 2019 ?	Town Region	Quick win	Agreed by Council – Working Group agreed to seek appropriate target ‘pilot’ sites	0%
Tree planting	Native broad leaf deciduous / evergreen NALC Tree Charter Consider supplying trees to residents to devolve responsibility and disperse planting Tree Charter Toolkit for local councils Tree planting in open spaces in partnership with TDC and DCC. We must also encourage members of the public to plant trees on their own land to reduce carbon however advice must be sought from either Alex B or the arboricultural expert at TDC to ensure the right type of trees are planted, it is important that we avoid blocking out light or views from the neighbours.	Town	Major project	Working Group agreed to look into this. 3 of 4 schools agreed to take this forward.	10%
Public Event	Presentation to residents of the KTC Climate Strategy – canvas for ideas, volunteers, raise awareness	Town	Major project		0%
Outdoor amenity	Potential children’s play areas and dog-walking at Sandygate and Eagle Farm	Town	Major project		0%
Allotments	Potential allotment spaces at and Eagle Farm	Town	Major project	Council has identified land and is in discussion with DCC regarding ownership	5%
Farmers Market	Supporting local businesses with local produce – Fountain area?	Town	Small Project		0%
Crop-Swap	For local-growers to exchange or sell spare produce – Summer fair / Fountain area ?	Town	Small Project		0%
Externally influenced initiatives – recommendations to TDC / DCC					
Solar panels	solar panels mandatory	Region		Planning Cttee Regional rep County rep	
Waste water	rain/grey water capture re-use	Region		Planning Cttee Regional rep	

				County rep	
Surface water	Porous surfaces to encourage better drainage to alleviate pressure on down-stream waste-water drainage	Region		Planning Cttee Regional rep County rep	
Attenuation Ponds	Keep rainwater in the upper reaches to alleviate pressure on down-stream waste-water drainage			Planning Cttee Regional rep County rep	
Insulation	double insulated to reduce CO2 especially on affordable housing.	Region		Planning Cttee Regional rep County rep	
House design	KTC consultancy role within planning applications it must be part of our non-objection for any new-builds that these are both low carbon, energy and water efficient. Encourage 'Passivhaus' innovative carbon neutral housing. Adopt the principles of The Merton Rule	Region		Planning Cttee Regional rep County rep	
Cycle paths footpaths etc.		Region		Planning Cttee Regional rep County rep	