

HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

23rd July 2020

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on Tuesday the 10th December 2019 Holbeton Parish Council resolved

- *“To declare a Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Emergency.*
- *To work with all partners, including environmental experts, other local authorities, businesses and residents,*
- *to produce an ‘Environmental Action Plan’ for the parish and report this back to council within six months.*
- *And lastly to call on higher levels of government (Westminster, Devon County Council and South Hams District Council) to implement swift appropriate actions and provide the powers, funding and resources to make carbon neutrality and environmental restoration possible.”*

This is the first version of the environmental action plan, approved at the parish council meeting of the 23rd July. As a result of the pandemic it consists of a series of project headlines, with a degree of prioritisation. As far as possible it takes account of the current national and regional initiatives. It will be updated as these change.

Individual actions will be tackled as opportunities arise. We will now proceed with developing action numbers 1 and 3.

Above all, we would stress the importance of collaborating with the community and maintaining the evident enthusiasm to be doing something to help all aspects of the environment. Any further suggestions will be welcome.

The actions are focused on those things that can be and in some cases need to be initiated at a local level, including lobbying to higher tiers of local government. There are two sections: firstly those things that the council needs to initiate, and relate to its own activities, and secondly actions relevant to the whole community that the Parish Council can usefully facilitate and/or support.

Where possible each action is identified whether its primary goal is for combating climate change (C), improving the local environment (E) and/or increasing biodiversity (B), whilst recognising the interconnected nature of these aspects.

As regards reducing carbon emissions, the 3 areas with the largest contribution are road transport (T), heating and lighting our homes (H), and agricultural and land usage (A). Anything we can do locally to help reduce our carbon emissions, improve the environment &/or biodiversity will be considered.

Holbeton is a relatively isolated rural community with poor public transport and a high average car ownership. Efforts to improve transport as well as reduce carbon emissions should be given priority.

The Parish Council is not the right body to lead on changes to the way agriculture and land are managed. However, the natural habitat should be a haven for wildlife and efforts to improve this are also a priority.

As the plan develops, each action will be described in more detail.

ACTIONS ON WHICH THE PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS TO LEAD

1. Adopting a new policy that requires the Parish Council to consider the environmental implications of all its decisions.
2. Providing leadership to the parish on climate change and environmental and biodiversity.
3. Ensuring that the lighting in all its premises (namely the Reading Rooms and the public toilets) are energy efficient (C).
4. To establish on-road electric car charging points for parishioners prevented from buying an electric car because of the lack of off-road facilities (C, T).
5. To establish public charging points within the village (C, T).
6. Negotiating with others improved access to Plymouth for cyclists, by improving the off road cycle paths between Yealmpton and Elburton (C, T).
7. Setting up a means to communicate with parishioners on sustainable ideas.
8. Keep the Parish informed about Yealm Community Energy, as the situation develops.
9. Collaborate in sustainable projects with partner parishes and County & District Councils, also taking account of national policies.
10. Developing car parking facilities at Flete Western Lodge to facilitate use of the hourly bus service to Plymouth (C, T).
11. Ensuring that the street lights in the parish are energy efficient both by virtue of being low energy bulbs and are switched on only for the necessary times through the year (C).
12. Clarifying with the planning department of South Hams District Council what flexibility the Parish Council has to require applicants to improve their house insulation (C, H).
13. To promote greater flexibility in the use of double glazing for listed buildings (C, H).
14. To review the management of hedgerows and verges in order to maximise their biodiversity potential (B).
15. Plant and nurture trees in public spaces (C, E, B).
16. Develop wildlife corridors with neighbouring parishes (E, B).
17. Undertaking a baseline carbon audit throughout the parish (C, T, H).

ACTIONS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO SUPPORT &/or FACILITATE

18. Encourage parishioners to switch electricity supplier to green/renewable energy (C, H). *The best deals are undoubtedly on-line, there may well be some residents who would need support to make that change.*
19. Sharing tools and equipment (C, H).
20. Collaborate with Holbeton Primary School over teaching how to live a sustainable life.
21. The use of low energy lights throughout the parish (C, H).
22. Car sharing schemes – take a friend with you (C, T).
23. Shared electric car schemes – a cheap way to avoid that second car (C, T).
24. Collaborating on grocery deliveries to reduce delivery miles (C, T).
25. Is your house well enough insulated? (C, H)
26. Local plant based cleaning products and foods where possible (C, H).
27. Living more frugally, avoiding buying unnecessary “stuff”, mending things, buying second hand (C, H).
28. Solar panels on public buildings (C).
29. Wildlife (especially invertebrate) friendly gardening (E, B).
30. Avoiding the use of pesticides, herbicides (E, B).
31. Buying milk in recyclable containers, glass or boxes (C, E).
32. A local farming forum to swap ideas (C, E, B, A).