**CLIMATE EMERGENCY EXTRACTS FOR USE IN BISHOP'S CASTLE'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

## Contents



# 1 Purpose of document

Bishop's Castle Community Partnership's 'Sustainability Working Group' have been asked to suggest additions to the draft Neighbourhood Plan [NP] to cover Climate Emergency mitigations. This document contains ideas from a range of documentation (see '12 References' for details) marshalled under the headings shown in the Index
The Royal Town Planning Institute document's recommended reading list was the starting point. Many of the reference documents included examples from Neighbourhood Plans that had already been produced by towns such as Frome.
We have highlighted in red font those extracts we would like to see included in our NP. We recognise there is some duplication and, in some cases, they will need to be re-worded and adapted to our local situation. These suggested extracts are by no means exhaustive and, if time allows, we will continue to add to this document.

# 2 Introductions

a. **Workswirth NP**
NP's purpose. . . . . placing community vitality, environmental sensitivity and mitigation of climate change at its core. [para.1.1.1]

b. **SCC's 'Climate Emergency Resource Pack: Shropshire'** [Draft 0.4]
"Shropshire Council Climate Change: Our vision is for Shropshire Council to become carbon net-neutral by 2030 and assist in the ambition for Shropshire as a whole to become carbon net-neutral in the same year. Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and agreed a Strategy Framework in December 2019 which established the objective of net-zero corporate carbon performance by 2030."

c. **SCC's 'Climate Change Guide for Communities'** [p3]
*"Shropshire Council has acknowledged that Climate Change is a significant threat globally and locally and has identified it as a key challenge to be addressed. Priority 2 of the Shropshire Community Strategy is responding to climate change, and enhancing our natural and built environment.*
Shropshire Council will be recognised as a leader in responding to climate change. The Council will work with communities to prepare for and adapt to the issues that climate change may bring and ensure the rich varied environment is valued, protected and enhanced. Natural resources, waste and water will be managed efficiently and Shropshire will adapt its needs to meet the changing demands of the climate emergency.
This guide will help communities to work towards:-
• living within environmental limits, protecting limited natural resources and limiting climate change (environmental sustainability)
• stimulating strong, healthy communities and a just society (social sustainability)
• building a strong, stable economy (economic sustainability)"

d. Ibid [p6}
"Adaptation to climate change
Responding to the predicted impacts of unavoidable climate change – long term planning for inevitable change due to current emissions."

*e.* **How Will Climate Change Affect Life In Shropshire?** Ibid[p7]
"The environment of Shropshire is vulnerable to a changing climate therefore the communities in Shropshire are also vulnerable. Shropshire's economy is dependent on agriculture, rural industry and tourism, industries reliant on the existing climate. *Ensuring communities are increasingly resilient to the impacts of climate change and become more sustainable is important in Shropshire to mitigate future changes whilst preparing for future changes."*

f. **Some of the key reasons for making changes can be seen below** Ibid[p8]
• Saving money – reducing energy bills through behaviour change, investing in more efficient technology or installing renewable energy systems will all save money long term.
• Protecting the environment – making changes that use less energy, purchases that are produced by sustainable methods, getting involved in conservation activity all help to preserve the natural environment.
• Better for your health – choosing to walk or cycle or to eat local or organic food will ensure you are healthier but also that you have less impact on the environment.
• Ensuring a future for the next generation – many people with children and families want their children to enjoy the lifestyles and activities they have and realise this is an important motivator for change.
• It's the right thing to do – some people will have strong ethical and moral values and by highlighting the importance will realise that any contributions they can make are significant
Ibid [p10]
• *Climate change will bring around one of the greatest social, environmental and economic threats to society. Issues such as health, housing, transport, waste, food production and equality will all be affected by the impacts of climate change such as flooding or more extreme weather events*

g. **National Considerations** Ibid[p13]
*The UK government has placed an emphasis on local authorities setting a leading example on Climate Change. Action by local authorities will be critical to the achievements of the Government's climate change objectives, such as the long term goal to reduce CO2 emissions.*

# 3 New Builds (Energy & standards)

a. Wirkswirth NP [see para.nos]
*3.3.8. New-build homes will have a lifetime of perhaps 100 years. If new homes in Wirksworth are built to a lower than achievable standard, they will be consuming energy in a less than optimal way throughout their*

*lifetime at a cost to the finances of the residents and to our local environment. They will not constitute the "sustainable development" which the NPPF [National Planning Policy Framework] seeks. The retro-fitting of improvements is difficult and expensive. The extra costs of building for a high standard will be more than recouped over the lifetime of the houses.*

*3.3.9 To achieve our aim of making the neighbourhood plan area a low-carbon area, the neighbourhood plan can be more demanding than the local plan and can still be realistic. The neighbourhood plan policies cannot require existing buildings to be upgraded and therefore it must set ambitious targets for new buildings, to be met through planning permission requirements,* and it must set a context for land in the plan area to be developed for renewable or low carbon energy production.

3.3.10 How is that to be done? Rather than introduce the highest standards immediately, the plan phases their introduction. The phasing seeks to achieve Level 6 before the end of the plan period in our plan area, to help promote the government's ambition of eventually implementing zero carbon homes nationally. The evidence document explains that we consider the proposed standards to be viable. If an applicant considers the standards would make the development unviable, the policy requires the applicant to provide open-book evidence of that.

*Policy NP7 Energy-saving standards for new dwellings. All new dwellings should achieve the following standards:*

- In the period ending June 2017, CSH L4; [Code fo Sustainable Homes]
- In the period from July 2017 to June 2020, CSH L5;
- *In the period from July 2020 onwards, CSH L6.*

23 NPPF paragraph 173. 24 The Code for Sustainable Homes may be found at: ww.planningportal.gov.uk 25 See Evidence Document.

. . . . Government policy On matters such as energy-saving and a low-carbon economy, government policy, as expressed in government policy documents, through the building regulations and in special schemes such as government-funded grants, directly influences the minimum standards which developers incorporate into the homes they build. Government policy changes over time, tending to reflect the aspirations of a more affluent society and usually becoming more demanding rather than less demanding of developers. At present (September 2014), the ultimate standard set by Neighbourhood Plan Policy NP5 (CSH Level 6) is equivalent to the standard that the government is seeking to achieve. The Evidence and Explanations Document submitted with this plan discusses this matter further.

8.3.4 The appeal to purchasers

*People are becoming more aware of the costs of energy in their homes and the environmental impact of using energy. There is also a tendency for people to want more space in their homes, rather than less. Improving standards in both these regards therefore improves the marketability of new development. If this plan's Quality and Character policies are implemented successfully new homes will also be more characterful and saleable and therefore, even with higher building costs due to these policies, an attractive proposition for developers.*

b. **SCC 'Climate Change Guide for Communities'** [p23]**:**
**What Is The Issue?** *Buildings account for approximately 40% of our overall emissions in the UK and over half of this is from non domestic buildings*. Tackling this issue needs to take into account the energy hierarchy to achieve the best results.

c. **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency' [Centre for Sustainable Energy]**
**SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS** [para.6]
In their new report, 'UK housing: Fit for the future?'[30] the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) warns: "We will not meet our targets for emissions reduction without near complete decarbonisation of the housing stock. Energy use in homes accounts for about 14% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions need to fall by at least 24% by 2030 from 1990 levels, but are currently off track ... The technology exists to deliver homes that are low-carbon, energy efficient and climate-resilient, with safe air quality and moisture levels. The costs are not prohibitive, and getting the design right from the outset is vastly cheaper and more feasible than having to retrofit later." You can include policies in your neighbourhood plan to encourage zero carbon homes and high levels of energy efficiency in new development, and potentially, create binding energy efficiency standards for new development. Seeking to do so pushes up against (and potentially beyond) what can be done through a neighbourhood plan, but the need for such policies is well documented, and many local plans entirely lack adequate policies. The reality is that the homes we build today will be still be in use in 2050. Therefore to achieve our carbon

reduction targets cost effectively, new housing built today must be built to zero carbon standards as soon as possible.

d. **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [p40]
• Could you require new housing developments to provide a proportion of their energy demand from on-site renewable energy, e.g. roof mounted solar panels? If major new residential development is proposed, could it incorporate district heating?

*e.* **CSE** Ibid[P41]
Energy efficiency policies for new housing (designing out fuel poverty)
It is possible to develop policies encouraging sustainable design and construction and high levels of energy efficiency, such as that shown below from Frome Neighbourhood Plan. Their policy covers both the energy efficiency of new dwellings and sustainable design and construction issues. (See From example below)
Frome Neighbourhood Plan – Made 2016
*Policy LHN 1 [Local Housing Need]- Provision of well-designed energy efficient buildings and places*
*The design and standard of any new development should aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions. This includes:*
• *Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain,*
• *The use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials,*
• *Installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing.*
• *Non-residential developments should aim to meet the Buildings Research Establishment BREEAM building standard 'excellent'.*
• *Any new development to incorporate on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels, to at least the extent required by NS core strategy policy CS2.*
• *The retrofit of heritage properties/assets is encouraged to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate, providing it safeguards historic characteristics and development is done with engagement and permissions of relevant organisations.*
• *Alterations to existing buildings must be designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with sustainable design and construction standards.*

f. CSE Ibid (p43):
In terms of the scope for **binding energy performance policies**, the consultation response[33] accompanying the revised Planning Policy Framework stated (page 48): "*The Framework does not prevent local authorities from using their existing powers under the Planning and Energy Act 2008 or other legislation where applicable to set higher ambition. In particular, local planning authorities are not restricted in their ability to require energy efficiency standards above Building Regulations." In a further update[34], the government has confirmed that local planning authorities can set energy performance standards for new housing that are higher than the building regulations, but only up to the equivalent of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.* This welcome clarification means that local planning authorities are able to adopt binding energy performance standards, and many are doing so.
[e.g. Wirksworth, Tickhill, Ross-on-Wye, Barnham and Eastergate, Harpenden, Knightsbridge, Bridport, Cornwall, Much Wenlock]

*g.* CSE Ibid (p44)
**Retrofitting Historic Buildings** - suggested policy wording - Centre for Sustainable Energy
*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 conservation areas, whilst safeguarding the special characteristics of these heritage assets for the future.*

h. CSE Ibid [p45]
**Energy efficiency of new non-residential development** The housing standards review does not apply to non-residential development, so it may be possible to write a neighbourhood planning policy that requires new non-residential development to be more energy efficient than otherwise required by building regulations. The policy below from Wirksworth Neighbourhood Plan is an example
Wirksworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (June 2015)
Policy NP16: Energy-saving standards for non-residential developments All new non-residential buildings should achieve the following standards:-
• In the period ending June 2017, BREEAM Good;

- In the period from July 2017 to June 2020, BREEAM Very Good;
- In the period from July 2020 onwards, BREEAM Excellent.

*i.* CSE Ibid [p45]
Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan - made July 2015
*All new developments must secure at least 10% of their total regulated energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon source*

*j.* CSE Ibid [p55]
Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation Draft November 2018
*Policy A5:* ***Provision of Electric Charging Points*** *All new houses where dedicated parking per house is provided will be required to have an appropriately located charging point. Where general parking areas are included in housing developments, these are required to provide 1 charging point. Those proposing new employment, leisure or retail developments are encouraged to provide electric charging points for staff and/or users.*

k. **Env.Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England, Natural England**
**'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment'** [p43]
Top Tips
- The Home Builders' Federation together with WRAP [Waste & Resources Action Programme] have published 'A blueprint for reducing waste and cutting costs'. It includes 10 quick wins home builders take to reduce waste costs [and to] promote and follow the waste hierarchy.
- *Use your plan to promote the use of leak detection, rainwater harvesting and greywater re-use systems. However, you must also consider how they will be managed and maintained, as well as the carbon produced and ongoing costs.*
- *Use your plan to promote the use of water butts and encourage the use of drought-resistant landscaping to keep your neighbourhood looking good without increasing the amount of water it uses.*
- *Use your plan to promote sustainable drainage to support landscaping features that may otherwise need mains water supply.*
- We have worked with WRAP to support the construction industry in coming up with good practice to reduce water consumption.
- Explore and encourage the use of green infrastructure to help use water wisely, for example using storage ponds to hold water for watering green spaces rather than mains water supply.

l. Cleobury Mortimer NDP [ para.146]:
Good residential design will:-
a. provide the most energy efficient homes possible that use materials, design, orientation and technology to seek to have a "zero carbon" impact upon the environment
b. provide sufficient open space and recreational needs to meet growing needs
c. promote waste water management both in respect of sustainable drainage and water capture (for use in activities such as gardening, car washing)
d. maximise the use of renewable energy opportunities offered by a future projects (see Renewable Energy section)
e. aim to prevent light pollution
f. adopt the guidance produced by the 'Building for Life Partnership' and, in particular, that proposals for development:-

- integrate the new homes into the existing neighbourhood and support pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhoods
- provide access to local facilities, e.g. schools and shops via convenient, direct paths suitable for those pushing a pushchair, in a wheelchair, walking with a stick or walking frame or using a mobility scooter.
- have designed streets in a way that encourages low vehicle speeds and allows them to function as social spaces;
- where on-street parking is provided, to prevent anti-social parking;
- to allow for plenty of trees and planting to balance the visual impact of parked cars;
- have not met the parking need only with large rear parking courts;

m. have provided adequate storage space for bins and recycling, as well as vehicles and cycles.
Housing Design
The BC NDP encourages the use of renewable resources and aspires to assist with the issues of climate change. Therefore, housing provision which provides the following will be supported: -
A. On-plot parking for all cars related to the development, to meet or exceed the minimum County

Parking Standards, and should also make provision for parking for visitors and delivery vehicles.
B. Electric vehicle charging points will be provided for all new dwellings.
C. Major development (10 or more dwellings) will provide tree planting and management that will result in 20% canopy coverage of the development site 15 years after completion.
Second consultation (not yet taken place) to suggest:-
D. Road safety should be the priority for any new developments.
E. There is no mains gas therefore new-build properties should incorporate low carbo heating (such as heat pumps).
F. All properties should have at least one EV charging point.
(A further requirement for solar panels to be fitted to each house may be worth trying but would probably not be accepted)

# 4 Allotments and Community Gardens

a. Wirksworth NP
ALLOTMENTS 4.5.1 The plan area has no allotment sites. The nearest site is at Middleton but currently there are no vacancies and a long waiting list. The demand for allotments is growing; this appears to be not just for recreational reasons but because more people believe they should be more self-sufficient in the context of global threats to the environment and food supplies.
4.5.2 The Draft Plan acknowledged that allotments are a community service or facility and that they can be an important part of the district's green infrastructure. It sought to enhance that infrastructure partly by providing allotments. *It said that new housing developments will be required to make a financial contribution towards allotment provision.*

b. **SCC's 'Climate Change Guide for Communities'** [p37]
**Sustainable Shopping**
Key messages: A fifth of our climate change emissions are related to the production, processing, transportation and storage of food. Shropshire is a rural county dependant on agriculture; it supports a number of food producers, providing a wide range of food products from vegetables and meat through to processed products. ["Studies have shown that every £10 spent with a local business generates £25 for the local economy compared to £14 for every £10 spent in a non-local food business such as a supermarket" [p38] Growing your own food in gardens and allotments gives the most control but is not practicable for everyone. Local produce is often the next best thing and Shropshire produces a wide range of food stuffs. Local farm shops and farmers markets can be found across Shropshire and offer good access to local food at reasonable prices.
• *Box schemes can also be a convenient way of accessing local food if you are unable to reach a local shop or market [p38]*
*Raising awareness around local food outlets in your locality through schools, community centres and health centres will help to widen its appeal.*
• It should also be encouraged when shopping use reusable shopping bags, helping to reduce waste [p39]

c. **SCC** Ibid [p39]
**Case Study - New Community Orchard, Morda, Oswestry Community Orchards**
Over 20 varieties of fruit trees have recently been planted as part of a new community orchard at Morda, near Oswestry. The community orchard will cover about half an acre, and comprise of a mix of fruit trees including rare apple varieties, pears and Shropshire Damson

# 5 Transport

a. **Wirksworth NP** para.6 Transport & Movement [p37]
*By promoting sustainable transport that links to surrounding areas and includes a safe and convenient environment for pedestrians and cyclists.*
*- To improve, extend and enhance provision for pedestrians and cyclists so as to discourage use of vehicles, reduce pollution and congestion while promoting health and wellbeing.*
6.2.*3 The NPPF has five priorities for the location and design of developments. They include giving priority to*

*pedestrian and cycle movements and creating safe and secure layouts which minimise conflict between traffic, cyclists and pedestrians. The NPPF adds that local planning authorities should protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice.*

6.2.4 It is apparent that the NPPF has much to improve, extend and enhance provision for pedestrians and cyclists so as to discourage use of vehicles, reduce pollution

b. **SCC 'Climate Change Guide for Communities'** [p35]

***TRANSPORT*** *is responsible for 30% of Shropshire's carbon emissions, almost all from road-based travel……*

…… The easiest way to reduce emissions is to minimise them from the outset. In 2008 nearly a quarter of all car trips were less then 2 miles in length. Improving pedestrian and cycle paths and safety, access and cycle storage is an important way to encourage residents to make behavioural changes.

• If car use is essential, encourage the take up of more efficient vehicles, both traditional and alternative fuel types.

c. **SCC Ibid** [p36]

**The Walking for Health initiative** is part of a nationally recognised scheme and is accredited by Natural England and supported by the Shropshire Primary Care Trust.

*d.* **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'**[P51]

***Sustainable transport***

*Re-shaping transport systems has enormous potential to enhance quality of life. Better facilities for walking, cycling and public transport, alongside reductions in car traffic, can create a cascade of benefits, including improved public health, improved air quality, more hospitable public spaces, greater footfall to support town centre uses and reduced economic losses from congestion. At the same time these measures will help meet environmental commitments: the transport sector is responsible for approximately 36% of all UK energy use[36], and 23% of CO2 emissions[37], so reducing car usage can bring significant savings*

e. **CSE** Ibid [P54]

Barnham & Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan (2014)

**Objective: Improve footways, footpaths and cycleways** and promote the use of walking and cycling routes Policy GA1: Connection to sustainable transport. New developments should integrate with the current green infrastructure network and provide access to public and community transport, to connect with the social, community and retail facilities of the villages. Policy GA2: Footpath and cycle path network*. Support will be given to proposals that improve and extend the existing footpath and cycle path network, allowing greater access to new housing, the village centres, green spaces and the open countryside. The loss of existing footpaths and cycle paths will be resisted*. Policy GA3: Contributions to maintain and improve the network. 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. Developer contributions towards those costs will be sought in appropriate cases

f. **CSE** Ibid[P57]

**Neighbourhood plan actions and projects: sustainable transport**

As outlined elsewhere, you can include initiatives in the plan that are not planning issues but which have been identified as key aspirations by the community. Increasing the opportunities for people to use sustainable modes of transport will have multiple benefits for your community – improving air quality, increasing health and well-being, increasing the accessibility of public spaces, reducing the dominance of cars, and improving the appearance of your neighbourhoods.

g. **Locality:**

**'Neighbourhood Planning and Transport'** [p4]

[Not all Transport issues fall within the scope of a NP]. Examples of transport considerations relevant to planning include:-

• Ensuring new development has adequate parking and servicing provision. This could include car parking, cycle storage and delivery areas for commercial development.

• Making sure the layout of development allows for pedestrian convenience and safety.

• Ensuring development includes cycle paths.

• Creating easy pedestrian access to public transport facilities in terms of direct and convenient connections.

• Considering whether access arrangements to a site, existing or proposed, are adequate.

*h.* **Locality Ibid [Para.6]**

Transport is closely related to land-use planning. New development can place additional pressures on the transport network for an area. Equally, it can help to make new services more viable. For example, new

housing can help to make new or more frequent bus services viable.
Ibid [para.7]
7 New transport infrastructure can enable development, for example, by providing access to new sites or by providing increased capacity to cope with the additional transport needs associated with new development. When making site allocations in a neighbourhood plan, issues like access, road safety, proximity of public transport facilities and the capacity of transport networks can be included in the selection criteria.
*Transport is not just about functional journeys, but also about recreation and opportunities for physical activities, such as walking and cycling. A neighbourhood plan may be a means to help deliver wider strategies and policies, for example on tourism, recreation, health and well-being.*
*Transport options can have a big impact on social exclusion, especially for groups with less access to motor vehicles, such as the old and the young. This can limit access to employment and community facilities. Neighbourhood plans should consider the transport needs of all sections of the community. This can be challenging, especially in rural areas where there are limited public transport options.*

# 6 Water

**a. SCC 'Climate Change Guide for Communities'** [p31]
**Water Key Messages**
*• Water is not as abundant in England and Wales as you would think. We only have 1,334 cubic metres (m3 ) per person a year – much less than France (3,065 m3 ) or even the hotter Mediterranean countries of Italy (2,785 m3 ) and Spain (2,775 m3 ). [Page 31]*
***What Is The Issue?***
*Climate change may affect our water supply. Current scenarios predict that Shropshire will have drier summers and wetter winters. This could mean droughts in the summer and floods in the winter. [Page 31]*
***Water demand** - The average person in England and Wales uses 150 litres of water a day. An average UK family uses about 500 litres of water per day, which results in more than 1.5 tonnes of carbon escaping into the atmosphere every year. By 2020, with increasing population and housing growth the demand for water could increase by 5% - that's 800 million extra litres of water a day. Most of the water is used for washing and toilet flushing, but it also includes drinking, cooking, car washing and watering the garden [Page 32]*
**What can you do? Permeable surfaces when redesigning parking to prevent runoff from car parks.[page 33]**

# 7 Flooding, extreme weather and water conservation

***a.*** **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [P59]
Neighbourhood planning introduces the opportunity to explore the vulnerability of your local community to these effects, and what the opportunities are to increase your community's resilience. Questions you could ask to explore this area are
*• Could new developments incorporate green roofs and walls?*
*• What could new developments do to reduce water use and reduce surface water flooding*
*• Promoting water efficiency in new development by incorporating rainwater harvesting technology*
*• Promoting tree planting, street trees and green roofs through new development*
*All development involving the loss of permeable surfaces, loss of trees, loss of soft landscaping or loss of any other feature that reduces flood risk is required to use appropriate mitigation measures to prevent an increase in flood risk within the site or elsewhere. This should be proportionate to the scale of the proposal, with small interventions (such as planting or use of impermeable surfaces) acceptable for minor developments in areas of low flood risk.*

**b. Env.Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England, Natural England**
**'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment'** [p40]
LLFAs [Lead Local Flood Authority] encourage the use of SuDS and often produce their own policy and guidance. There is also a non-statutory national technical standard for SuDS. Paragraph 163 of the NPPF gives priority to the use of SuDS and many local plans include policies to encourage their use. Your plan could further support their use by including aspirational policies that ensure they will be considered early and designed to take a holistic, integrated approach to sensitive water management.

c. **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [p61]
Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan, Final Version for Referendum (2018) ESD19 – *Water Conservation All developments must be designed taking into account best practice in water efficiency, such as water efficient fittings and appliances, water harvesting and storage features, and green roofs. All major developments must provide evidence of anticipated internal water use at or below 120 litres per person per day.*

d. **CSE** Ibid[p62]
**Overheating** - suggested policy wording - Centre for Sustainable Energy Adapted from wording used in the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood plan and wording under consideration by Bath and North East Somerset Council
*Climate change is already increasing the impacts of overheating and this is likely to worsen over the lifetime of new development. Major development should demonstrate how it has been designed to mitigate and adapt to climate change and natural hazards. In particular, such development should demonstrate how it would minimise overheating and reliance on air conditioning systems, including:-*
*1. Minimise internal heat generation through energy efficient design*
*2. Moderating external temperatures through the use of green walls and roofs, tree planting, landscape and drainage design.*
*3. Reducing the amount of heat entering the building in summer: For example, through orientation, use of carefully designed shading measures, including balconies, louvres, internal or external blinds, shutters, albedo, fenestration and insulation*
*4. Use of thermal mass and high ceilings to manage the heat within the building: Increasing the amount of exposed thermal mass can help to absorb excess heat within the building.*
*5. Passive ventilation: For example, through the use of openable windows, shallow floorplates, dual aspect units (with openable windows on at least two sides), designing in cross ventilation and the 'stack effect'*
6. Mechanical ventilation: Mechanical ventilation can be used to make use of 'free cooling' where the outside air temperature is below that in the building during summer months.
7. Minimising internal heat generation through energy efficient design: For example, heat distribution infrastructure within buildings should be designed to minimise pipe lengths, particularly lateral pipework in corridors of apartment blocks, and adopting pipe configurations which minimise heat loss e.g. twin pipes

e. **CSE** Ibid[p63]:
**Flooding**
*Work with landowners and statutory bodies to promote the management of upland areas in your catchment to slow down the flow of flood waters before they reach vulnerable communities downstream.*
This from the Wildlife Trusts will help: www.bit.ly/WT-water.
• Your local planning authority will also have a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which shows finer detail about areas at risk, sources of flooding, likely flood depths and speed of flooding.
• Local Communities can often provide invaluable local knowledge about historic flood events to add context and detail to data held by the Environment Agency and your local council

f. **Env.Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England, Natural England**
**'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment'** [p32]
Top Tips
• Check your Local Planning Authority's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to see if your proposed development is at risk of flooding.
• Check our flood map for planning service to understand the likelihood of flooding from rivers or sea in your location and our long term flood risk information service to understand the risk of flooding from all sources.

# 8 Green infrastructure and biodiversity

a. **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [p65]
*Biodiversity and wildlife across the world and in the UK is under unprecedented pressure. According to a 2018 report by WWF [World Wildlife Fund], in nearly 45 years, humanity has wiped out 60% of global wildlife populations and more than 4,000 species were in decline between 1970 and 2014[47]. A similar report has found that more than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered[48]. One way to address this crisis is to make our neighbourhoods more wildlife-friendly. In the UK, this means creating more habitats for our native insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. Skylarks, turtle doves, dormice, bumble bees, grass*

*snakes and hedgehogs are among the much-loved creatures that are fast disappearing.*
*Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces and waterways threading through cities and the countryside and includes woodlands, parks, streams and rivers and recognised nature reserves, but also less obvious assets such as allotments, hedgerows, street trees, cemeteries, canals, back gardens, railway cuttings or embankments, drainage ditches, road verges and disused land*.

**b.** **CSE** Ibid[p66]

*The revised NPPF places a renewed emphasis on the need for developments to not just protect existing wildlife and biodiversity, but contribute to a net gain in nature conservation:*
*• "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by … minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures." (Paragraph 170)*
*• "To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should … identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity." (Paragraph 174)*
*These two statements serve to highlight the role which local and neighbourhood plans are expected to play in helping to secure environment net gain benefit, and can support you in drafting more ambitious policies.*
What are the threats to your neighbourhood's green infrastructure (e.g. housing developments without enough additional green infrastructure, buffer zones or wildlife corridors)?
• Are there green spaces that are of particular importance to your community, and are they protected?
*Where landscaping is proposed in association with new developments, encourage the use of native species to support wildlife.* ***[NEW BUSINESS PARK]***
• Designate local green spaces in order to protect them from development. See this resource from Locality www.bit.ly/locality-NDO.
<u>There's particular potential within your neighbourhood plan to identify local landscape features within your neighbourhood which reinforce local identity and offer wildlife habitat, and which should be protected</u>

**c.** **<u>CSE</u>** <u>Ibid [p69]</u>

<u>Bridport Draft Neighbourhood Plan</u> - Regulation 15 Submission Policy L2 <u>Biodiversity</u>
1. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they will provide a net gain in biodiversity and, where feasible, habitats and species, on the site, over and above the existing biodiversity situation.
2. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (For example through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will not be supported

***d.*** **CSE** Ibid[p69]

<u>Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan</u> - Final Version for Referendum - 2018 ESD14 – *<u>Trees and Hedges</u>*
*Proposals should be designed to retain ancient, veteran and mature trees (particularly in ancient woodland) or trees or hedgerows of ecological, arboricultural or amenity value and should be accompanied by a tree survey that establishes the health and longevity of any affected trees. Development proposals must not result in unacceptable loss of – or damage to – existing trees or woodlands or hedges or significant landscaping during or because of development. Where trees must be lost as a result of development, these must be replaced at a ratio of at least 2:1 within the site, with a preference for native trees and for fruit and nut trees. The responsible planting of additional trees that reduce or absorb air pollution from traffic will be supported throughout the Neighbourhood Plan Area*

**e.** **CSE** Ibid[p70]

<u>Neighbourhood plan actions & projects</u>
Outside of the neighbourhood plan, your community could explore other actions to improve the green infrastructure and biodiversity in your neighbourhood. You could:-
• Explore opportunities to plant more trees, for example by creating a community wood or orchard.
• Look at how the management of existing public open spaces in your community could be improved to offer biodiversity gains. **Could mowing frequencies be reduced** in specific areas and appropriately timed to encourage wildflowers and the establishment of field and shrub layers under trees? Can deadwood be left to rot on the ground, encouraging invertebrates? Could the use of leaf blowers be discouraged?
• Explore opportunities for turning derelict spaces or underused public land into new green spaces, such as new allotment space, or a community garden.
Community Infrastructure Levy funds can be spent on addressing local needs – such as creating, or enhancing the green infrastructure across your Neighbourhood Plan Area.

*f.* **Env.Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England, Natural England 'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment' [p17]**
If you intend to allocate sites for development seek out opportunities to enhance as well as protect, considering whether net gain for biodiversity can be incorporated, *see paragraph 174(b) of the NPPF. In a nutshell net gain is an approach that uses the planning process to leave biodiversity in a better state than it was before the development started, securing wider benefits for people and the environment. Consider net gain approaches in your neighbourhood.*

**g.** Ibid [p18]
Views are also important; does your plan area have important views that contribute to local distinctiveness that should be protected? Landscape considerations will be important in deciding where and how to accommodate development. Any proposed allocations should be informed by evidence on landscape impacts. If your Neighbourhood Plan Area lies within or close to a protected landscape, such as a National Park *or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty,* you should comply with these policies in the NPPF.

**h.** Ibid[p19]
Take a look at the work undertaken by Local Authorities in Devon to inform Neighbourhood Planning and ensure landscape is given due consideration. This helpful advice note provides useful tips for Neighbourhood Planning Groups. It highlights the importance of the evidence base and the need to fully understand what makes the local landscape special. There is no need to repeat policy contained in the Local Plan but the Neighbourhood Plan can usefully provide more detail or target particular features for enhancement, for example hedgerows.

- Topic area: Landscape
- Source of information: MAGIC online mapping tool shows protected landscapes Natural England's National Character Areas Profiles for the 159 character areas in England and the Local Council's Landscape Character Assessment where available NPPF sections on landscape, including Paragraph 172 relating to development in protected landscapes National Planning Practice Guidance on landscape character
- How to use this information: Gather information on protected landscapes, build a picture of what characteristics are important and identify any local features or views that are important to your community
- Ibid [p20]NB: MAGIC online mapping tool also shows protected sites, including SSSIs[Sites of Special Scientific Interest], Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation
  *As well as protecting sites and species, your Plan could also promote opportunities for wildlife, for example incorporating swift or bat boxes into the design of new development, considering design and lighting to encourage wildlife, creating new ponds or restoring a neglected hedgerow. Small scale enhancements can make a huge difference to the wider environment*.

*i. Various sources (see highlighted references)*
*Common swifts are in perilous decline in the UK (>57%, BTO) [British Trust for Ornithology] and that is all too obvious in Bishop's Castle where they are much-loved summer visitors. Insect decline is almost certainly a factor, but so too is the loss of nesting sites. Buildings, once permeable to a range of wildlife, from bats to bees, sparrows to swifts, are increasingly closed off to the natural world.*
*This is where Nest Bricks come in. These are hollow, rectangular, enclosed boxes made of a breathable material called woodcrete or stonecrete – a mixture of concrete and wood or stone. Integrating them into walls does not compromise insulation and the only part visible from the exterior of the house is the small entry hole. This summer, the British Standards Institution will, for the first time, issue guidance on bird bricks, making it simple for architects to incorporate them within their designs. Specifications for brick and entry hole size will be given, and illustrations will show where to install them – and where they are best avoided. It will become a simple matter for planners to place conditions on a development for "bird bricks" instead of navigating the confusing array of options currently available. Now that national planning guidance on swift bricks has been updated, and with local councils, including Cornwall and Ribble Valley in Lancashire, recommending the installation of at least one box per dwelling their use should soon become common.*

- ***Exeter city council*** *is installing the bricks in new schools, hotels, social housing, care homes and residential buildings, while the university has integrated them into student flats and educational structures.*

- ***The Duchy of Cornwall*** *is committed to integrating one into each dwelling in all its housing projects and associated buildings.*
- ***Cherwell District Council*** *has the following short statement "New buildings should wherever possible incorporate special bricks or boxes designed for swifts, and care should be taken in the repair of traditional buildings not to remove existing opportunities for birds to nest in eaves and other traditional locations' )*
- ***National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG, 2019)*** *states: "…relatively small features can often achieve important benefits for wildlife, such as incorporating 'swift bricks' and bat boxes in developments and providing safe routes for hedgehogs between different areas of habitat" (Natural Environment, Paragraph 023, Reference ID: 8-023-20190721).*
- ***Living With Beauty*** *(Government's Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, 30/01/20) recommends: "Bricks for bees and birds in new build homes" (Policy Proposition 33, page 110).*
- ***Ministry of Housing,*** *Communities & Local Government press release (21/07/19) stated: "For the first time the government has set out its expectations on how developers can protect specific species, including using 'hedgehog highways' and hollow swift bricks – which are installed into the walls of new build homes, allowing the birds to nest safely. This follows public interest for protecting these much-loved animals, with one petition receiving support from over half a million people."*

***j.*** Ibid [p23]

Green infrastructure[GI], including local parks and green space Green Infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which can deliver a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities (NPPF definition in glossary section).

As a network it includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments but also street trees, allotments and private gardens. It can also include streams, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and walls (see National Planning Practice Guidance).

Consider what GI assets you have in your neighbourhood and how they link to the wider GI network, could improvements be made? Are there any gaps in the network and can your Neighbourhood Plan help to enhance and create new GI for its residents and visitors

Your local Council may have a Green Infrastructure Strategy, which maps existing assets and opportunity areas. Could your plan take forward proposals?

*This might include larger initiatives, such as creating new areas of green space or providing a green corridor to connect areas of existing green infrastructure [Clun-BC-Stiperstones green bridge?]*

***k.*** Ibid[p25]

**Top tips**

*Although not an exhaustive list some examples of enhancement opportunities might include:*

*• Provide new footpaths, improving links to the existing right of way network or providing new access points to existing areas of green space, promoting sustainable means of getting around a settlement.*

*• Restore or create features which are important in your landscape, e.g. hedgerows, ponds, tree planting.*

*• Increasing the diversity of native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.*

*• Incorporate swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.*

*• Add a green roof to new buildings.*

*• Contribute to wider Green Infrastructure, can your Neighbourhood Plan take forward any aims and objectives from the Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists)?*

*• Identify areas of importance for special protection through a Local Green Space designation. Can these areas be enhanced?*

*• Manage public spaces so that they are more wildlife friendly, for example by sowing wild flower strips, or introducing vegetation to streets and other pedestrian areas.*

*• Plant street trees.*

*• Identify improvements to the existing pubic rights of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving surfaces, cleaning litter, installing kissing gates or highlighting areas that could be extended or missing links to the network*

*Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees are irreplaceable and Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced Standing Advice, which sets out how ancient woodlands, and ancient and veteran trees should be considered in development proposals in line with the NPPF (See Para 175c and*

*footnote 58) . Your plan is an opportunity to help identify whether there are any ancient woodlands, ancient or veteran trees and how they can be protected and improved, helping create a natural legacy for the area.*

# 9 Renewable Energy

**a.** **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [PARA.5 p.25]
National planning policy[19] stresses the need for plans to provide a positive strategy for renewable energy, so as to help increase its use and supply, and encourages plans to identify suitable areas for renewable energy where this would help secure their development. It's clear that responding to climate change will require a total transformation of how we supply and use energy, and a major increase in the number of renewable energy developments hosted in local communities

***b.*** **CSE** Ibid [p27]
**Community *energy*** *The NPPF states that local planning authorities "should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy (paragraph 152)", but very few local plans have policy to reflect this national objective. Your neighbourhood plan is a great opportunity to fill this policy vacuum, and encourage community owned projects that will return tangible benefits to your neighbourhood. [CSSE: NP Plan Policy, Renewable Energy]*

**c.** **CSE** Ibid **[p29]**
**Cornwall Local Plan - Policy 14**
*Support will be given to renewable and low carbon energy generation developments that:*
*a. are led by, or meet the needs of local communities; and*
*b. create opportunities for colocation of energy producers with energy users, in particular heat, and facilitate renewable and low carbon energy innovation.*
*When considering such proposals, regard will be given to the wider benefits of providing energy from renewable sources, as well as the potential effects on the local environment; including any cumulative impact of these proposals. [*CSE]

**d.** **CSE** Ibid [p30]
**Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan (2014) Policy SCC2**
Proposals for individual and community scale energy from hydro-electricity, solar photovoltaic panels, local biomass facilities, anaerobic digestions and wood fuel products will be supported subject to the following criteria:
• the siting and scale of the proposed development is appropriate to its setting and position in the wider landscape; and
• the proposed development does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenities of local residents; and
• the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance. [CSE]

***e.*** *Bishop's Castle Sustainability Working Group*
*Local renewable energy is an important element in our response to the climate crisis. At the moment further applications for solar farms are subject to grid constraints. This problem does not affect wind turbines in the same way as they produce most of their energy when the need for electricity is greater and when the existing PV is not generating, e.g. through the winter months. Wind turbines are also a very good match for heat pumps and other electric heating systems and as Bishop's Castle is not on the gas grid they could contribute to lowering the carbon emissions from the town's heating.*
*The Bishop's Castle area is not suitable for larger wind turbines or a wind farm but there are sites available which might be good for one or two smaller to medium sized turbines, which could be used to power the Green Heat Network project.*
*Bishop's Castle Town Council would support planning applications for the installation of wind turbines, subject to community approval of the chosen site(s) and to the normal planning process.*
*There is a possibility of a large heat network for Bishop's Castle using Green Heat Network and HNDU funding for c.150 houses. Outline feasibility studies are being carried out on heat networks in Shropshire and Bishop's Castle has been chosen as a good candidate for this project, as the Town is large enough, off the gas-grid, and with interested organisation and individuals [Sustainability WG, Lightfoot].*
*Dave Green's Energy Services (https://www.davegreenenergy.co.uk) is behind this scheme and will provide more information and give a public presentation once the details are available. (For a similar example*

*see https://heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/).*

# 10 Healthy Air

a. **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [p33]
**Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan – made 2018**
KBR34: **HEALTHY AIR**
*A. Development should not damage the health of the air by increasing emissions of harmful pollutants to it. Such pollutants include: greenhouse gases; those considered by the United Nations to cause adverse impacts to the natural environment; and particles and gases considered by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be harmful to human health. Any proposal that results in a significant increase in air pollution will only be justified in exceptional circumstances.*
*B. Development should comply at least with all minimum EU or UK environmental requirements in relation to air pollutants whichever is the more stringent.*
*C. All development must aim to be at least 'air quality neutral' and not cause or contribute to worsening air quality. On major development this should be demonstrated through an air quality assessment and, if necessary, proposed mitigation measures.*
D. Major development must demonstrate that it is designed to ensure that indoor air quality complies with the latest WHO guidelines for short and long term air quality including particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$), carbon monoxide (CO), formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) concentrations in indoor air should also be considered. Compliance with such standards is also encouraged on medium development and substantial refurbishment schemes.

# 11 Miscellaneous

a. **CSE 'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'** [P56]
**Community Infrastructure Levy:** funds for sustainable transport improvements. As with other topics in this guide, *you could include a policy statement outlining your community's priorities for how Community Infrastructure Levy funds can be spent on local infrastructure – and this could include creating, or enhancing existing sustainable transport infrastructure, such as walking and cycling paths*. Further discussion of how Community Infrastructure Levy funds can be used can be found on page 81.

# 12 References


### a) ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE

***'Planning for Climate Change Contents A Guide for Local Authorities'***

Extract from above document:-
2.6. **Neighbourhood planning**
The government has put increased emphasis on the value of the neighbourhood planning process as a way for communities to express their aspirations for future To date, most Neighbourhood Plans have not included policy on climate change mitigation, and there is feedback that some that have tried have encountered difficulties in navigating the viability test and the perceived limitations on policy for energy efficiency and building fabric. However, there are some examples of Neighbourhood Plans which have tried to address climate change and energy considerations and demonstrate the huge potential of neighbourhood planning to add to, and reinforce, climate change policy at a local level (see the Wirksworth Neighbourhood Plan case study in Annex 2).
In the new regime likely to emerge from the redrafted NPPF, increased reliance may be placed on Neighbourhood Plans to fill gaps that could be left by the end of the policy requirement for detailed local plans. In this context, it is important to recognise that local authorities have no control over the contents of Neighbourhood Plans, apart from checking the lawfulness of what is included.

None of this should detract from the positive opportunity that Neighbourhood Plans present for dialogue with communities on climate change. CSE (the Centre for Sustainable Energy) has produced useful guidance on how communities can make the most of the renewable energy opportunity,[31] and, at the time of writing, in early 2018, the Environment Agency is contributing to the development of a neighbourhood planning toolkit,[32] [https://locality.org.uk/] which will provide advice to neighbourhood planning groups about the statutory consultees and how they can make plans resilient to the impacts of climate change. The Landscape Institute also has produced information on design and green infrastructure for Neighbourhood Plans.[33]

The local community should be engaged in the plan making process from the very start: Involving communities in plan-making from the earliest stage and giving them the information and support to enable them to engage effectively in decision making can help in identifying locally based low carbon and resilience measures. Neighbourhood Plans provide a particular opportunity to work with community and third-sector groups[52] already blazing a trail in this area.

### b) Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

***'Neighbourhood planning in a climate emergency'***

https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/neighbourhood-plans

Extracts taken from this document have been used throughout

### c) LOCALITY https://locality.org.uk/

***'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment'*** A guide promoted by 'Locality' and written by: The Environment Agency, The Forestry Commission, Historic England, Natural England

***'Neighbourhood Planning and Transport'***

[Ref 32 in Royal Town Planning document above]
'Locality' provides support to neighbourhood planning groups on behalf of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Its web-site contains information on Neighbourhood Plans & Climate Emergency

### d) Wirksworth Neighbourhood Plan

https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/planning-a-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhoodplanning/wirksworth-neighbourhood

Neighbourhood planning Wirksworth is a small market town within the Derbyshire Dales. It is a relatively prosperous community albeit with an ageing population (37% over sixty).

### e) Shropshire Council

***'Climate Change Guide for Communities'***

Supplied by Sam Kirby Bray, SCC (The Climate Change Task Force. climate@shropshire.gov.uk)

### f) Friends of the Earth

https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/neighbourhood-plans
https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ARUP-Climate-Emergency-What-Next.pdf
https://www.bell-cornwell.co.uk/news/a-climate-emergency-what-does-it-mean-for-planning/
https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/category/planning/

## g) Cleobury Mortimer NDP