



Introduction

The Caring for our Environment Plan supports the Town Council’s Five-Year Strategy, and was developed following consultation with our community in relation to their environment and climate change priorities. The Plan also aims to provide local perspective in relation to a number of national and global agendas. This action plan combines the aspirations within the document, providing a strategy for how the Town Council and partners can achieve the goals.

The March 2026 update provides the opportunity to revisit key milestones over the past twelve months. There are areas where the Town Council can celebrate, and others where progress has been slow. The priorities within this document remain current and the Town Council will continue to work towards achieving the aspirations set out below. This document was reviewed at the Town and Community Committee meeting on 17 March 2026.

No.	Action	Update	Next Steps
1	We will keep climate change at the forefront of our planning and actions.	<p>At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2023, Councillors reaffirmed the principles set out in the climate change emergency declaration, remaining committed to climate action through effective planning and leading by example through excellent community leadership.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of small actions can drive meaningful progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have embedded ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ ambitions within our event planning, sourcing biodegradable/ compostable plates and cutlery- for example. • We have reviewed energy tariffs • We have continued to upgrade lighting to LED fittings • We have promoted and supported cycling opportunities within the town, in partnership with the waste minimization team at the County Council (and others). • We have planted new trees and established biodiversity plans for the burial ground • We have opened a ‘Library of Things’, and continue to support the Repair Café. 	<p>Consider climate change with each new project, assessing the impact through the introduction of a climate impact assessment.</p> <p>Plan additional events to raise awareness of climate change.</p>
2	Understand the carbon usage of the Town Council	Annual Display Energy Certificate completed for Biddulph Town Hall.	When leases are finalised with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council on the Visitor Centre and Bus Hub, create a clear plan for effective analysis and management.



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3	Develop a short and medium-term decarbonisation plan for the management of activities and buildings.	Progress has been slow due to delays with leases. The Town Council has continued to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage tenants and other organisations to switch off lights and save energy, promoting responsible energy usage. • Replace light fittings with those compatible with LED bulbs. • Seek opportunities to off-set Council activities, for example, paper used within the Town Council now contributes to an increase in tree planting. 	Develop plan and enhance low-carbon procurement policies.
4	Improve knowledge through increased information sharing and training. We will become a Carbon Literate organisation and work to develop Climate Champions in our community.	Ongoing identification of relevant training for all staff.	Keep under review.
5	Evaluate the effectiveness of our recycling and management of single-use plastic.	New recycling regime introduced April 2025 to ensure the Town Council is compliant with waste management regulations regarding separation of food and dry materials.	
6	Develop a Heating Policy	Progress has been slow due to delays with leases. Priority is to seek appropriate funding for solar panels for all sites.	
7	Encourage schools and community groups to complete nature audits, to fully understand our local green spaces.	Ongoing work with the School Learners' Forum and at Heads meeting.	
8	Investigate clean energy projects.	Progress has been slow due to delays with leases. Priority is to consider options for water turbine at Biddulph Grange Country Park.	
9	Promote sustainable planting, e.g. greater use of perennials.	The Town Hall frontage has been redeveloped. New trees and perennial planting has been introduced, replacing the annuals planted previously. A community garden has been created.	Continue to enhance this planting, including edible plants.
10	Create bee projects/ insect hotels on Town Council land.		This will be included within the redevelopment of the garden area to the left of the Town Hall, planned for 2026.



11	Seek to develop more pocket parks with the aim of reducing car use by enhancing linkages between estates and encouraging greater enjoyment of green spaces.	Negotiations ongoing in relation to Briarswood land.	Opportunities for additional management of land as part of Local Government Reorganisation.
12	Continue to complete tree planting in line with the Town Council's Tree Strategy	Tree planting continued throughout 2025-26, with the addition of almost 900 new trees: https://biddulph.co.uk/tree-planting/	Identify new funded opportunities to increase planting.
13	Manage Town Council green spaces in a way that promotes wildlife, e.g. in relation to cutting, waste removal and weedkiller usage.	Allotment and Burial Ground policies contain clear guidance.	Keep under review.
14	Create a sample garden to show people how to create biodiverse spaces.	Small community space to be planted outside Town Hall in 2026.	
15	In line with the Neighbourhood Plan, ensure that the Town Council Planning Committee comments on biodiversity issues in response to planning applications.	Planning Committee has clear remit and refers any items requiring further consideration to the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Working Group.	Keep under review.
16	Keep in mind the District Council's Plan for Nature, and support these activities, where possible.	Funding received from the District Council for Town Hall planting in 2025.	Keep under review.
17	Develop plans in relation to our riparian duties, keeping waterways clean and managed appropriately.	Monthly inspections in place. Civic.ly trial to commence April 2026 to ensure effective management of assets, including green/open spaces.	
18	We will seek to advise where Biodiversity Net Gain may be relevant, and use local knowledge to guide recommendations as to the delivery of the gain.	Planning Committee has clear remit and refers any items requiring further consideration to the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Working Group.	Working Group to develop list of potential BNG sites and areas for s106 investment.
19	Biddulph Town Council will work towards the principles set out within the Environmental Quality Mark framework.		Work to commence 2026-27.
20	Work with partners to install electric charging points within the town.	Progress slowed due to change in County Council policy.	Keep under review.
21	Focus on sustainable travel options through the development and promotion of enhanced	Chain Reaction project continues to promote cycling. Transforming the Trent Headwaters will provide improved footpath on the east of town.	Keep under review.



	infrastructure, walking and cycling options and safer routes to school.	Continue to support bus-use through assessment and installation of improved infrastructure.	
22	Support the circular economy with events at the Town Hall and through our own purchasing practices. This would also support local businesses and town centre sustainability.	Town Council Procurement Policy identifies these purchasing priorities. Revamped Business Breakfast meetings provide the opportunity to increase engagement with town centre traders.	
23	Hold events that promote our natural environment and effective/ efficient energy usage.	Four Pre-loved Bike Sales planned for 2026, in partnership with Moorlands Climate Action and repair cafes. Homegrown and Handmade event in September 2025 promoted 'green' activities.	Further energy/ biodiversity events planned for 2026-27.
24	Work with trusted companies who have a proven track record of successful climate change mitigation, renewable energy usage, carbon reduction, and sustainable development projects.	Tenders encourage sustainable practices. Purchases seek to use B Corps: A Certified B Corporation (B Corp) is a for-profit company recognised for meeting high standards of social, environmental, and governance performance, accountability, and transparency.	
25	In addition to increased tree planting (as above), develop an inventory and plan for tree management (enhancing the existing Strategy), a planting programme and consider increasing the number of Tree Preservation Orders.	Tree Strategy in place and reviewed regularly; document contains these considerations.	Keep under review.
26	Support flood management schemes.	The Town Council supports tree planting and woodland creation upstream to slow water runoff. The Planning Committee highlights the importance of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as part of planning process.	Keep under review.
27	Through our Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Working Group, continue to monitor developments associated with environmental designations.	Planning Committee has clear remit and refers any items requiring further consideration to the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Working Group.	Keep under review.
28	Lobby partners to maintain their land appropriately and innovatively.	The Town Council works with partners to support this objective. We are developing a scheme as part of the Transforming the Trent Headwaters project to improve footpaths within the town.	Keep under review.



29	Support schemes that support 'reduce, reuse, recycle' aspirations through the development of projects such as a Library of Things and a potential Men Shed. Promote the Repair Café within the town.	Library of Things in Place. Support ongoing to Repair Cafes and Chain Reaction pre-loved bike sales.	Continue to try to identify site for Men Shed.
30	Ensure that priorities are not adversely affected by any future local government reorganisation.	Community Asset Transfer policy published by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Working Group providing effective scrutiny.	Keep under review.