

# BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL ACTION PLAN

Version 1.0 February 2021

*Adopted by BPC 01.03.21 minute reference 2615.01*

### Introduction

BPC have resolved to work with the voluntary group ACT (Action for Climate Teignbridge) for their assistance in developing a Climate & Ecological Action Plan for Bishopsteignton to detail and demonstrate the actions required in accordance with the Parish Council declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency.

### Our Objective

To reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to net zero by 2030, making us a net zero parish.

### Strategy

Establish where we are.

Agree what our current carbon emissions are and what should be done to reduce this.

Develop an action plan.

The deadline for this is the end of March 2021.

#### Stage 1

Start by using ACT's Carbon Footprint Tracker to measure the current emissions, at an individual level of all willing councillors initially, and later for participating parishioners; by using ACT's GIS data at a Parish level which will enable the measurement our whole parish's carbon footprint.

Work with ACT's local wildlife warden. This will provide an assessment of the status of natural environment of Bishopsteignton which will facilitate the development of a strategy to make improvements. This shall include working alongside Sustainable Bishop. The deadline for this is the end of April 2021.

#### Stage 2

Prepare an initial Action Plan with [SMART](#) objectives.

Review and amend accordingly all the Parish Councils Policies, Procedures and Committee Term of Reference to ensure they conform to the Parish Council declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency. This will involve necessary changes to habits and current culture within the Local Council sector.

The deadline for this is the end of May 2021

#### Stage 3

Share the learning from steps 1-2, involve more of the community and begin the process again.

The deadline for this is the end of July 2021.

### Actions

BPC's Climate and Ecology working party has participated in three meetings with ACT, and each member has completed their own personal Carbon Tracker. The results of the tracker shows how and where CO<sub>2</sub> is produced for each individual member. With support provided by ACT these councillors now understand how they might make lifestyle changes which will achieve a reduction in their personal carbon emissions.

## BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

One outcome of the Climate and Ecology working party meetings with ACT is a pie chart which predicts the whole parishes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (*fig. 01*). ACT has produced this using national and regional data for parishes with similar socioeconomics. Once more accurate data is collected by more parishioners completing the ACT Carbon Tracker, this pie chart may be adjusted accordingly, and the data used to determine and share actions to reduce emissions.

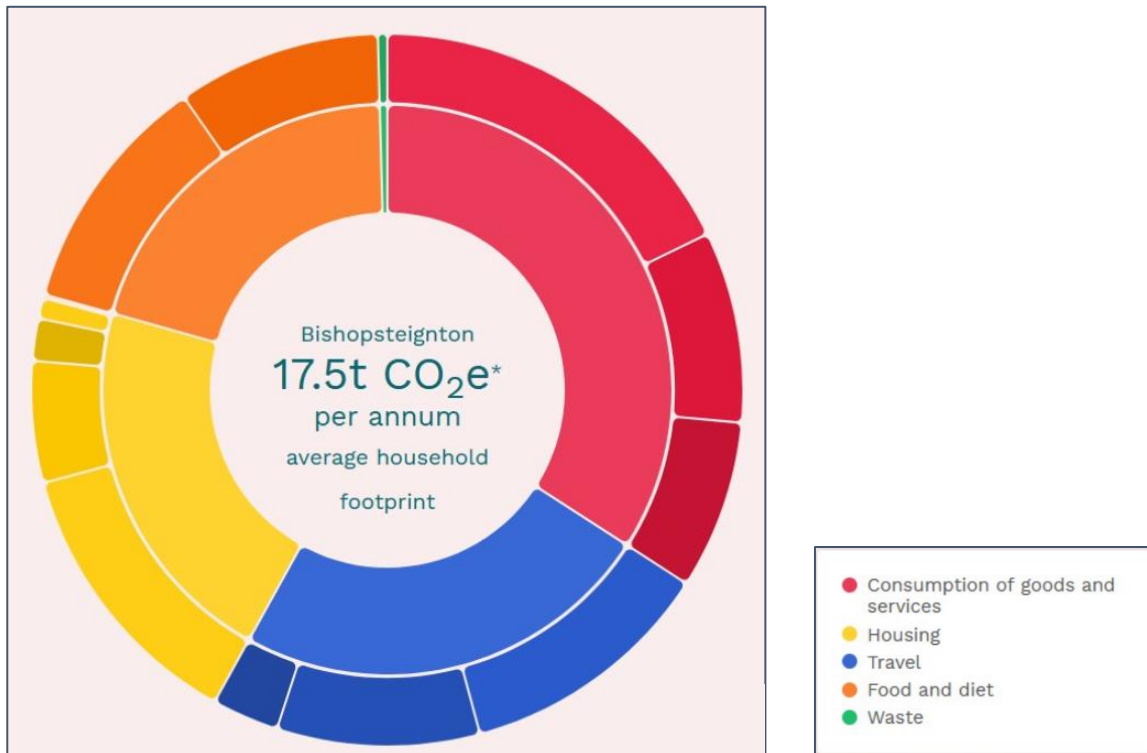


Fig. 01 – Predicted average household CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Bishopsteignton.

**Action 1:** To ask remaining BPC members to complete a personal Carbon Tracker.

A catch-up meeting of the BPC Climate & Ecology working party with members of the Sustainable Bishop community took place recently. A link to ACT's Carbon Footprint Tracker has been shared with all Sustainable Bishop members who are encouraged to take part. ACT's Carbon Tracker is being evolved all the time and any feedback is always greatly received.

**Action 2:** BPC Climate & Ecology working party has begun to examine Parish Council owned assets. Most of these assets have very low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The key area requiring further examination is the purchasing of "stuff" when the following questions need to be asked:

- 1) Do we really it?
- 2) If relevant can it be repaired?
- 3) If we really must buy it can be sourced locally?

To address this a Responsible Purchasing & Procurement Policy paper shall be created to clarify these points. A draft shall be presented to the full council for their adoption.

**Action 3:** Since the addition of **Ecological** emergency to the Parish Council declaration, BPC Climate & Ecology working party are liaising closely with the ACT Wildlife warden. Also working with Sustainable Bishop members on its rewilding, tree planting and associated improvement works to BPC owned land including the Parish Cemetery, the village green and designated Local Green Space, The Lawns recreation ground.

## BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Several BPC approved projects, under management of BPC Asset Management Committee, intend to increase biodiversity such as green roofed bus shelters and planting at the junction of Cockhaven Road/Newton Road.

Action 4: A community supported provision to enable the recycling of items not currently accepted as part of the regular district council kerbside collection. This will be located in The Lawns car park but will not open until social distancing regulations are lessened.

Action 5: *When/if approved, Toolbox/Share Shed provision can be included.*

### **Communication Strategy**

The next step is to communicate with all parishioners; bringing them up to date on the journey so far and generate interest that they may start on their own carbon reducing journey.

It is hoped to host a series of zoom sessions, use social and printed media, websites, and various interest groups across the parish to promote the activities and engage with parishioners. A communication strategy will be necessary; **volunteer required.**