

St Austell Town Council



Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2022

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Implement new in-house waste management function.	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Operations Manager Finance and General Purposes Committee	March 2020	New arrangements implemented utilising existing staff with reduced travel compared to previous contract.	Yes
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources for Priory Toilets, Poltair Park and town centre electric point.	Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	April 2020	Green energy contracts adopted on three sites.	Priory Toilets/Town centre electrical points and street lights completed.
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager Council	April 2020/ongoing	Tree planting policy approved and tree planting commenced. Tree nursery created at The Stable Block.	

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Installation of a polytunnel to allow the re-cycling of plants and growing on of trees/shrubs and creation of a tree nursery.	Operations Manager Community Committee	December 2020	Resolution of planning issues became protracted. Now resolved. Polytunnel acquired. Due to be erected end of June 2021.	
Consider turning an allotment into a community garden	Operations Manager Community Committee	December 2020/ongoing	Landrew Road identified and site cleared. Volunteers being recruited through Edible St Austell and Town Council allotment waiting list. Formal lease arrangement to be considered with Edible St Austell once they have obtained CIC status. A series of events being held regularly at the site.	
Replacement of external lights at The Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2021		Complete.

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Installation of rainwater harvesting facility at Alexandra Road allotments	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2021		Complete
Establish a small grants scheme for community climate change initiatives or amend existing scheme.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	February 2021	Existing grant criteria reviewed to encourage climate emergency projects.	Complete
Review horticulture service/employ a horticultural apprentice dependent on workloads.	Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk/ Operations Manager Council	February 2021/ongoing	2 apprentices employed with effect from February 2021. Both apprentices working well across all areas of horticulture.	
Trial of an organic foam based weed solution in the Town Council's parks and car park.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Spring 2021/ongoing	Trial in Poltair Park a success. Further trials to take place in November 2021 and March 2022 in Poltair Park and Truro Road Park.	
Engage with GI4G to maximise improvements in biodiversity through "making space for nature"	Town Clerk/Operations Manager Community Committee	March 2021	A391 scheme The Meadows Scheme Cemetery Park project	All projects complete and in maintenance phase.

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Consider and design appropriate governance arrangements for St Austell Town Council Climate Change activity	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Climate and Environment Committee/Full Council	March 2021	Climate & Environment Committee resurrected. Work plan to be drafted.	
Development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Town Clerk/Operations Manager Community Committee	March 2021	Signed off by Council 22.03.21	Complete
Develop Environmental Policy based on good practice identified by Cornwall Council.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	April 2021	Signed off by Council 12.04.21.	Complete
Enter one or more parks in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks competition to demonstrate environment initiatives.	Operations Manager/Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	May 2021	Due to Covid19 uncertainty, the Town Council did not enter this year's competition.	

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Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	July 2021	Competition is still going ahead. Last year's groups have been automatically entered into this year's competition. Bedding plants provided to the community groups to assist them in the competition.	
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager Finance & General Purposes Committee	August 2021	Poltair Park/Poltair Park café identified as a suitable trial site subject to the café being able to operate successfully. Viability of Poltair Café still being evaluated.	
Encourage the Town Heritage scheme to deliver a bottle refill facility at the church fountain	Town Clerk Community Committee	Sept 2021/ongoing	Contract let to Cormac. Works commenced.	

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Assist the St Austell BID with SWIB BID entry	Operations Manager Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	July 2021	Planting undertaken but confirmation awaited as to whether or not the competition will go ahead.	
Lobby Government and Cornwall Council to introduce subsidised retrofit programmes for housing in deprived areas	Town Clerk Council	June 2021	Not yet commenced. Progress unlikely during Covid19 pandemic.	
Improve planting in Bethel Park.	Operations Manager Council	June 2021	SABEF completed a small scale planting scheme. Operations Manager in talks with Lottery Funders about the potential for a park improvement project.	Complete

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Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk Council	June 2021	Discussions held with Townscape Heritage Team. Updated version of Discovery Map encouraging walking and cycling due to be launched soon	
Procure re-cycled paper for St Austell Library and the office.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	September 2021	Review paper usage in the office and library and procure re-cycled paper wherever possible.	
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	September 2021	Considered by Council – decision deferred.	
When normal meetings resume, explore ways to reduce paper production.	Town Clerk Council	September 2021	A trial undertaken prior to Covid where 10 Councillors agreed not to receive paper copies of agendas. Will review again with the new Council within the next few months.	

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Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources as existing contracts end for the library	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	September 2021	Contract ends September 2022	
Street Lights. Explore energy saving measures for Town Council owned street lights.	Operations Manager Finance & General Purposes Committee	October 2021		
Community Engagement	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Ongoing	Working closely with Climate Action St Austell (CASA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing banking facilities until organisation are constituted • Donated tabards 	
Reduce "on time" for the town centre Christmas Lights to save energy and reduce light pollution.	Deputy Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	December 2021	Positive dialogue started with St Austell BID.	

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Review composting arrangements and explore the potential to develop own compost.	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Winter 2021	Orchard Car Park identified as a potential site to create formal composting bays.	
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk Climate & Environment Committee	December 2021	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project.	
Investigate and consider installing electric charging point(s) in Priory Car Park	Town Clerk Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	February 2022	Costs excessive – interest logged with Cornwall Council to be part of larger project. Awaiting contact from Cornwall Council.	
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2022	Project deferred due to budget cuts and limited grant funding.	
In order to reduce the need for cash collection, explore the installation of a contactless payment system on at least one of the car park payment machines in Priory Car Park.	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	April 2022	Working Group to be set up at the end of the summer.	

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Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	May 2023	Priory Car Park Toilets identified. Suitability to be determined. Project deferred due to budget cuts.	
Consider how best to engage with the town's residents to raise awareness of climate change issues.	Town Clerk Community Committee	Ongoing	2 x public engagement events 8.11.19 and 9.11.19. Community Network Panel discussed Climate Change at meeting on 28.11.19. Social media updated from time to time. Further face to face engagement to be considered after lockdown restrictions have been lifted.	
Investigate the potential to create a cycle hub(s) in St Austell utilising hire bikes including electric bikes and scooters	Town Clerk Council	May 2023	Exploratory discussions commenced and potential partners and funding being identified	
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	In discussions with SABEF and GI4G and other stakeholders to share best practice.	

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Installation of new wildflower areas	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Woodland Close Park area planted April 2021.	
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	Partnership formed January 2021. Cycling opportunities identified.	
Follow a buy local policy to support local businesses and reduce miles travelled by goods.	All officers Council	Ongoing	Unless mitigating factors prevail, local suppliers are used.	
Provision for re-cycling	Deputy Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	Contract held with Biffa. Recycling of cardboard and plastics on a fortnightly basis for both the office and library.	
To keep grass cutting, wildflower and tree planting policies under review to support pollinators and carbon sequestration.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Parks and Open Spaces Strategy completed. Public reaction being monitored.	