

Langford Budville Parish Council – our Sustainability Commitment

Climate change, whether we like it or not, is one of the most significant issues facing the world today. The effects are being felt already. In the UK, the top 10 warmest years have all occurred since 2002. We have all experienced changes in weather patterns – warm winters with little frost, dry summers or deluges of rain that overflow your gutters and block drains. These are driven by underlying changes in our climate and will become more frequent.

The United Nations highlights the need to take immediate action to limit the increase in average global temperatures to a 1.5°C threshold. Just an increase of half a degree beyond this will drastically worsen the risk of drought, floods, extreme heat and resultant poverty; something we must not bequeath to our children.

The challenge of climate change is a global issue. Everyone needs to, and can, play their part. In 2019, Somerset local planning authorities passed resolutions to declare or recognise ‘A Climate Emergency’. In 2020, Somerset West and Taunton Council also declared an ecological emergency, complementing their climate emergency declaration.

As part of Somerset Council’s response to the emergency, it set up the Climate Emergency Fund which was available to Parish Councils to deliver projects based on the One Planet Principles¹ of Sustainability. Our community was successful in accessing some of these funds to set up the Greener Langford Budville Project. This has brought sustainability, resilience, carbon and biodiversity to the forefront of the PC’s mind.

In January 2022, Langford Budville Parish Council adopted this Sustainability Commitment to enable our parish to actively play its part in tackling climate change.

1

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj5lejz4L3zAhUxRUEAHZwfBawQFnoECDEQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.oneplanet.com%2Fdocuments%2Fguides-guidances%2FGoals-and-Guidance-for-Communities-Jan-2017.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0vnkPv5u7E2Zs7e4oS915t>

Langford Budville Parish Council Sustainability Commitment

LBPC believes that carbon neutrality is just one aspect of becoming a truly sustainable community and aspires to embed sustainable thinking at the heart of our parish. The successful initiation of the Greener Langford Budville Project means the parish has already started this journey towards resilience and sustainability in a truly positive and beneficial way. The PC hopes that this Sustainability Commitment will strengthen this and actively encourage a change towards a more climate resilient and sustainable community.

Parish Councils are uniquely placed to support local grassroots action, set a leadership example and provide a local, accountable focal point for constructive and practical action. To this end the LBPC Sustainability Commitment outlines how the PC will work towards supporting a more sustainable Parish for all.

1. The PC supports both SCC and SW&Ts Climate and Ecological Emergencies.
2. The PC recognises and understands that NOW is the time for action to ensure climate targets are met.
3. The PC will consider sustainability and resilience along with carbon reduction within all parish council decisions.
4. The PC pledges to cut the Parish Council's carbon footprint where possible to openly demonstrate the parish's commitment to action on climate change.
5. The PC will use their role as consultee to the Local Authority to consider carbon, ecological enhancement, sustainability of development, green infrastructure and low carbon travel needs in all planning decisions and strategies that the PC are consulted on.
6. The PC will ensure that the maintenance of public areas balances the ecological needs of habitats and species alongside public amenity and safety.
7. The PC is supportive of existing sustainability focused initiatives that are underway and will be supportive of future parish projects or initiatives that seek to encourage sustainable living and/or result in carbon reduction.
8. The PC will help facilitate and support networking between wider interest groups or individuals wherever possible to promote wellbeing and enrich our environment for the benefit of parishioners.

Please contact langfordbudvillepc@gmail.com for further information

