

Kidderminster Town Council

Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group

Meeting, 6.00 pm, Monday 2nd November 2026.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 369 114 065 280 377

Passcode: kW7ns6iW

The Climate emergency and Biodiversity Working Group advises the Town Council on actions to address the Climate Emergency.

The Council's Vision 2025-2029 refers to the following actions:

- 4.A. To Ensure the activities of the Town Council are carbon neutral by 2035.
- 4.B Promote biodiversity across our parks and open spaces
- 4.C Actively encourage and support actions that will make Kidderminster as a whole more environmentally sustainable.

Agenda.

- 1. Election of Working Group Chairman**
- 2. Bus Services in Kidderminster**
(Mr. Stuart Payton, Head of Transport Operations, and Mr. Jim Bowe, Bus Service Improvement Plan Programme Manager, Worcestershire County Council, will be joining us for this item.)
- 3. Notes of last meeting (17.09.26) and any updates (*Appendix 1*)**
- 4. Council Action Plan Update (*Appendix 2*)**
- 5. Any Other Business relevant to the Working Group.**

Kidderminster Town Council

Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group

Meeting, 6.00 pm, Thursday 17th September 2026.

The meeting was held online and the following attended:

Councillors Doug Hine (Chairman), John Beckingham, Darren chambers, Vicky Caulfield, Fran Oborski and Mike Smith.

Hugh Peacocke, CEO.

Notes:

1. Notes of last meeting (05.08.26) and any updates

CEO updated on matters not included on the agenda:

- The Extreme Weather Policy for Staff was approved by Staffing Committee on 14/9
- The Council was awaiting an on-site survey from Utility Aid, which is expected to address, energy consumption, price and supplier, with a view to more sustainable outcomes
- Company exploring options for solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall. May require planning permission and listed Building consent.
- Town council staff had been advised of “good housekeeping” practices around energy consumption.

2. The Public Emergency Briefing, scheduled for 21/9/2026.

The CEO updated on the arrangements for the screening. About 70 are expected to attend. The Town Mayor will welcome/ open proceedings and the discussion will be facilitated by the Wyre Forest Green Alliance.

3. Resilience measures required to protect the Council from disruption which may be caused by extreme weather events.

The meeting referred to:

- The Extreme Weather policy
- The travel policy
- The Council's biodiversity Policy, and
- Improved bus services for Kidderminster, including a subsidy towards free bus travel on Saturdays- Diamond Buses.
- Explore “Worcestershire on Demand” and if it applies in Kidderminster.

4. Coordinate with Emergency Plans and support the work of the Environment Agency, Councils, emergency services, etc. during extreme weather events

The CEO to contact emergency services for details of Emergency plan for Kidderminster, so that the council can explore how they might support the plans.

5. Update from The Council's Civic, Community and Events Committee

The Committee approved arrangements for more sustainable ways to deliver civic and Community events.

6. Council Action Plan Update

The CEO updated on the Action plan review/ progress.

Noted that Operational services were acquiring EV chargers, which would be located inside the services depot.

7. Future meeting dates for the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Working Group to be scheduled and all members invited to attend

It was agreed to bring forward the next scheduled meeting to 2/11, so that it would follow closer after the People's Emergency Briefing.

Kidderminster Town Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

This Action Plan was adopted by Kidderminster Town Council on 22nd October 2025
Progress to be reviewed twice annually by the Finance & Overview Committee of the Council.

Introduction

The Climate Emergency refers to the urgent and significant threat posed by climate change, which is primarily driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes. This situation has led to rising global temperatures, increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events (such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods), melting ice caps, and rising sea levels.

Globally, our current trajectory is moving us rapidly towards more than 2.0C of warming, which for the UK will bring hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events¹, combined with sea level rise,² The consequences of these changes are already being felt. Over recent years, severe floods have caused major damage to property and businesses across the UK. Other far-reaching effects will be on ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture, water resources, and human health, while also exacerbating social inequalities.

Within the framework set by the UK government to be Carbon Neutral by 2050, Kidderminster Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2021. The Council has joined with over 600 councils across Britain – big and small – covering 96% of the population who are setting ambitious targets and taking meaningful action.³ Measures that Kidderminster Town Council can take in its own activities will have some limited effect. However, it will set an example and allow the Council to take an active role in encouraging and enabling others to act.

1. MET Office, What is Climate Change:

<https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/what-is-climate-change>

2. MET Office, UKCP18 Marine Climate Change: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-infographic-headline-findings-marine.pdf>

3. As of 16th October 2025, source: climateemergency.uk

<https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens>

Action	Timescale	Cost £ low ££ medium £££ high	Committee/ Service Responsibility	Status (R/A/G)	Notes
Lobbying, Leadership and Community Engagement					
Organisational Review of Policies to align with Climate Emergency Commitment	Short	£	Working Group/ All	G	All committees have now reported.
Publicise commitment and promote energy-efficient and green measures to residents in public seminars, leaflets and website – in conjunction with local expertise	Short	££	Corporate Services	A	Newsletters, Press release. Meetings online and open to all. PEB Screening <u>held on</u> 21.09.26
Make reference to Climate Emergency and need for renewable energy measures when commenting on Relevant planning matters (i.e. planning applications and Local Plan consultations): 1. Stronger energy efficiency (insulation, passive solar, heat pumps) in building standards; 2. More thorough solar energy capture, on North-South facing houses; 3. More domestic battery storage; 4. New build housing to have appropriate local infrastructure (shops, schools, café, community hall, open space) to improve wellbeing and reduce car dependence; 5. Design better, and more, public transport, cycling and walking routes; 6. Protect natural resources, including streams, trees and community fabric; 7. Remodelling the town centre to improve the environment for pedestrians and cyclists, reduce the impact of traffic to improve town centre health.	Short	£	Planning	G	Planning Committee advised.
Add Climate Emergency References in all new contract specifications and Tenders and add to the evaluation process.	Short	£	All	G	Tender documentation- including new parks contract, now revised.
Encourage councillors and staff to undertake Carbon Literacy training	Medium	££	All	A	One day courses are available quite cheaply

Encourage Councillors to promote climate change	Short	£	Corporate Services	A	Ongoing- posters and social media
Publicise and promote achievements in reducing the Council's carbon footprint on website and in the Newsletters	Medium	£	Corporate Services	R	Town Hall Manager ~~Matt Smith~~ and solar panels; LED lighting; <u>"Improved house-keeping"; Utility Aid to report re carbon reduction, consumption reduction and cost savings</u>
Adopt a travel policy that favours use of the less carbon-intensive method of travel for staff and councillors	Short	£	Corporate Services	A	Policy <u>approved by</u> ~~drafted for~~ Full Council October
Carbon Reduction - Assets					
Undertake Carbon Footprint Audit	Short	££	CEO	A	Seeking quotes for reductions in costs and carbon
Use carbon accounting tools such as the Worcestershire Decarbonisation Portal, and promote to other organisations	Short	£	Operational Services / Working Group	A	Obsolete?
Commit to Carbon Neutral Council by 2035	Long	£	All	G	In the Council's Vision
Undertake a Buildings Audit to identify any efficiency measures	Short	££	Town Hall/ Operational Services	A	September 2026: Utility Aid is to carry out an ISO 50002 Level 2 energy assessment at the Town Hall. Its energy reduction report will identify priority measures and expected energy, cost and carbon savings, and is due within 20 working days of the site visit and receipt of data.
Replace all Council lighting with LED	Short	££	Town Hall/ Operational Services	G	Town Hall lighting replaced or installed during redevelopment project are LED. Recent replaced fittings are LED and ongoing programme of replacing of old fittings will be LED. Broadwaters car park and tennis club - LED, operational unit is LED.
Consider climate impact on new purchases of plant & machinery	Medium	££	Operational Services	G	Next year, parks transfers
Support retro-fitting of existing housing with improved energy efficiency measures	short	£	Corporate Services	R	Promote on website, social media, etc.
Consider carbon footprint of any buildings to be taken on by the Town Council in the future	Long	£	Operational	G	

			Services		
Reduce carbon footprint of Town Council office activities	Short	£	Corporate Services	A	Reduce printing, request minimal packaging on items ordered e.g. paper All appliances with exception of phones and CCTV turned off at plug each weekend. Turn off copiers at end of each day Use bicycle for travel to meetings / inspections within the town Reduce printing for all staff and councillors Town Hall Manager investigating solar panels for roof
Agree approach to "Carbon Neutral"	Medium	£	Working Group/ All	A	At what stage might offsets be considered/ permitted?
Renewable Energy					
Request energy from Town Council's electricity providers is renewable	Medium	£	Corporate Services	A	If existing provision is not from renewable sources, assess alternative renewable tariffs and costs to switch.
Explore potential for installing Solar/Wind mitigating measures on Council Land/Buildings	Long	£££	Town Hall/ Operational Services	G	We investigated Market St toilets, advised wouldn't be a suitable building for solar energy. September 2026: A site meeting is scheduled for 21 September 2026 to assess rooftop solar PV at the Town Hall. The proposal has no capital cost to the Council and uses a long-term Power Purchase Agreement, subject to site findings, listed building consent and Council approval

Action	Timescale	Cost £ low ££ medium £££ high	Committee/ Service Responsibility	STATUS (R/A/G)	Notes
Transport					
Explore infrastructure requirements and power capacity for electric vehicles	Long	££	Operational Services	G	Agreed supplier of ~~Exploring~~ EV charging <u>points</u> and 3 x new <u>electric</u> vehicles ~~will be all electric~~
Encourage increased use of public transport by: 1. Lobbying for improvement of Kidderminster Bus Station 2. Enhancing our bus stop 3. Consider subsidising a Saturday discount bus fare 4. Work for more EV car charging in public spaces where private driveway charging is unavailable/limited.	Short Short Medium Medium	£ £ £££ ££	Operational Services	A	Next year's budget? Looking to contact Diamond Buses. Also Cabinet Member <u>WCC Highways officers attending Working Group 2/11</u>
Waste Minimisation					
"Paper-light" Council Meetings	Short	£	Corporate Services	R	Councillors still want hard copies
Encourage a policy of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Compost" prior to landfill or incineration for contractors and Council operations	Short	£	All	G	Office waste is recycled, slightly more difficult with waste collected on recreation ground and bins as this is labour intensive also concerns for health and safety of staff- Courtyard café Policy is sustainable
Promote schemes that can improve resource and waste efficiency, such as community waste reduction initiatives, repair cafes, reuse schemes, composting programmes and local exchange schemes	Short	£	Operational Services / Corporate Services	R	Councillors' Ward grants?

Action	Timescale	Cost £ low ££ medium £££ high	Committee/ Service Responsibility	STATUS (R/A/G)	Notes
Open Spaces					
Develop Open Space Management Plans	Short	£	Operational Services	G	Already done
Any future Public Open Space adoption to include any Climate Emergency Needs	Short	£	Operational Services	A	Parks transfers?
Develop a long-term approach to tree planting, including, encouraging community tree planting and identifying locations for bulk planting	Long	££	Operational Services	A	Ward grants?
Support allotments and domestic food production	Long			G	New allotment agreements coming to next Services Committee
Encourage community orchards and tree planting to include fruit and nut trees	short			A	Ward grants?
Use own compost, then subsequently purchase Peat-Free Compost	Medium	£	Operational Services	G	In place
Reduce the amount of herbicides used by the council	Short	£	Operational Services	G	In place
Continue replacement of floral planters with built-in water reservoirs to reduce the need for watering	Medium	££	Operational Services	A	Move towards drought resistant planting. Move towards rain harvesting.
Food					
Encourage the consumption of less meat and more plant-based food	Medium	£	All	R	Website/ social media
Reduce food waste	Short	£	All	G	Courtyard on board

Action	Timescale	Cost £ low ££ medium £££ high	Committee/ Service Responsibility	STATUS (R/A/G)	Notes
Extreme Weather Events					
Work to assess past and future risks to residents, organisations and the council from extreme weather events or hazards arising from a changing climate. This should include the impact of: • Surface water flooding from extreme rainfall • Extreme heat and cold in homes especially at night • Extreme temperatures in workplaces • Extreme wind, hail, rainfall and drought	Medium	£££	Operational Services/ Town Hall	A	Extreme weather policy approved by Staffing committee. People's Emergency Briefing 21/9
Produce a plan and estimated costings for the adaptation and resilience measures required to protect the Council from the disruption due to future extreme weather events.	Medium	££	Operational Services/ Town Hall	A	Council committees and Town <u>Hall Committee</u> have considered and reported
Identify methods of funding this work					
Coordinate with Emergency Plans of the Environment Agency, Councils, emergency services, etc. during extreme weather events	Short	£	All	A	People's Emergency Briefing 21/9
Working with Partners					
Work with Worcestershire (or successor) Council, surrounding parish and town councils, district and other councils and relevant partners including businesses, educational establishments and civil society organisations, to determine and implement best practice on Climate Change and Environmental Protection	Medium	£	Corporate Services/ CEO	A	People's Emergency Briefing 21/9
Monitoring					
Climate Actions should be a consideration of all committees	Short	£	All	G	All Committees have now considered and reported.
Report twice annually reviews against plan	Short	£	CEO	G	Dates to be calendared... April and October.
Undertake annual carbon footprint audit	Short	££	CEO	R	Evidence base. <u>Budget 27-28?</u>