



Kenilworth Town Council Climate Emergency Working Group

Update Report January 2025

- **Progress on key objectives**

- **Biodiversity**

Aim to introduce 5 wildflower verges by Autumn 2024; achieve at least 1; aim for a baseline study.

- In conjunction with Bee Friendly Kenilworth, we have a plan for wildflower verge planting at all entry points into Kenilworth. This is supported by approved funding from KTC.
- Challenges impacting the realisation of this objective in 2024, due to inflexibility in grass-cutting contractor services around planned wildflower planting spaces. Discussions continue to resolve.
- Consultations delayed initially due to 'Purdah' rules around the General Election. Reconsidering consultation process, based upon current challenges.

Kenilworth tree planting program

- WCC grant success - £4000 allocated to Kenilworth tree planting program. Additionally, £2000 is available from WCC Cllr delegated budgets, plus nearly £1000 left over from this year's planting program in March.
- Total funds equate to 70 trees spanning roadside verge trees (40?) plus grouped planting at schools/play areas or new developments (30?) with volunteer force
- Tree request facility now available on KTC website.
- Planned planting in Jan/Feb 2025 is currently under review due to the severe, named weather storms at the end of 2024, which has delayed the completion of a planned County planting program (about 650+ trees impacted) and further exacerbated by damage and rectification work resulting from the storms, that has increased rectification workload on the team. We are currently working with our tree supplier to ascertain whether it would be possible to work semi-independently this year, but with cooperation of the WCC team and following their guidance.

- **Sustainable Travel**

Decrease level of car use to schools esp. Kenilworth school by minimum 5% within 12 months (from school survey baseline)

- Kenilworth school travel survey results:

	2023	2024	
Walking	47%	51%	4%
Drop-off	30%	27%	-3%
Cycling	3%	3%	0%
Bus	18%	15%	-3%
Train	0%	0.30%	0%
Own Car (sixth Form)	2%	3%	1%

- Bike Gang and bike training active
- Work on safer walking routes in development
- KTC formed a Task & Finish Group to focus on challenges
- Increase the awareness of Indigo bus services

○ **Carbon Mitigation**

To understand retrofit plan with timings details and budget for Kenilworth based council buildings (Jubilee House by end of 2024)

- Rooftop solar for Jubilee House (Spring 2025) and Castle Farm (Summer 2025)
- LED lighting across all Council buildings
- Soft loan from Heart of England Community Energy (£860K)
- Reduce total imported electricity by 29% across WDC buildings, carbon savings 103 tonnes/annum
- Reduce WDC spending on grid electricity by £110K/annum

How many social housing houses and flats in Kenilworth are identified for retrofitting – and how many have been retrofitted, how much will it all cost?

- No progress on this item yet

○ **Communications Strategy**

To review opportunities to improve climate aligned communications

- New format, quarterly based, Digital newsletter drafted – to go live in October, providing a wide range of linked updates
- Additional electronic and physical printed noticeboards in review

○ **Sustainability support to Kenilworth businesses**

- Feedback from the recent business survey during the Business Expo event at the Holiday Inn in Kenilworth, showed that there was significant interest in understanding more about sustainability in business.

ENCLOSURE 7

- We are planning a 'sustainability in business' awareness event in 5th June 2025 (World Environmental Day) at Jubilee House, from which may emerge other areas of interest.

Cllr. Mark Stevens

Chair of Climate Emergency Working Group