

# Tackling climate change in Menheniot

At its public meeting held on 15 July 2021, councillors agreed to adopt these four policy commitments to tackle the impact of climate change. It also agreed to set up a new climate change working group that will be known as Menheniot Green to carry out project work in the parish. If you'd like to know more about the group, search online for its Facebook page or email [menheniotgreen@aol.com](mailto:menheniotgreen@aol.com).

## The Commitments & Examples

These commitments below include examples of how they could be applied. Some have already been actioned. That doesn't limit how they can be used but it outlines some of the tasks and projects that could come out of those commitments. Everyone has the potential to make a difference, and these policies and actions are designed to involve everyone in the parish to tackle the issues around climate change.

## The Parish Council will commit to

- Demonstrating leadership in its work
- Influencing its partners and stakeholders
- Managing its financial resources to support local initiatives
- Carry out its responsibilities within planning law and regulations

### Policy 1 Leadership

1. The council will demonstrate leadership across the parish by working to best practice in all aspects of the management of its estate and assets.

1. All administrative functions will be reviewed and amended to reduce carbon emissions and recycle where possible.
2. The parish council is digital by default.
3. Use of water across council properties is managed by mechanical means to minimise waste.
4. Electricity can be sourced from a renewable tariff.
5. Lanterns in council managed light fittings (car park at Bowling Green) can be upgraded to be energy efficient and are already regularly maintained.
6. The council will consult on alternative methods to manage weeds and ground management as part of its biannual contractor review.
7. Council can adopt a voluntary pledge to reduce individual carbon emissions and promote actions across the parish.
8. Council will recognise and reward individual people or voluntary groups who are making significant contributions to mitigating the impact of climate change.

### Policy 2 Influencing

1. Where the council has no direct control over issues that may impact on climate change, it will use its best endeavours to influence other parish stakeholders.

1. Council can review its grants and donation policy so as to encourage the adoption of climate friendly practices among applicants.
2. Council can review the tenancy agreement of its allotment holders in order to enable them to sell surplus produce at local markets, so reducing food miles and encouraging local production.
3. Council can work with stakeholders (for example, local school, playgroup, church, parish hall, Old School Trust, farming community) to encourage a joined-up approach to issues that impact the whole of the parish.

### Policy 3 Resources

1. The parish council can establish an annual budget for projects that can mitigate the impact of climate change and support movement towards a zero-carbon environment.
2. The funding could be drawn from reserves and determined in November as part of the council's annual financial review.

1. The council already has a working system for receiving and assessing applications for grants and donation. Using this as a template, the council could quickly set up an equivalent system for climate change projects. Consultation will be needed to agree criteria for awards.
2. The council's reserves are finite and so there will need to be a limit to the annual budget. If the climate change fund mirrors the existing funds, then there is scope for quick decisions on low value donations, and sufficient separate funding for larger projects that may need substantial financial support.

### Policy 4 Planning

1. The council will discharge its duties as a consultee in the planning process to comply with all aspects of the Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030 and its subsequent iterations.
2. It will apply all policies contained in the Menheniot Neighbourhood Development Plan that relate to climate change.
3. It will incorporate new policies arising from the Cornwall Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD), and other documents as they are adopted

1. The current system of receiving planning applications, producing a Weekly Planning Report, inviting applicants to attend the public meeting and publishing maps and drawings exceeds the statutory minimum requirements for a consultee.
2. The system of Planning Index, created by the parish council, will continue to evolve to include new policies contained in the NDP.
3. Parish council will continue to act as an active consultee in the production of new policies, and their application within the parish.

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