

# PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL



## CLIMATE CRISIS REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Since the Town Council's acknowledgement of the Climate Emergency in May 2019 the Council has continued to work to reduce climate change and improve biodiversity in and around Presteigne and Norton.

The work of the Council is divided into the following areas:-

1. Council Day to Day Working.
2. Council Buildings.
3. Council land and open spaces.
4. Council Climate Crisis Small Grants Scheme.
5. Planning Matters.
6. General

### **Council Day to Day Working:-**

Reduced postages through increased use of email.

Members encouraged to access meeting papers electronically.

Printing only when necessary and when printing do so double sided to reduce paper use.

Printer/toner cartridges recycled.

Printer has economy mode when not in use.

Decreased Brightness on the computer screen.

Computer/printer turned off at night.

### **Council Buildings:-**

Energy usage minimised through use of LED bulbs in lighting.

Motion Sensors in Hereford Street Public Toilets reduce energy use.

### **Council Land and Open Spaces:-**

Recycling bins installed on Went's Meadow to enable users to dispose of their cans, bottles etc responsibly.

Users of Meadow encouraged to reduce their use of single use plastic.

Biodegradable dog bags provided.

Weed killing treatments reduced and only used when essential.

Trials of wild/wildflower areas on Went's Meadow.

Lower Went's Meadow cut just once annually.

Eddie's Meadow managed with minimal intervention.

Hedge Management: Trial ongoing to reduce cutting and allow selected hedges to grow out and upwards. For regular review.

Rejuvenation of small pond on Lower Went's Meadow.

Ongoing provision of organic allotments.

Provision of community orchard.

New management plan commissioned for Eddie's Meadow.

Purchase and creation of new Nature Reserve, planting of trees, open grassland, wildflower areas and ponds. (via Heritage Lottery Grant/Welsh Government)

### **Council Crisis Local Grants Scheme:-**

Introduced in April 2020 this fund provides small grants to local groups and organisations to carry out climate crisis or biodiversity work. To date the scheme has funded –

Tree Weekend

Purchase of yellow rattle plants for verges.

Reuseable Plastic Cups for use at events.

Energy Survey

Creation of Garden – Warden View Methodist Church.

Applications can be made at any time and forms are on the town website or can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

### **Planning Matters:-**

Recommended to the LDP that conservation area protections should be balanced with environmental improvements to properties like double glazing, heating systems etc.

Consider commercial planning applications with regard for their potential environmental impact.

Where possible request that new property built or extensive renovations to old property must be to the highest environmental standards.

### **General:-**

Dark Skies Project: Supported and helped fund the dark skies project to reduce light pollution and energy use with support of County Council. Application now submitted.

Bus Issues: Requested action to stop school buses idling engines outside school premises.  
Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Pressed for charging points in Presteigne town which are now in place in the Hereford Street Car Park.

Roundabouts and Verges:

Roundabouts: One managed by Caring for God's Acre, one planted and managed by Radnor Hills.

Roadside Verges: A recent change in Town Council policy means that the Town Council now supports the Powys County Council county wide mowing policy with the exception of the grass bank/verge below the Warden which will remain under the management of volunteers.

Member of Renew Wales.

Active Travel: Pressed for initial two phases of the Active Travel Route in Presteigne and continuing to press for the extension of that route to Norton to encourage reduced use of vehicles.

20mph Limit: Pressed repeatedly for a 20mph limit in the town centre – something that is now in place not only in Presteigne and Norton but throughout Wales.

Climate Events: To publicise climate events via the TC facebook page and newsletter.