

RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Updated July 2020

Leadership and Governance

The fight against environment, climate and biodiversity change needs extensive co-operation and partnerships between and amongst public and private sector organisations. The role of local organisations will be pivotal, and the Council shall seek to provide as much leadership, enablement, and encouragement as it can.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. A more environment, climate and biodiversity conscious Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To revise the Council’s Environment Policy and Environment Action Plan to become the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Policy, with a revised Action Plan • To extend the remit of a refocused Environment Committee to become the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Committee • The Council will become a member of the Derbyshire Climate Coalition and will seek representation at all meetings from here forward • An annual report on environment, climate and biodiversity change action within the Township will be published by the Council in a Newsletter, announced in the local press, and published on the council website • To provide better leadership and liaison in respect of climate change action opportunities for local business • Liaise with the Borough and County Councils to create better information sharing protocols with the Council • All Town Councillors are to be offered – and encouraged to attend - Carbon Literacy training
2. A more connected Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with the DE-Carbonise partnership which offers Derby and Derbyshire based grant funding for SME Carbon reduction projects and has three more years of investment scope • Work with the Derbyshire Climate Coalition to host local workshops on environmental matters (organised through local community groups) • Establish a framework for ‘green’ networking in the community
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will ask the community to take part in Climate Change Surveys to understand the concerns of local people • Invite residents to carry out a calculation of their personal carbon footprint and understand how they can personally reduce it • Encourage community leaders to attend the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Committee • Bring forward projects to the Council which may benefit from the DE-carbonise project (i.e. business energy audits and opportunity assessments) • Work with the community organisations to setup a Green Action Group (inviting the Friends of the Earth to support such a Group) 	

Legal and Policy

To inform decision making around net-zero, we will ensure that our Councillors are well-informed on environment, climate and biodiversity matters change and that the local community has the necessary information and data to transition to net-zero behaviours.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. Environment Bill 2019-21 status report for the Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will publish an overview of the Environment Bill 2019-21 as it progresses through parliament, and the Government's bi-annual reports on international legislation concerning global carbon reduction
2. Revision of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-line with the Government's proposed bi-annual review of international legislation, the Council will regularly review its Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan to ensure our actions are current and in-line with legislation The Council shall conduct a full analysis of the UK Environmental Improvement Plan recommendations and act upon them appropriately
3. Liaise with public bodies and agencies to ensure current best practices are understood by the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the community up to date and informed on environment, climate and biodiversity policy and strategy in collaboration with local bodies Liaise with AVBC to ensure the Councils policies and processes complement those of the Borough and County Council The Council to keep up to date with the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) recommendations
COMMUNITY SUPPORT:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole community to be invited to scrutinise the revised Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan at any time 	

Development

With the emergence of a new Draft Local Plan, the Council shall encourage the Borough Council to integrate carbon net-zero as the ‘golden thread’ of all future development. The Council also notes that the Ripley Township also has over 8,000 existing households with the majority having an EPC rating of ‘C’ or below. Consequently, retrofitting the housing stock will be essential to achieving carbon net-zero in the Township. The Council shall also seek to ensure any commercial development seeks to achieve carbon net-zero.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. The Council to press for carbon net-zero Planning Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all properties on each new development to integrate low carbon technology • All housing developments to use low-embodied energy/carbon materials • Introduce the ‘Building with Nature’ accreditation to the Borough Council to encourage the Local Plan team to incorporate blue and green infrastructure on every development
2. Work with social landlords to improve housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to engage with the Borough Council, housing associations and registered providers with assets in the Township to seek their adoption of a carbon net-zero approach to existing housing stock
3. Support the improvement of privately-owned freehold housing assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, support freeholder property owners by signposting information on funding for green measures • Promote funded solar PV schemes to local businesses or offer commercial advice signposting on solar PV investment and payback periods • Identify funding for business and residential energy surveys (i.e. DE-Carbonise)
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to think green when consulted about proposed housing development • Encourage residents to make the transition to a greener energy supplier • Encourage homeowners to review available and affordable smart technology to reduce energy consumption 	

Business and Employment

Ripley is home to a high volume of small medium enterprises (SMEs) which rely on networks of information to grow their business. The Council will help inform businesses about Environment, Climate and Biodiversity issues and how business can help implement the local and national ‘agenda’ on these vital issues.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. Signposting environment, climate and biodiversity information which will support the ‘just transition’ for SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing signposting tools such as Google Alerts and supporting businesses in setting up accounts • Linking in with the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce introducing membership to the township once their environment, climate and biodiversity support network has been understood
2. A more connected Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ripley Town council to develop an understanding of DE-Carbonise partnership and signpost support to others • Engage with the DE-Carbonise partnership (Derby and Derbyshire based grant funding for SME Carbon reduction projects) which has three more years of investment scope • Work with the Derbyshire Climate Coalition to host local workshops for businesses on environmental matters and develop green networking in the community
3. Help ensure the Township’s businesses understand their carbon contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure relevant businesses are undertaking their Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting obligations as this may support investment and finance opportunities • Engaging the likes of DE-Carbonise to access energy audits
4. Sharing information about low cost but high impact environment, climate and biodiversity measures with the business community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing LED lighting information and cost benefits • Sharing renewable energy business tariffs
5. Encouraging businesses to look at environment, climate and biodiversity qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support businesses with access to carbon literacy training agencies • Helping business identify the next generation of qualifications which will support their growth
COMMUNITY SUPPORT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Ripley Town Council initiatives for local businesses across social media platforms • Using local business, helping the economy grow and enabling investment in the above measures 	

Energy Security and Costs

To develop an understanding of the energy market and renewable tariffs, and the opportunity for local generation of electricity to be shared with the community in order to help achieve our Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Objectives.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. Identify renewable energy infrastructure opportunities in the Township and support their delivery where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to work with the local community to identify local opportunities for ‘renewable’ technology. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Floating solar PV at Butterley Reservoir ○ Rooftop solar PV on large roof areas, such as supermarkets, schools, industrial units etc ○ Wind turbines • The Council to seek the delivery of proposals to install a water driven electricity generator in the River Derwent (to supply Ambergate).
2. Seek to ensure the Council’s use of energy in buildings or vehicles is environmentally friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council shall endeavour to be an exemplar of best sustainable practice in how it provides its services.
3. Promote the use of sustainable energy supplies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to explore energy tariffs that are available for community energy supply schemes, and to consider establishing a scheme for the township. • Identify any organisations offering a Derbyshire (and/or East Midlands) based Renewable Energy Guarantees Origin (REGO) certification
4. Sensible energy use in community assets/services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach Derbyshire County Council to explore further dimming of streetlights
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to avoid energy comparison sites and search for ‘100% renewable energy supply’ organisations within Derbyshire because locally produced green energy will help fight climate change significantly • Switch off lights when a room is vacated • Power down properties when away for more than a few days (e.g. heating and appliances turned off) 	

Fuel Poverty

Local government and community support groups are integral in the fight against fuel poverty. All people should have the ability to effectively heat and power their home at all times. Lives and well-being depend on it.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. Support the elderly and vulnerable 2. Support families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to help facilitate and deliver a local energy usage survey which identifies those in fuel poverty who may need help • Raise awareness of 100% renewable and fair tariff energy suppliers • Identify long-term competitive fixed rate energy tariffs which provide cost surety for these residents • The Council to help provide home energy workshops in collaboration with fuel poverty conscious organisations • Work with community groups (eg the churches, schools etc) to gather supplies for Winter Warmer packs for those in need
3. Help make homes throughout the Township warmer and safer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to lobby private and social landlords to evaluate the thermal efficiency of their stock, and to take action to improve poor thermal efficiency performance. • Share funding opportunities such as the Renewable Heat Incentive / Energy Company Obligation
COMMUNITY SUPPORT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through its newsletter, the Council shall invite local people’s response to local energy usage surveys • The Council shall encourage donations to initiatives such as the Winter Warmer packs • The Council shall seek to establish a fuel poverty support group in the Township 	

Air Quality

Cleaner air leads to healthier lifestyles and by improving air quality the number of illnesses and fatalities linked to pollution will be reduced.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. The Council shall provide information to help the communities across the Township find out how they can contribute to cleaner air.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the messages about what can be done on both individual and collective basis. • Identify resources to create publicity material. • Promote the use of solar PV panels generally and seek their installation on all new builds
2. Promote the use of public transport, lift sharing, cycling and walking for all journeys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with the borough and county councils to use (or develop) promotional material, liaising also with service providers (eg Trent Barton etc). • Promote through all the Council's media. • Provide education and signposting on the use of public transport, lift sharing, cycling and walking for all journeys
3. Support the Township's transition to a low carbon transport infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby major traders in the town to invest in rapid charge points which in turn will attract local trade • Engage the Borough Council and encourage development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the Town's car parks and off-street parking provision • Share information with the public on the Office for Low Emission Vehicle funding schemes for private properties
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support endeavours to electrify our local transport routes • Householders and businesses to consider switching to electric vehicles when next purchasing a car • Walking or cycling to be encouraged instead of using cars for short journeys in and around the town 	

Waste and Recycling

Consumerism and unsustainable packaging practices – such as single use plastics – have led to a huge increase in the amount of waste people generate. The recycling and re-use of products and packaging will greatly reduce our carbon footprint and clean the environment.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. The Council to promote recycling and its importance for a sustainable future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with the borough and county councils to use (or develop) promotional material promoting recycling and a sustainable approach to manufacturing and packaging. • Seek provision of more accessible recycling sites. • Promote the reduction in use of plastic and other non-sustainable (or non-degradable) materials. • Promote recycling through all media. • To minimise waste as much as possible.
2. To monitor the cleanliness of the township's environment, including the litter and waste collection and disposal processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local town councillors to be encouraged to report persistent problems to the Clerk. • Encourage Community Groups throughout the Township to do litter picks by providing equipment
3. To continue supporting community-based litter collection and disposal schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To liaise and work with DCC, AVBC and community groups. • To continue to fund the collection and disposal of litter from the Ripley Greenway. • To consider how litter waste might be recycled. • To consider introduction of recycling and re-use workshops in partnership with local social enterprises focused on upcycling
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a Township target of recycling 95% of household waste by 2025 • To develop recycling competitions alongside key local events • Engagement with community organised litter picks • Community to promote a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of littering 	

Open-Spaces, Parks and Land

Critical to human and animal well-being is the space available for recreation and habitat growth; these areas must be protected and enhanced wherever possible.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
<p>1. Review the amount of recreation and leisure grounds, parks, play-areas and open green spaces freely available for community leisure use across the Township, and to establish and review activity to safeguard, maintain and enhance these sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising councillor’s and community organisations knowledge, and in liaison with the Borough and County, maintain accurate data about activity to protect, maintain and enhance all community leisure land • Seek to ensure the Borough’s developing Draft Local Plan fully protects the larger sites of environmental and ecological importance throughout the Township. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carr Wood; 2. Jubilee Wood; 3. Forty Horse Wood; 4. Waingroves Wood (inc. Strelley Wood); 5. Morrell’s Wood; 6. Thacker’s Wood; 7. Hagg Wood; 8. Graves Wood; 9. Dunge Wood; 10. Butterley Reservoir; 11. Hammersmith Meadows; 12. Cromford Canal; and 13. Golden Valley. • Invite Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to annually update the Council’s record of bio-diversity data (and location) maps first provided for the Neighbourhood Plan. • <i>Lobby AVBC for a report on natural capital with the Township</i>
<p>2. Work with relevant partners to promote cycle routes and cycling as a sustainable and healthy form of transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to liaise with the Borough and County councils, the ‘Friends of’ groups and other relevant organisations about the maintenance of existing, and development of new cycle routes • To help to promote the benefits of cycling.
<p>3. Encourage and contribute to maintenance of public footpaths and other walking routes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to facilitate a series of circular-walks leaflets around the township, working with appropriate partners. • Monitor the condition of the public footpaths (and other walking routes) throughout the Township, and work with the County Council and other agencies to ensure necessary maintenance is undertaken and signage provided. • To consider employment of a maintenance worker (to cut grass at the Council’s two play-areas and assist with greenway and public footpaths maintenance).
<p>4. Work with partners to establish a network of support for wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors to enhance wildlife habitats, including by utilising species native to the UK for planting schemes. • Seek to raise public awareness of the importance of local wildlife and to protect, enhance or establish wild-life corridors. • Consider supporting initiatives such as planting schemes etc. • Support community initiatives to develop wild-flower meadows with native species planting.
<p>5. Work to protect our woodlands and trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through liaison with the Borough Council, seek to ensure that all planting schemes associated with Planning Conditions utilise UK native species only

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships and working relationships across the public and private sectors to protect woodland and trees. • Consider supporting initiatives that enables woodland (and other habitats) to be in community ownership.
6. Support the pro-active use of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to identify an area for an urban farm i.e. grow food produce locally in collaboration with a local charity or not for profit partner • Publicise the issue of the underuse of land, both developer-owned sites with planning approval but not built-out, and fallow agricultural land. • <i>Seek to introduce urban resilience accreditation schemes (i.e. Building with Nature) to planners and local developers</i>
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological succession plans and rewilding schemes i.e. planting trees responsibly • Avoid the use of peat compost to protect against unnecessary carbon release into the atmosphere • Support community clean-up campaigns around the Greenway and the Coppice Brook • Support key projects such as the Urban Farm 	

Rivers, Streams and Drainage

Water is integral to life and must be protected within a community.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. Establish the water quality in rivers and streams throughout the township.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request information from the Environment Agency and other authorities about the water quality in all watercourses in the township • The Council shall continue to support the Rivers Starts Here project run by the Trent Rivers Trust with significant funding provided by the Gregg's Foundation
2. Work with partners to manage flooding risk to properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors to minimise the risk of flooding to properties. • Seek provision of areas of land where flood water might be held back to ease pressure on existing drainage systems (in times of flood).
3. Work with authorities and voluntary organisations to eradicate pollution in the watercourses and improve the aquatic environment, including river and stream bank habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors and support activities that ensure clean water (e.g. controlling the use of phosphates in agriculture). • Support the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership, especially the schemes relevant to the township
4. Seek to improve public access to the watercourses throughout the township.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to liaise with landowners and farmers about opening-up public access to watercourses
5. Reduce the use (and waste) of water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure that design of new-builds makes full use of 'white and green' water (e.g. collecting run-off for use flushing toilets etc.), and that it minimises water consumption (e.g. install showers rather than baths). • Explore the potential of developing community schemes to store and re-use white and green water. • Encourage Severn Trent to retrofit existing homes to use white and green water.
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't litter but particularly near watercourses where the impact can be significantly damaging • Encourage good community behaviour around water usage in the home 	

Noise

Noise pollution comes from many sources and can be experienced at home, at work or moving around the Township. It is often generated by common-place activities but can cause of considerable distress, reducing people’s quality of life.

ACTION PLAN	DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS
1. The Council to seek to understand the community’s perception of the extent of noise problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a questionnaire to be published in the Council’s newsletter asking residents about their experience of noise. This might be from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work or business places ○ Social infrastructure (schools, hospitals etc) ○ Leisure activities ○ Transport movement
2. Research and consider the extent of noise pollution issues reported to Environmental Health Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek information from the Borough’s EHO’s about any reported noise problems, how potential problems are assessed, and when arise how they are resolved. • Collate the information from EHO’s with the data received from questionnaire responses. • To seek information from the Borough’s Planning Officers about how they judge the potential impact of noise in the planning process.
3. The Council to develop strategies to seek noise reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the extent of noise problems of concern to the community and develop strategies to reduce noise pollution.
<p>COMMUNITY SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community to respond to the Council’s questionnaire. • The Council to promote considerate behaviour about noise management. 	