

## **Interim Report of Progress: December 2019 – June 2020**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 East Harptree Parish Council (EHPC) declared a Climate Emergency on 17th September 2019. The declaration was revised on 21 January 2020 to include the Nature Emergency, in line with B&NES Council's revised declaration of a Climate and Nature Emergency (C&NE).
- 1.2 The Parish Council appointed a Working Group in October 2019, composed of interested local residents<sup>1</sup>, to undertake the following tasks on its behalf:

**Purpose of Climate Emergency Working Group<sup>2</sup>** (title revised in January 2020 to Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group)

The working group was formed to:

- Inform and advise East Harptree Parish Council about opportunities for local action to promote resilience to the effects of climate change.
  - Prepare a draft Strategy for Action, to be submitted to East Harptree Parish Council for consideration.
  - Coordinate action towards making East Harptree a sustainable community, by making East Harptree parish carbon neutral and working to reverse nature loss.
  - Set targets and measure progress against that goal.
  - Work with other organisations towards the same aims in wider or separate areas.
- 1.3 The Working Group set the scope of its activities in response to its Terms of Reference as follows:
- all Working Group recommendations to the Parish Council should be evidence-based, founded on proven data/technologies and process, and deliverable within EHPC powers and responsibilities;
  - opportunities identified that currently fall outside EHPC powers would be noted and, where possible, assigned for potential action by or in partnership with others, as appropriate;
  - the Strategy for Action would be framed to influence and inspire individual action and to encourage participation in local action by all members of the local community.
- 1.4 The Working Group met monthly between December 2019 and June 2020. Notes of meetings have been provided to the Parish Council and published on the Parish Council website. This report summarises the activities and draft recommendations of the Working Group up to June 2020.

## 2. Report Context – impact of Covid 19 pandemic

- 2.1 The Working Group has focussed its efforts on information gathering and technical analysis of key causal factors for the Climate and Nature Emergency in this area. This research has covered a suite of topic areas that are relevant to the parish of East Harptree. These are: Energy, Transport, Green Infrastructure, Planning, Food, Waste and Recycling.

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<sup>1</sup> Names available on request

<sup>2</sup> Extract from: CEWG Terms of Reference Adopted by East Harptree Parish Council, 17th December 2019

- 2.2 The Working Group's Report and recommended Strategy for Action was originally programmed for delivery to the Parish Council at the June 2020 Parish Council meeting. Research and analysis of opportunities for action by the Parish Council was therefore well advanced in late March when the Covid 19 pandemic was declared and lockdown imposed by the UK Government.
- 2.3 Within a very short time it became clear to the Working Group that the context for meaningful consideration of any local (and, indeed, national and global) response to the Climate and Nature Emergency had changed fundamentally. As an example, as an approach to reducing waste and emissions from travel to shopping centres, and to increasing access for all to affordable fresh produce, the Working Group had discussed actions to strengthen local food markets. It was recognised that such actions would require considerable change of purchasing habits by the local community, which would be likely to be difficult (and daunting) for many. Working Group recommendations were therefore being developed cautiously and with sensitivity to the need to avoid alienating members of the local community from the wider objective of the C&NEWG's work.
- 2.4 Within days of the Government Covid 19 lockdown, however, many of the ideas for action that had been discussed tentatively in the Working Group happened spontaneously, as the Community Shop, Waldegrave Arms and other local suppliers stepped in to support supplies to local people in isolation, and footfall to the Community Shop increased. This community response, to take advantage of local opportunities and to minimize negative impacts of the Covid 19 lockdown, belied the perception that actions needed to tackle the Climate and Nature Emergency should be taken forward in very small steps because they would be too profound for take up by some residents.
- 2.5 The focus of possibilities and timeframe for action by the community to tackle the Climate and Nature Emergency *may* therefore have shifted. The community response to the Covid 19 crisis suggests that it may be possible to bring forward some of the behaviour changes that are needed to tackle the effects of the Climate and Nature Emergency, by individuals, groups and organisations, in a shorter time, and more powerfully, than previously thought.
- 2.6 Although Covid 19 has prompted many people to rethink what's important, such as clean air and health, opportunities for individual and community action to tackle the climate and nature emergency depend heavily on both national and local government policies, and on market forces. At the time of writing this report, and as the lockdown is being gradually eased by Government, national policy for economic, social and nature recovery from Covid 19 is unclear. Nonetheless, there are signs of a rethinking of national UK policy on climate change<sup>3,4</sup> with focus on action to tackle the climate and nature emergency as part of the economic recovery from Covid 19. Ahead of this, prominent global and national businesses are taking the lead in actively supporting a Build Back Better approach to economic recovery that addresses health, the economy and climate together<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.7 Against the background of a changing policy environment and businesses driving a fresh approach, the Working Group's research, and the much of its emerging Strategy for Action, will

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<sup>3</sup> Committee on Climate Change: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2020/05/06/take-urgent-action-on-six-key-principles-for-a-resilient-recovery/>

<sup>4</sup> Interim report of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission May 2020, Faster, further, fairer Putting people at the heart of tackling the climate and nature emergency

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/build-back-better/>

need to be reviewed and updated as new opportunities becomes clearer. Until then, its full recommendations for Parish Council action on the Climate and Nature Emergency cannot be progressed with confidence.

### 3. This report

- 3.1 Regardless of the massive human and economic impact of Covid 19, the pressing imperative to tackle the Climate and Nature Emergency has not diminished and it is as important as ever that momentum for community action to tackle the Emergency is not lost due to the Covid 19 crisis.
- 3.2 This report is therefore an interim update on progress by the C&NEWG. The Working Group will continue to meet and develop its recommendations, with the aim of presenting its full Report and Strategy for Action to the Parish Council later in 2020.
- 3.3 Meanwhile, summaries of the Technical Research reports, progressed up to the time of writing this report, are presented below (Section 4, Tables 1 – 6 refer). **These summary tables include draft recommendations for action by the Parish Council that the Working Group consider that the Parish Council can progress now, within its existing powers, to tackle the Climate and Nature Emergency.**
- 3.4 Some of the recommended immediate actions fall within the existing business of the Parish Council, although they may need additional focus by the Council on specific action to tackling the Emergency. Others are additional to its current activities.
- 3.5 It is recognised that all of these actions represent an additional workload on the Parish Council and that support may be needed to take up these additional tasks. Members of the Working Group are happy to discuss these matters in more detail with the Parish Council, and/or provide the draft research reports which underpin them<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.6 In addition to the above key recommendations, the report goes further at Section 5, to offer supplementary comments on potential opportunities for Parish Council action on the Climate and Nature Emergency that have emerged, or moved higher up the agenda for action, as a result of the Covid 19 crisis.

### 4. Research Topic Report Summaries

- 4.1 The following tables show the summaries of each of the six topic reports. Parish Council actions that are capable of being implemented immediately (from June 2020) are highlighted in **amber**.

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<sup>6</sup> Please note that the draft reports are currently works in progress, and should not be relied on to inform decision-making until the detailed research is completed and analysed.

TOPIC 1	Energy	
<b>KEY TOPIC ISSUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority to publicise and promote opportunities to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings in the parish;</li> <li>• Hold B&amp;NES Council and developers to account to deliver highest standards of energy efficiency and/or on-site generation in all new development;</li> <li>• Opportunity to reduce parish GHG emissions &amp; harness community financial benefit by setting up renewable energy/storage schemes.</li> </ul>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Domestic and non-domestic buildings' energy use represents 66% of B&amp;NES carbon footprint. Tackling this will make a significant contribution to reduction of GHG emissions. Priorities are to educate community about the immediate benefits for households and climate impacts of energy saving/efficiency; alter shopping habits away from fossil fuel derived products; and explore how EH can participate in community energy generation and storage. There is already significant scope for EHPC to use its leadership role and representative powers to promote energy saving and generation in the parish and, with other parish councils, across the Chew Valley.</p>	
<b>SUGGESTED ACTION</b>		
Timescale	Action	By whom?
Short term (0 – 6 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publicise &amp; promote energy advice services &amp; 'top tips' to help use less energy.</li> <li>2. Transfer EHPC banking &amp; accounts to a zero-carbon supplier.</li> <li>3. Ensure EHPC planning consultation responses to B&amp;NES Council demand full compliance with B&amp;NES clean energy policy and guidance.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC/C&amp;NEWG</i></p> <p><i>EHPC</i></p> <p><i>EHPC/planning support working group</i></p>
Medium term (within 1 year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore opportunities to establish a community energy strategy/group.</li> <li>2. Explore opportunities via BWCE 2020 for solar PV on community buildings and businesses.</li> <li>3. Explore opportunities for community purchase of smart meters.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC/CNEWG/CVPCs</i></p> <p><i>EHPC/CNEWG/CVPCs</i></p>
Long term (over a year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore opportunities for community energy generation/storage/purchase schemes with BWCE or similar partner.</li> <li>2. Subject to grid capacity, explore scope for EV charging as part of community transport strategy.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC/CNEWG/CVPCs</i></p>
<b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of best approach to communicating aims of community energy strategy, and interest in the local community.</li> <li>• Better understanding of technical options available to EH - research parish and CV opportunities with BWCE.</li> <li>• Discussions with EHPC about how best to support it in bringing forward opportunities above.</li> </ul>		<p><i>EHPC/community energy group</i></p>

<b>TOPIC 2</b>		<b>Transport</b>
<b>KEY TOPIC ISSUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase public information and establish transport needs in the Parish</li> <li>● Work with local transport providers, CV Parishes, B&amp;NES &amp; WECA</li> <li>● Identify opportunities to share sustainable resources</li> <li>● Work with B&amp;NES to improve existing safety measures for pedestrians, cyclist and riders</li> </ul>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>The transport sector accounts for 32% of carbon emissions in S.W. England. Radical intervention is needed to change life-long habits. Changes will only be effective if they are inclusive, taking into account the needs of all parts of our community and of the particular challenges facing young people, the less affluent members of our community, those with medical conditions and disabilities &amp; the elderly. The Parish Council is well placed to disseminate information and draw different communities together within &amp; beyond the village to enable a change of culture towards transport.</p>	
<b>SUGGESTED ACTION</b>		
<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom?</b>
Short term (0 – 6 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable the re-drawing of walking line in High Street &amp; identify new sites for walking lines</li> <li>2. Establish a community transport strategy/group (CTG).</li> <li>3. Apply for Funding from B&amp;NES for cycling/walking improvements</li> <li>4. Utilise existing (&amp;/or create) simple factual guides to greener transport options bring groups together to share best practice</li> <li>5. Carry out a Traffic Survey and host a community meeting to discuss solutions</li> </ol>	<i>EHPC/B&amp;NES/ School/ Preschool EHPC/CEWG EHPC/CEWG EHPC/CTG  EHPC/CTG</i>
Medium term (within 1 year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate meetings between transport providers, Chew Valley Parishes/B&amp;NES</li> <li>2. Facilitate stakeholder meeting for electric vehicle use and charging points</li> <li>3. Consider further traffic calming methods in the Parish</li> </ol>	<i>EHPC/CTG  CTG/ local providers EHPC/B&amp;NES</i>
Long term (over a year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore possibility for changing to one-way system in village, and prioritising of community transport</li> <li>2. Introduce cycling safety courses</li> </ol>	<i>EHPC/CTG/ B&amp;NES EHPC/B&amp;NES</i>
<b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clarification about the needs and desires of the village alongside disseminating information about the impact of climate change</li> <li>● Establishing the best ways to ensure sustainable behavioural change</li> <li>● Scoping what is possible and fundable in terms of delivery</li> </ul>	<i>EHPC/CTG CTG EHPC/CTG/ B&amp;NES</i>

<b>TOPIC 3</b>		<b>Green Infrastructure (GI)</b>	
<b>KEY TOPIC ISSUES</b>	Need to safeguard the existing and add to EH parish GI network. Extend and manage the existing GI network to increase the volume of woody biomass. Encourage involvement by householders, landowners and developers.		
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Creation of new interlinked habitats, such as woodland and hedgerows, will reinforce the existing GI and carbon sink function, but creating this will depend on cooperation of landowners. Short term and small gains can be made on "public" land and with willing landowners. Essential to clearly communicate the importance of GI to tackling C&NE and wildlife recovery.		
<b>SUGGESTED ACTION</b>			
<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom?</b>	
Short term (0 – 6 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify existing GI features</li> <li>2. Identify public/community land suitable for tree/shrub planting</li> <li>3. Engage the community in planting/habitat improvement to give early "feel good" factor and a foundation for a parish GI project</li> <li>4. Prompt B&amp;NES to enforce highway/hedgerow and tree maintenance contractors' compliance with Defra best practice guidance</li> <li>5. Publicise examples of good practice on PC website</li> <li>6. Identify landowners sympathetic to GI initiative</li> <li>7. Map and promote the new GI network</li> <li>8. Use Planning consultation powers to seek GI contribution from new development in the parish</li> </ol>	EHEG EHPC AND EHEG EHPC and EHEG EHPC AND EHEG EHPC AND EHEG EHEG EHEG EHPC/EHEG	
Medium term (within 1 year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin implementation of new GI features</li> <li>2. Publicise EHEG written guidance to assist homeowners and landowners</li> <li>3. Source grant-aid/financial assistance</li> </ol>	EHEG EHPC AND EHEG EHPC and EHEG	
Long term (over a year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider creating offsetting fund to support projects</li> <li>2. Consider support for buying land suitable for GI investment.</li> <li>3. support community/landowner effort to extend/manage GI network</li> </ol>	EHPC EHPC EHPC/EHEG	
<b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor ash die back and its impact on woody resources</li> <li>• Assess links with GI network (existing &amp; proposed) adjacent to parish boundary</li> <li>• Collaboration with other emerging GI groups in area</li> </ul>		EHEG EHPC/EHEG EHEG	

<b>TOPIC 4</b>		<b>Planning</b>
<b>KEY TOPIC ISSUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHPC has powers in the statutory planning system to lead the local community response to the Climate &amp; Nature Emergency.</li> <li>The C&amp;NE expands the demands placed on the PC in delivering its planning functions, and support may be needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>EHPC has powers to exert influence on determination of planning applications and other development in the parish, to secure development that delivers on B&amp;NES Development Plan Climate Change policies, to influence emerging Development Plan policy, and to use CIL funds for local infrastructure projects that benefit the community. It is unlikely that PC has capacity to take on additional tasks around planning to meet the C&amp;NE without support of specialist resources from the community. As a statutory tier of local government, the PC has the authority to lead and promote local C&amp;NE initiatives, alone and with other Chew Valley PCs, for example via the Chew Valley Area Forum.</p>	
<b>SUGGESTED ACTION</b>		
<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom?</b>
Short term (0 – 6 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile list of Development Plan C&amp;NE mitigation and adaptation policies against which planning applications should be tested to inform PC comments;</li> <li>Appoint a technical WG<sup>7</sup> to support EHPC scrutiny of planning applications for compliance with Development Plan C&amp;NE mitigation and adaptation policies;</li> <li>Engage fully with the Local and Neighbourhood Plan reviews to ensure integration of rural C&amp;NE issues in emerging policies.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC</i></p> <p><i>EHPC/planning support working group</i></p> <p><i>EHPC/planning support working</i></p>
Medium term (within 1 year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor delivery of Climate Change Policy in consented developments;</li> <li>Use CIL monies to support local projects addressing the C&amp;NE<sup>8</sup>;</li> <li>Publicise progress in the community to show how PC input influences planning to support the C&amp;NE priorities.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC/planning support working group</i></p> <p><i>EHPC</i></p> <p><i>EHPC</i></p>
Long term (over a year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with adjacent PCs to coordinate management of cross boundary C&amp;NE initiatives eg. GI features &amp; PRsoW;</li> <li>Maintain watching brief on new developments to check delivery of climate change resilient measures as per permissions granted. Report failures to B&amp;NES.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC/CVAF</i></p> <p><i>EHPC</i></p>
<b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b>		
<p>Discussion with councillors of the expanded role of the PC that is needed to meet the technical challenges of framing use of planning representation powers to the C&amp;NE;</p> <p>Review strategies and practices for ideas adopted by other parishes and PC associations to address the C&amp;NE.</p>		<p><i>EHPC/planning support working group</i></p>

<sup>7</sup> As a pilot project in the first instance to test scope and type of support required

<sup>8</sup> Subject to B&NES Council agreement



<b>TOPIC 5</b>		<b>Food</b>	
<b>KEY TOPIC ISSUES</b>	Community action on food waste at the household level can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve ecological diversity, at the same time promoting better health. Changing habits is a personal choice - the objective of parish action on food waste is to encourage people to think of tackling food waste as positive action to enrich lives, rather than simply a response to climate change. It is important to communicate positive messages rather than trying to measure impact on carbon emissions: better health, saving money to spend on something else, supporting local suppliers and achievement of joint effort. This could be supported by setting broad targets for action, which could be measured, for example showing increased recycling, less land lost to landfill, reduced Council spending on landfill, etc.		
<b>SUMMARY</b>	The Parish Council has no specific powers with regard to food so recommended measures are assigned to a parish interest group, or similar, working with other players (Playing Field, community shop, pub, WI, Flower Show, GP surgeries etc) to influence habits. The role for the Parish Council would therefore be to communicate best practice and support efforts by others, as and when appropriate.		
<b>SUGGESTED ACTION</b>			
<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>		<b>By whom?</b>
Short term (0 – 6 months)	1. Waste Not Want Not campaign at Village Meeting/other 2. Encouragement of parishioners to grow food locally – promotion of eg grow your own club, trips to local growers, garden swap scheme		<i>Parish Food Group</i>
Medium term (within 1 year)	1. Monitor Waste Not Want Not and other schemes - increase participation 2. Connect with partners to establish baseline stats for audit		<i>Parish Food Group</i>
Long term (over a year)	3. Set up mechanisms to assess change, eg. target 30% reduction in food waste 3 years; monitor overall reduction in waste collection; monitor overall reduction in packaging waste - 30% reduction in 3yrs; lower obesity rates in local GP practice (per 1000s); Local food businesses reporting turnover increase; monitoring data support for improved biodiversity over pilot period.		<i>Parish Food Group</i>
<b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate local interest in establishing a Parish Food Group (or similar) to lead suggested action.</li> </ul>			<i>C&amp;NEWG</i>

<b>TOPIC 6</b>		<b>Waste and Recycling</b>	
<b>KEY TOPIC ISSUES</b>	Reducing consumption and appropriately managing resources to reuse, repair, repurpose and recover, is key to the waste management. Despite a significant national reduction in carbon production from waste over the last 10 years, largely due to reduction in coal in energy systems and improved recycling services, greenhouse gas emissions and costs of waste management remain high. B&NES Council has clear policy, good infrastructure and educational materials in place to help parishioners to deal with their household waste, compost and recycle. Whilst local buy-in to recycling appears to be good anecdotally, raising awareness might help to divert even more from waste from landfill. This research therefore identifies information exchange and education as the best approach to help secure informed habits in children and young people, families, schools and local businesses.		
<b>SUMMARY</b>	The aim is, ultimately, to help local people to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their waste, and to enable the parish of East Harptree to work towards a position of zero avoidable household, business and community waste.		
<b>SUGGESTED ACTION</b>			
<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom?</b>	
Short term (0 – 6 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Parish Council works with the C&amp;NEWG to identify key educational materials from B&amp;NES Council which can be circulated to parishioners.</li> <li>2. When possible, EHPC to invite arranges a community forum of individuals from households, local business and school/pre-school to consider their practice around materials provided and to spark the creation of action groups and partnership working.</li> </ol>	<p><i>EHPC/C&amp;NEWG</i></p> <p><i>EHPC</i></p>	
Medium term (within 1 year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through the pre-school, primary &amp; secondary school devise input to help engage with children and young people in waste and recycling.</li> <li>2. Signpost people to local and low excess packaging suppliers.</li> <li>3. Partnership working with businesses, to embed good practice (perhaps incentivised via a parish based Green Award Scheme).</li> </ol>	<p><i>EH</i> <i>Preschool/EH</i> <i>School/EHPC</i></p> <p><i>EHPC</i> <i>C&amp;NEWG</i></p>	
Long term (over a year)	Reduction of other types of waste, like grey water, which relies on investment by infrastructure and service providers, might also be investigated.	<i>PC/C&amp;NEWG</i>	
<b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase understanding through research and knowledge.</li> <li>• Investigate possible funding.</li> <li>• Investigate B&amp;NES/Bristol Water engagement with local ideas.</li> </ul>			

## 5. Parish Council action to tackle the Climate and Nature Emergency in a post Covid-19 environment

5.1 The Covid-19 lockdown has caused a major shift in how we live our lives and, for some parishioners, hardship, financial insecurity and other difficulties. These changes may influence how people engage with the practical steps and personal choices needed to adapt to climate change.

### *Local drivers for change*

5.2 The Parish Council is the only local elected body serving East Harptree with the statutory representative and communication role that can be used to support and encourage community action on the Climate and Nature Emergency. In addition to the list of potential areas for immediate action by the parish council highlighted in Tables 1 – 6, above, other opportunities to harness behavioural and other adaptations that have arisen, or become more prominent, via the Covid 19 crisis include:

- **Behaviour changes:** Whilst some changes in behaviour that are needed to tackle the C&NE, such as using public transport rather than private cars, are unlikely to be achievable for some time in this rural area, others may have more chance of taking hold because behaviour has already changed. Driving and flying less, cycling and walking, shopping locally, working from home, growing food for local use, and repairing, re-using and recycling rather than buying new and throwing away, are all actions that have moved up the agenda of personal responses to emergency conditions since lockdown started. The Parish Council can support the continuation of such behaviours through regular communications and dissemination of information, from B&NES Council and others, that support such actions. As part of its support for new behaviours, the Parish Council could consider using digital platforms to host a Green Awards event, to reinforce knowledge of the environmental benefits from choices that have already been made.
- **Supporting others' initiatives in the Parish:** The Parish Council could support, either by contributing funds or otherwise promoting, actions by other groups that help to tackle the C&NE. East Harptree Environment Group, for example, is well placed to take a lead in practical actions to survey, protect and extend the parish Green Infrastructure network, promote local tree planting, and work with landowners to protect and safeguard the natural environment. Parish Council support would help to spread knowledge, and potentially support, wider than the membership of the EHEG.
- **Meetings:** Parish Council meetings are now up and running virtually. There may be some opportunity to arrange meetings with B&NES and with local businesses and interested parties even in lockdown. Large scale village meetings cannot be held under present restrictions and, going forward, will for some time demand social distancing, but alternatives could be explored by the Parish Council. Other means of communicating ideas and information, such as publicising sources of funding for domestic clean energy, could be offered via the Parish Council website, as a season of short films and Questions and Answers hosted by the Parish Council, via the Parish Magazine, the Mutual Aid Newsletter and/or online 'Zoom' meetings.
- **Establish working groups:** The Parish Council could take advantage of the effective local communication channels in place for Covid-19 and the fact that some people may currently have more time and headspace to consider ideas and to offer support for specific initiatives. Parish Council Working groups could then work virtually (email/zoom etc) to begin to plan action.

- **Practical changes:** Some of the proposals for action at Section 4 of this report need sanction and/or funding from others that may take time to expedite, particularly in view of the demand placed upon council budgets by the cost of the Covid 19 pandemic. Re-drawing the walking line on the High Street, for example, carries a (relatively modest) investment of B&NES Council Traffic Management resources and budget. A timely request to the Council now, supported by the case to encourage safer and zero emission walking routes across the District, would help to prioritise the work to the next reasonable budget allocation.

*B&NES, national and global drivers for change*

- 5.3 Alongside its urgent focus on post Covid 19 economic recovery, the UK Government has now recommitted to delivery of a domestic policy agenda to push towards net zero emissions by 2045, spurred on by the political driver of co-hosting the UN Climate Change Conference in 2021. This political goal means that all sectors of society, including local communities, will increasingly be asked to take responsibility for local and personal change of habits and behaviour to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5.4 In rural areas of B&NES District some of these choices (including energy purchase and use, personal travel, and delivery of zero-carbon infrastructure and buildings) are outside the immediate control of individuals to change. Enabling actions to support community action on the Climate and Nature Emergency therefore need to be taken by statutory bodies, local and national government, businesses and service providers.
- 5.5 In this context, probably the most important and effective strategy that the Parish Council can adopt in support of its declaration of a Climate and Nature Emergency is to **use its representative powers strongly and consistently to press B&NES Council, the local Member of Parliament and statutory providers to:**
- frame policies and spending measures that drive economic recovery whilst reducing emissions and building resilience to climate change impacts: and
  - support measures and policies that help individuals, businesses and communities to decarbonise their activities.

## **Appendix 1 Acronyms used in this report**

EHPC	East Harptree Parish Council
C&NEWG	Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group
CVPCs	Chew Valley Parish Councils
CTG	Community Transport Group
EHEG	East Harptree Environment Group
WECA	West of England Combined Authority
CVAF	Chew Valley Area Forum