

***Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience
Action Plan***

**Appendix 2
Consultation Report**

Version	Purpose	Date
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Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan

Consultation Report

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Introduction

In February 2019, the then Shadow Council declared a Climate Emergency, and committed to working towards making the Council and the district as a whole carbon neutral by 2030. As a result of this, the Council has been jointly working on a Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy with the other Somerset authorities, and also on its own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience (CNCR) Action Plan.

This Consultation Report explains how Somerset West and Taunton Council undertook public consultation to inform the development of the CNCR Action Plan, and how the engagement, feedback and responses received have influenced its development. A separate consultation report produced by Somerset Climate Action Network details the extent of consultation on the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy. The report covers:

- Which bodies and persons were invited to make comments;
- How those bodies and persons were invited to make comment;
- The material that was subject to consultation;
- A summary the responses received; and
- A summary of how the responses influenced the development of the CNCR Action Plan.

Consultation Summary

In January 2020, the Council published a "Framework SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan" for public consultation (the Framework Plan). The Framework Plan had originally been approved for public consultation by the Council's Executive Committee back in October 2019, but the announcement of a General Election later that month led to the postponement of the consultation until after the Election and the Christmas holiday period. Accordingly, consultation ran from 20th January to 2nd March 2020.

The Framework Plan was a high level document which set a level of ambition for our climate action, identified directions of travel and key early tasks, made some early commitments and identified actions we had already recently taken. It was prepared to have clear synergies with the county-wide Climate Emergency Framework (which was available for consultation at the same time), building on the workstreams and key themes identified within that document.

A Summary Document was also produced, which summarised information from the SWT Framework Document and the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework into a more digestible and accessible four-page summary.

Purpose of the consultation

The purpose of the consultation was to spark a conversation about how we would (collectively as a community) look to develop and ultimately deliver our district's action plan and to ensure it was well informed by the views and experiences of our communities. A secondary purpose of the consultation was to raise awareness of the need for action and how the Council was working to co-ordinate this. The document itself was a vehicle for driving stakeholder engagement and public consultation, but consultation was much more about engaging the public than a traditional consultation

exercise aiming to get comments on a document. The production of a four page summary document helped us in achieving our purposes by engaging people in the conversation. The consultation was planned to complement (rather than duplicate) the consultation on the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework. The purpose of the exercise was essentially four-fold:

1. To engage the public, listen to the opinions and views that they put forward and ensure these shape our ideas and outcomes as well as find out what communities are already doing;
2. To raise awareness and begin to engage more people in the issue of the climate emergency and the role that the Council, communities and individuals might need to play moving forwards;
3. To build relationships and connections to groups and communities around the district to enable greater involvement in decision making and co-design and delegation of action in due course; and
4. To inform the public about what we as a Council are doing in response to the declaration, both in preparing the Climate Emergency Strategy and CNCR Plan and through on-the-ground delivery.

Who was consulted?

As a non-statutory plan, there was no statutory list of bodies and organisations that the Council was required to consult in its preparation. In addition to this, as inferred by the purpose set out above, the consultation was primarily aimed at the public, communities, businesses and community organisations operating within the district rather than other public bodies and official organisations that you might expect to be consulted on statutory plans. The consultation was publicised widely (as explained below), in order to enable wide public engagement on the consultation. However, specific notification emails were only sent to town and parish councils within the district.

How we consulted

Consultation on the Framework Plan ran from 20th January to 2nd March 2020. During this time, numerous consultation methods were employed. This section of the report details each of these methods. Responses to the consultation were encouraged via responding to the online survey, adding post-its at the roadshow events, emailing strategy@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk or posting comments on our social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

Emails

Emailed notification of the consultation was sent to town and parish councils within the district.

Inspection points

Hard copies of the Summary Document were available for inspection by the public at Deane House in Taunton and West Somerset House in Williton and at each of the roadshow events. The Summary Document directed people to view the full Framework Document online.

Roadshow events

The consultation period for the Framework Plan coincided with consultation on the SWT's Local Plan Issues and Options Document. It was quickly identified early on by

officers that there were important cross-relevant issues between climate action and the Local Plan, and this was clearly referenced in both the Local Plan Issues and Options Document and the Framework Plan. As such, in order to maximise publicity and response rates, and to minimise the chance for public confusion and costs to the Council it was decided to hold seven joint roadshow events.

Officers were available at each event to talk through issues and options relating to both climate action and the Local Plan (and the links between) and to facilitate participation. Copies of the four-page Summary Document were available for inspection and to take away. A display showing some of the issues and potential areas for focus in each workstream was set up, and areas were provided for attendees to add their own post-its identifying both things they were already doing and to give their views on the ideas we were presenting.

A total of 520 people are estimated to have attended the roadshow leaving 640 comments in the form of post-its and discussing ideas, issues and concerns with officers. The breakdown of each event is detailed below:

Location	Estimated Attendance	Post-it comments received
Wellington, Quaker Meeting House Thursday 23 January, 10am to 3pm	100	113
Williton, West Somerset House Thursday 30 January, 2pm to 7pm	40	55
Taunton, The Orchard Shopping Centre Thursday 6 February, 10am to 3pm	90	78
Minehead, Methodist Church Monday 10 February, 2pm to 7pm	60	106
Watchet, The Sanctuary Tuesday 11 February, 10am to 3pm	60	63
Wiveliscombe, Community Centre Thursday 20 February, 10am to 3pm	120	194
Taunton, Deane House Wednesday 26 February, 2pm to 7pm	50	31
Totals	520	640

A further roadshow event was planned for Dulverton in Exmoor National Park, but unfortunately had to be cancelled.

Roadshow events were planned to take place across the district to maximise reach whilst being pragmatic about available resources. The timings of the events in some places extended into the evening beyond normal working hours for the events in Taunton, Williton and Minehead in order to facilitate greater levels of participation from working people and to coincide with other events (such as Full Council on 26th February at Deane House) in the hope that this may drive higher attendance. However, these events actually drew the lowest number of attendees overall.

Attendees to the roadshow events were from a mix of demographics and backgrounds, with a wider audience and wider opinions and views facilitated by holding joint events with the Local Plan in particular. However, the majority of participants were still

predominantly already interested in and passionate about climate action. Most attendees were 50+ and white, with few attendances from younger people, black and minority ethnic groups or businesses.

The events were regularly posted to the Council's social media and were advertised through the Council website and press releases.



Wellington, 23 January



Taunton, 6 February

Area Panels meetings

Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change also attended the four West Somerset Area Panel meetings to raise awareness of the consultation.

Online survey

We published an online survey as a way for people to respond to the consultation, which was available via the Council's Consultation Hub portal at <https://yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/>. The survey was not particularly successful and only received 24 responses. In hindsight, it was probably not worthwhile conducting our own survey when there was already an online survey for the public to respond to around the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework (see below).

Website

A new webpage was set up on the Council's website at <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-emergency/>. The webpage explained what we were doing, provided links to the Framework Plan, Summary Document and Online Survey as well as advertised the roadshow events. It also made the links between our Action Plan and the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy and drop-in events arranged as part of this and linked across to the Somerset County Council website which hosted these details.

Social Media

A social media campaign was launched in the first week of the consultation (see Appendix E – Table 2). The campaign involved asking members of the public questions about our key issues and setting quick polls, to generate interest and discussion. An estimation of potential reach (the number of people that potentially saw the posts) is set out in Appendix E

Facebook [@SWTCouncil](#) – page followed by 3,133 people. Facebook was the primary focus for social media consultation alerts.

Twitter [@SWTCouncil](#) - followed by 1,809 people. Twitter was the secondary focus for social media consultation alerts.

Instagram @swtcouncil - followed by 1,272 people. Limited consultation alerts were made on Instagram given the significantly fewer number of followers compared to Facebook and Twitter.

LinkedIn @SWTCouncil – followed by 643 people. Limited consultation alerts were made on LinkedIn given the significantly fewer number of followers compared to Facebook and Twitter as well as the purpose of the consultation and the audience that this platform is aimed at.

Press release

A press release was published on our website at <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-climate-emergency/> on 20th January 2020 and sent to all regional media. A further press release was also made on our website at <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-climate-strategy/> on 14th January 2020 in relation to the county-wide Climate Emergency Framework and drop-in events, and this was picked up by the Somerset County Gazette.

One-to-one meetings

Over the course of the CNCR Action Plan's production (both during, before and after the consultation period), officers met individually with representatives from various organisations including Forum 21; West Somerset Together; Somerset Climate Action Network; Somerset Community Energy; Extinction Rebellion; the University of Exeter; the Centre for Sustainable Energy; Regen; Western Power Distribution; and Somerset Eco-Centre Co-op and Taunton Transition Town to discuss actions already taking place, ideas, and potential future actions and approaches to be taken going forwards. These discussions have directly influenced the direction that the CNCR Action Plan has taken.

Somerset Climate Drop-In Sessions

A series of Climate Drop-In Sessions were held across the county as part of consultation on the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework. The sessions were facilitated by Somerset Climate Action Network and Hope-stone Research on behalf of the Councils, with Council officers only there to provide support rather than be actively involved. The Sessions were delivered via a range of methods including giving attendees the opportunity to give an idea of how concerned they were about climate change on both their arrival and departure, the opportunity to read display boards and ask questions, the opportunity to listen to talks about the climate, contribute to 'Rich Picture' visualisations, provide written comments, participate in video interviews and also to do arts and crafts with children amongst other things. Altogether 625 people attended the four Drop-In Sessions with 270 attending the event in Taunton.



Location	Date	Numbers attending
Taunton	18 th Jan 2020	270
Bridgwater	8 th Feb 2020	93
Shepton Mallet	15 th Feb 2020	148
Yeovil	22 nd Feb 2020	114
TOTAL		625

Somerset Online Climate Surveys

Two online surveys were conducted to support consultation on the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework: one for adults (16+), and one for young people (11-18). The surveys were available to complete between 6th January and 18th March and hosted on the Somerset County Council website at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/climate-emergency/>. A total of 4,883 responses were received to the adult survey, with a useable sample of 3,423 responses and 996 (29.1%) of these being from within Somerset West and Taunton district. A total of 952 responses were received to the young people survey, with a useable sample of 805 responses and 272 (33.8%) being from within Somerset West and Taunton district. The surveys were designed for anyone in the county to take part (rather than a pre-designed representative sample), and participation levels were lower than anticipated. This means it cannot be guaranteed that the responses received are a representative of the views of the population as a whole. Indeed, from responses received to the adult survey in particular it would suggest that the majority of those responding were already more motivated and engaged with the issue than perhaps the population as a whole is. The young people's survey is perhaps more representative having been pushed via school class activities.

Somerset Climate Emergency Business Summit

A Business Summit attended by more than 100 local businesses was held at Taunton Rugby Club on 28th January 2020. This was a chance to engage the business community by trailing the Climate Emergency Strategy work, hearing presentations from local businesses taking action (presentations were given by Richard Clothier of Wyke Farms; Verity Sparks of Taunton-based Sparks and Daughters; and Paul Coombs of Leonardo UK), and giving the opportunity to take part in workshops exploring key issues for businesses to grapple with in relation to climate action including supply chains, building and industrial process energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport.

Summary of Responses Received

This section summarises the responses received through the Council's own Roadshow events, online survey and in emails. Responses to the Local Plan Issues & Options Document consultation survey are not included here and are reported in a separate Consultation Report. Responses to the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework consultation survey and Drop-In events are also not included here and are reported in a separate report produced for the Somerset Councils by Somerset Climate Action Network and Hope-stone Research.

The overwhelming message received from those who took part in the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework consultation was for the councils to take more urgent climate change action, provided it is effective, communicated and, where possible, done in collaboration with local communities. This was echoed in conversations held at our own Roadshow events and responses received via post-its and survey responses to the SWT consultation, with an overall sentiment of 'stop talking about what you *could* do and asking us what we think and tell us what you are *going* to do and get on with it'.

Roadshow Post-Its

A total of 640 Post-it comments were received across the Roadshow events. The following table sets out the proportion of comments received via Post-It notes at the Roadshow events relating to each workstream. Transport (20%) and Built Environment (17%) were the workstreams receiving most interest and with most actions identified for them. This is not necessarily that surprising as these areas contribute the largest volume of our emissions and some actions are well known, obvious and very visible/tangible. However, this may also have been exacerbated because the events were being jointly held with the Local Plan consultation. At just 4%, fairly few comments were received relating to the Business, Industry and Supply Chain workstream, though this may have been because there was low representation by businesses in attendance of the events. Water (2%) had the lowest number of responses, and this may be because people may have been more focused on actions to reduce emissions and achieve carbon neutrality, rather than thinking so much about adaptation to the projected climate risks we may face.

Workstream	No. relevant comments	% of 640 Total	Ranking
Transport	126	20%	1
Built Environment	111	17%	2
Communication & Engagement	81	13%	3
Natural Environment	75	12%	4
General / Strategic / Plan	66	10%	5
Farming & Food	51	8%	6
Waste	45	7%	7
Energy	46	7%	7
Business, Industry and Supply Chain	25	4%	9
Water	14	2%	10
TOTAL	640	100%	

We asked people to put Post-Its up in relation to two questions: "What do you think of our ideas?" and "What actions are you already taking?". The section below summarises

some of the common themes which emerged from the Post-Its against the questions as well as specific suggestions and concerns raised. A number of comments received were relating to specific developments and more relevant to the Local Plan, so whilst there were a number of these, these have not been reported here.

What do you think of our ideas?

Common themes that emerged from Post-Its under this heading are summarised below:

- Support for the Council declaring a Climate Emergency, but frustration at lack of visible delivery against that declaration to date.
- New developments should be as energy efficient / carbon neutral / zero carbon as soon as possible – we shouldn't be building new things that will need to be retrofitted in the future.
- New developments should be fitted with solar PV as standard.
- New developments should plant native fruit trees, be required to provide allotments and ensure that gardens are provided with good quality soil to enable people to grow their own.
- Collaborate and work together for joined-up thinking. Local councils want to know what they can do to support action.
- All trees and hedgerows should be protected.
- Public transport needs to be more affordable.
- There need to be more, pleasant and safe walking and cycling routes.
- Work with communities and farmers to plant the right trees and hedgerows in the right places.
- Overpopulation and increased life expectancy are major contributors.
- EV charging infrastructure is a barrier, how will people in terraced streets charge?
- EVs are currently only for the wealthy, they need to be made more accessible and affordable for those on lower incomes and the rest of the population.
- Buses should be electrified.
- Don't build on land liable to flooding.
- Public transport connections to Minehead must be improved and journey lengths reduced.
- New homes should be built near to where the jobs are / Jobs need to be delivered alongside new housing to reduce the need to travel.
- Public sector new builds like schools should be exemplars used to show what sustainable looks like and teach our children.
- The ecological / biodiversity emergency is as important as and indivisible from the climate emergency.

A selection of the range and substance of specific ideas that were suggested on Post-Its are quoted below, arranged by primary workstream theme:

Built Environment

- *"All new housing developments should be energy efficient, carbon neutral and have space to grow food"*
- *"New homes need to be zero carbon NOW"*
- *"New developments need policies that require solar panels and electric charging points"*

- *"Collaborate with renewable energy companies to get case study homes with solar panels, air or ground heat pumps to demonstrate success."*
- *"Advise local residents on the best options to replace oil and gas boilers with renewable energy options like air/ground heat pumps."*
- *"Ensure that planning does not impede conversions to new renewable sources for all homes."*
- *"Make it easier for listed buildings to include energy efficient measures"*
- *"The rural permitted development rights must be brought into full compliance with all local plan policies (including S106, CIL, zero carbon, etc.). Current GPDO rights have created uncontrolled random development all over the rural countryside"*
- *"We need more work/live developments - ideal for Fox's Mill in Wellington. Please focus on this area."*
- *"To go ahead with the build of Kingsmead School without any eco specifications is an outrage, and totally lets the children down."*

Transport

- *"Limit how many times people fly!"*
- *"Reduce the M5 speed limit to 60mph"*
- *"Subsidise the bus route between Welly and Taunton"*
- *"Council needs to lobby SCC to make improvements to bus services and make them electric."*
- *"We need improved bus links to Taunton and reinstated service to Wellington. Bus fares should be lowered or abolished!"*
- *"Focus on rural community transport"*
- *"Investigate shuttle services from Wivey - Taunton, electric and every 15 mins."*
- *"Open Wellington station/platform - this could influence and support Fox's Mill development"*
- *"Train stations in Wellington and Minehead needed"*
- *"A safe cycle route between Welly and Taunton"*
- *"Cycle route between Wivey, Milverton and Taunton - ebikes would open this up more"*
- *"Better cycle routes through Carhampton to Dunster and Minehead required."*
- *"Use compulsory orders to make Mineral Line a cycle route."*
- *"Make the Steam Coast Trail a priority as a trail for the council to support."*
- *"Can we do what Cannington has done with S106 from HPC to create cycling routes between Washford and Wilton"*
- *"We need more powers given to local communities to deliver local cycling and walking routes"*
- *"Prioritise cycle and walking infrastructure - not just add cycle lanes which can be dangerous. People will cycle more if they feel safe."*
- *"We need a lot more cycle stands outside SWT offices and to see your staff use them"*
- *"We need to identify the barriers that stop people walking and cycling. These will be different in different locations. Consult local people on where the local pinch points are. Then devise local plan to sort out with SCC and Highways."*
- *"Support pedestrianising towns to reduce air pollution"*
- *"Cut car parks and ability for non residents to park in Taunton - improve park and ride options and force people to use. Pedestrianise Taunton town centre."*

- *"Need to expand park and ride system in Taunton - reduce car parks and pedestrianise more areas like Exeter"*
- *"Need to consider Living Streets principals in planning for parking in Dunster"*
- *"Consider whether household electric vehicle charging points are necessary - if battery range increases to 250-400 miles. There is no need for home charges. Petrol stations should provide charging."*
- *"All for electric buses and cars as long as it doesn't penalise people on low wages - subsidies should be put in place for those people."*
- *"To improve EV uptake - consider encouraging work place chargepoints."*
- *"Incentivise electric taxis"*

Energy

- *"Seek support from developers for district heating schemes"*
- *"Why aren't we sourcing energy from tidal power"*
- *"Housing - is there thoughts about harvesting methane collection for individual properties to add energy back to the households and buildings etc?"*
- *"Homeowners need advice and incentives to switch to renewable energy."*
- *"Restrictions on air conditioning units"*
- *"Renewable energy must include wind turbines. Central government must be lobbied to relax planning rules."*

Business, Industry and Supply Chain

- *"What are FE colleges doing to train young people in renewable energy industries? This is the way forward."*
- *"Create a local business only signage network - local subscription to the service. Cheaper than Facebook"*
- *"More employment and businesses needed so people do not pollute the atmosphere driving to work. Encourage businesses in Wellington and Wivey."*
- *"What are businesses doing to remove plastics from products. The days of treading carefully around businesses is over. Carbon taxes are needed to incentivise them."*

Waste

- *"Dunster Parish Council is keen to lead local business waste scheme"*
- *"Please can we segregate plastic and paper bins in public spaces? This would send a good message."*

Food and Farming

- *"Advising others on community composting schemes"*
- *"Developing and using Bio-char in waste composting system should be used."*

Natural Environment

- *"We need to work with landowners and farmers to think strategically about creating wildlife corridors"*
- *"We need a small grant scheme to help communities in identifying sites and planting trees and hedges. We can't afford cost of trees."*
- *"More trees by stream between Essex Drive and Langham Gardens in Galmington"*
- *"Right along coast - place for trees to combat coastal erosion. Not development. Coast Path runs along this tourist attraction."*
- *"Stop pheasant shoots - 40 million pheasants released per year eating our wildlife = insects, reptiles etc."*

- *"Replace trees that have been removed from streets in towns."*
- *"Identify locations for community tree planting and rewilding."*
- *"We need land management enforcement of top soil erosion. Managers should need planning approval and have sanctions for bad delivery"*
- *"Rewilding is more efficient than tree planting"*
- *"How is the council managing Ash trees? What happens to the wood resource?"*
- *"Please don't cut the grass verges so much. Allow wildflowers to grow."*

Water

- *"The upstream thinking approach should be encouraged."*
- *"Get the Marina mud under control. If not then the likelihood of flooding will increase as the capacity of the harbour to water decreases."*

Communications and Engagement

- *"We need a way that individuals and communities can monitor their carbon footprint. Something fun and practical to engage interest."*
- *"Need to gather local knowledge to help in solving community issues - there are experts living in our communities that could help."*
- *"Seek climate change champions in each village to share ideas."*

General/other

- *"Aviation taxes on imported good needed - Exporting and importing bacon is mad."*
- *"Carbon neutral targets for each house - plastic use, recycling, commitment to cut back by 25% in each household by 2025"*
- *"We need individual carbon limits so that we equally share the burden"*
- *"Let people die when nature says - stop prolonging life unnecessarily"*

A number of specific concerns were also highlighted:

Some were about raising concerns with specific directions of travel/key tasks identified in the Framework documents:

- *"Stop battery cars - where do the materials come from? Congo/China - Rare earth metals - how will they be decommissioned?"*
- *"Fitting EV charging infrastructure into terraced streets will be a nightmare!"*
- *"Charging points for electric cars are just subsidising wealthy folk who can afford electric cars in the first place."*
- *"How will power be generated and fed to point of use for car charging points and replace gas heating? Not enough power, not enough engineers."*
- *"Do not rely on electric vehicles only. Consider other carbon neutral fuel - hydrogen."*
- *"Plans to address coastal erosion in the County and SWT docs are woefully inadequate."*
- *Cattle Farmers need real support to change. Be sensitive to their traditions. Don't just tell them plant based diets are the only way."*

Some were about raising the need for more/better information and engagement:

- *"Why can't we influence new developments right now? Local Plan consultation takes far too long and is not in tune with timescales."*
- *"More information on how we can reuse plastic"*
- *"Nothing will work until hearts and minds won over first"*

- *"We need more information on what can be recycled and where it can be recycled. Especially different types of plastics, rags and large items."*
- *"Why can't we recycle plastics yet? Why do we have to wait in the district?"*

Some were about raising concerns with our overall approach/focus:

- *"Funding and action should fairly distributed throughout the district. (e.g. what is being done with Magna on housing in WS?)"*
- *"The council proposals have a complete lack of focus on the Ecological Crises - it is more important that climate emergency!"*
- *"The council seems to be focusing on Taunton Town too much."*
- *"Let's not focus on data. Just start doing action."*
- *"Off setting is a waste of time. Don't aim for it."*
- *"Terminology - 'emergency' - slightly scary - shouldn't we find a more helpful strapline"*

Some were raising concern that the Council was not moving quickly or taking things seriously enough:

- *"Nothing radical, this is a climate emergency but I see no sign of emergency action. I am terrified for my children's future"*
- *"There seems to be little impact of climate change efforts on planning policy."*
- *"It's an emergency - act like it."*
- *"It is a year since you and SCC declared an emergency. Your boards are full of terms like 'plans', 'working towards', 'ensuring', 'reviewing'. No obvious actions. How can an emergency wait for so long."*
- *"Declaring a climate emergency is easy. Prove to us that it isn't just hollow words. More and more people are getting anxious about it."*

Some were sceptical about the influence that we could have locally:

- *"2030, you'll be lucky!"*
- *"Too little too late"*
- *"People will never walk or cycle more"*
- *"Hard to be carbon neutral in rural areas"*
- *"I am sceptical about what the council can actually achieve here. It doesn't sound like you can tackle the big issues. What you can actually achieve is small fry."*
- *"Not enough money and action for huge issues!"*

Some were more sceptical of the need for action at all:

- *"For every supposed 'good' action there is often a negative adverse impact"*
- *"Not interested in climate change - too old for that"*
- *"This is total propaganda. UK CO2 is less than 1%. If climate change exists 99% of CO2 will continue."*

What actions are you already taking?

Common themes that emerged:

- Raising awareness in the community.
- Buying local produce and buying seasonally.
- Solar panels.
- Growing own food.

- Eating less meat and dairy.
- Joined Extinction Rebellion and/or Transition Town groups.
- Walking and cycling more.
- Using an Electric Vehicle.
- Refusing and not buying food with so much plastic packaging.
- Flying less.
- Recycling more.
- Reducing consumption.

Specific actions mentioned:

- *"Joined Wellington Transition Town group to plant unused areas with orchards and wild flowers and wild life"*
- *"Tree planting group in Wivey involving farmers/foresters etc."*
- *"We are working with cubs on climate badge and will fee in ideas (ages 8-10)"*
- *"4,500 tress being planted in Country Park, 11,000 in surrounding woodland. Council needs to support park evolvment not fight it."*
- *"Repair shop opening in the Glass Box in April"*
- *"Looking to set up a Porlock's People Assembly to discuss issues and delvier local action."*
- *"Volunteer for National Trust Riverlands Project"*
- *"Seeds of Hope and WS Organic Garden Group"*
- *"Watchet Town Council buying 30 trees working with Woodland Trust Scheme."*
- *"Minehead plastic free campaign by XR"*
- *"Plastic free campaign beginning in Watchet"*
- *"Local composting scheme in Watchet"*
- *"I have worked with Magna Housing Association to build 30 bungalows for the elderly and 20 rented houses in Wivey under S106 so they are always for Wivey folk. Now working on next phase."*
- *"I'm lucky enough to own 3 acres on which I've planted 2,500 trees - mostly for coppicing. We could plant more on council land."*
- *"Went car-less in Oct 2019."*
- *"We have plans for EV charging points in Wivey."*

Roadshow conversations

During the Roadshow events, officers were on-hand to discuss issues and answer questions raised by the attending public. Whilst the public were encouraged to ensure they write their ideas and concerns down on Post-its, this did not always occur. Whilst there is no definitive record of these informal conversations, key issues and themes that tended to come up and which are relevant to the Climate Emergency are detailed here:

- A number of conversations centred on the fact that it had been a year since the Council declared an emergency, yet there were still no definitive plans in place. There was concern that we have taken far too long to turn our declaration into this definitive plan and on the ground actions, and that we have a tendency to over-strategise and under deliver.
- Tied to this, many people voiced an opinion that much of what needs to be done is well known and we shouldn't need to keep consulting people about it. The public had made their desire for climate action known through voting in the local

elections and we had already committed to this, so we need to get on with delivering against it, not seeking views.

- There was also a common view that there the Frameworks were presenting very little in way of new ideas, further reflecting that many actions are relatively obvious and reasonably understood and expected by people.
- A particularly common issue that was raised (likely because of the fact that the Roadshow events were jointly held with the Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation), was about the tension between climate and infrastructure. On the one hand, most people understood and accepted the need to reduce our reliance upon the private car, but couldn't see how this could be possible in a rural area, when bus services have been cut so significantly and fares are so expensive, or when they feel unsafe to cycle on the roads. At the same time, an overwhelming amount of conversations centred on the fact that infrastructure provision (particularly regarding roads and flow of traffic) must keep pace with new development.

SWT Survey responses

There were only 26 responses to SWT's online survey, with 73% of those respondents being aged 55-74, which means it is difficult to take the responses as representative. Having said that, there are some useful outputs worthy of highlighting, and there were a number of ideas put forward for consideration. The results are provided below:

Q4. Which of the following actions are you already doing or would be willing to do?

Responses to this question indicate that those responding to the survey were generally already engaged and motivated on issues around climate action. It shows that in terms of this audience, there is genuine interest in switching to EVs, car sharing and using public transport more, walking or cycling more, and in planting trees or creating wildlife habitats. However, there was also some scepticism, particularly around EVs and car sharing or using public transport more. Transport related actions appeared to have lower levels of current take-up, but were also the areas with the most responses to say that respondents would not consider, with flying less being the most common action that people said they would not consider doing. There are important lessons to be learned, particularly for future communications campaigns and the kinds of actions that are most likely to lead to major behaviour shifts from these responses.

Actions	Already doing	Would consider doing	Not sure	Would not consider doing	Not answered
Making your home more energy efficient	21	5	0	0	0
Driving an electric car	1	19	4	2	0
Switching to a green energy provider	19	4	2	1	0
Buying more local produce	19	6	0	1	0
Avoiding buying plastic packed goods	21	5	0	0	0
Car sharing or using public transport more	10	10	3	3	0
Recycling more	24	2	0	0	0
Flying less	18	4	0	4	0
Planting trees or creating wildlife habitats	17	9	0	0	0
Walking or cycling more	17	8	0	1	0

Q.5 Tick the three that you find the most challenging to achieve

Responses to this question clearly identified that driving an electric car was considered to be by far and away the most challenging action for the respondents to achieve. This, being despite the fact that it was also the thing that the majority of respondents felt they would consider doing in response to Q4. This suggests that there are major hurdles and concerns in relation to electric vehicles, but that should they be able to be overcome then there is potentially a major behavioural switch that could occur. Car sharing or using public transport more was also highlighted as one of the most challenging actions. The top three results all rely on (or at least are likely to be perceived to rely on) major changes/improvements beyond the individual (e.g. can only purchase what shops sell and if that's in plastic...). Making the home more energy efficient is also likely to be reliant upon others to be achievable as well as being considered potentially prohibitively expensive. Beyond this, the actions are far more likely to be within the gift of the individual and about choice and/or less expensive financial outlay.

Challenges	Checked as being 1 of 3 most challenging	% out of 26
Driving an electric car	23	88%
Car sharing or using public transport more	17	65%
Avoiding buying plastic packed goods	13	50%
Making your home more energy efficient	9	35%
Walking or cycling more	5	19%
Buying more local produce	3	12%
Recycling more	3	12%
Flying less	3	12%
Planting trees or creating wildlife habitats	1	4%
Switching to a green energy provider	0	0%
Not Answered	0	0%

Common reasons given in explanations:

Driving an electric car

- *"Electric car too expensive for now"*
- *"Poor lifespan of the batteries make this implausible"*
- *"There is insufficient infrastructure for electric vehicles and what there is is incoherent or incompatible"*
- *"Suitability in rural area 4x4 usually used"*
- *"Costs need to come down, or electric cars made more accessible through electric car schemes"*
- *"Issues over range and recharging pose problems"*
- *"Not enough chargers, battery range too low"*
- *"If everyone used them we'd run out of power stations"*
- *"Not enough plug-ins either in the district or around the country to make this a viable option"*
- *"Carbon benefit is not straightforward if you consider the footprint of making a whole fleet, and dumping a whole fleet of diesel/petrol vehicles"*
- *"No off street parking for re charging"*
- *"Not sure that electric car benefits the environment. Electricity has to come from somewhere"*
- *"Travelled in one and found it induced travel sickness"*

- *"Concerns regarding impact of mining battery minerals and materials on the environment and communities where the mines are located"*

Car sharing or using public transport more

- *"There is not enough public transport in rural areas and without a substantial change in that using public transport is not an option"*
- *"I live out in the countryside with the nearest bus stop being about 4 miles away and extremely limited buses"*
- *"I try to use the train to travel elsewhere but that is very expensive and requires driving to Taunton and paying for parking there"*
- *"I'm not aware of any resource to let me know about car sharing"*
- *"No train link to Taunton from Minehead"*
- *"The area I live in is not well serviced despite being close to the main roads"*
- *"There is currently no culture of car sharing in rural areas"*
- *"There is no bus from Minehead to Bridgwater"*
- *"Public transport is outrageously expensive"*
- *"Using public transport requires cheap efficient integrated public transport - ours is expensive, badly run and poorly integrated!"*
- *"Requires more planning ahead"*

Avoiding buying plastic packed goods

- *"The consumer can only do so much to avoid it at supermarkets. The supermarkets need to lead the change"*
- *"A much much stronger approach is required at the policy and supply level to stop businesses and companies using plastic at source. It should not be a consumer choice to avoid plastics - it should just not be an option"*
- *"The local no-plastic shop does not sell organic food"*
- *"Supermarkets are slow to change to biodegradable packaging"*

Making your home more energy efficient

- *"Old farm house has many challenges with energy efficiency"*
- *"Listed building planning constraints on the use of solar panels and double glazing make it difficult to make my home more energy efficient"*
- *"Whilst my home is relatively energy efficient there are things available such as heat pump technology but these are difficult and expensive to retro-fit"*
- *"Cost implications. Need to wait until I can afford to install solar panel"*
- *"There is confusion about the most efficient and climate friendly way to heat our home"*
- *"Would like to make house more energy efficient but grants have dried up"*

Walking or cycling more

- *"No longer cycle into Taunton as the roads are in such poor shape. Our lanes are covered in mud and gravel and full of potholes. The sides are caving in, making it very dangerous. I won't cycle on the A358 as it is too narrow and the cars are too fast. Cycle paths in Taunton abruptly stop with no place to get out of the way"*
- *"I love to walk and cycle - the roads and lanes around Wellington are however increasingly busy and drivers increasingly intolerant of other road users. We need to reduce vehicles on the road (school run/ delivery vans) and tackle poor driving"*
- *"No cycle route /designated along roadside Minehead to Porlock or Taunton"*
- *"Too old to cycle"*
- *"I have nowhere to keep a bike"*

- *"I would cycle regularly to Taunton but you need to build a cyclepath from Bishops Lydeard to Taunton - I don't dare use the A358"*

Buying more local produce

- *"No normal person can afford to buy local produce"*
- *"Local produce is not easy to come by"*

Recycling more

- *"We already recycle pretty much everything we can and recycling is also shown to have very limited impact per person on climate change so not really a priority"*
- *"Wellington is not yet on the extended kerbside collections scheme. I home compost where possible"*
- *"Too much that the recycle collectors won't take even though it's recyclable"*

Flying less

- *"I fly to visit family"*
- *"I don't fly that often. When I do, there's no other option which is time or financially viable; crossing the Atlantic has yet to be achieved by bicycle"*
- *"Don't fly a lot but unwilling to limit. Taken as total, flying is not a massive contributor"*
- *"I don't fly on holiday but I want to, because I want the fun everyone else is having!"*

Planting trees or creating wildlife habitats

- *"I live in a flat without ample outside space"*

Other comments included:

- *"I would prefer it if there were more options to get rid of the car completely rather than replace one vehicle with another, ie more public transport, or more solutions that support having no car at all"*
- *"We always offer lifts, combine journeys etc when driving and are considering car share this year. Public transport? We are lucky to have the bus service from Wivey to Taunton and out the other way to Dulverton etc. It takes a lot more time and planning to use it. I think an electric bike would be a preferable option to public transport if I can afford the investment. But my children use the bus, it's a great option in bad weather and it would not be good to cut services"*
- *"I'm trying to set up a car share scheme within my village"*
- *"You should mention the IT industry. Their massive data banks that we use whenever we do a search etc use massive amounts of energy"*

Q6. Tell us about any climate change related local initiatives, projects or events that would be good for us to know about

This question gave respondents the opportunity to tell us about things already being done out in the community. The intention was that this might highlight particular actions or projects that we could look to reflect, support and potentially seek to enable expansion of through our Action Plan. A large number of ideas were suggested with multiple ideas being put forward by some respondents. Some were unspecific and referred simply to general actions such as "planting trees", but many identified a specific project which are listed below.

- *"Re-imagining the Levels"*
- *"Forestry England ongoing management/expansion of woods in Somerset"*
- *"The local shop stocks some things that can be refilled there"*

- *"I've recently found out about Terra cycle and now collect the items they will send for recycling and drop them off at Compass disability in Taunton"*
- *"We should have more 'repair cafes' like the monthly one in Wivey"*
- *"PC supporting bus costs"*
- *"Wellington Transition Town bus map"*
- *"Langford Budville cinema is screening two climate change related films over the next few months"*
- *"Wiveliscombe Action on Climate Change"*
- *"Use of local magazine, RoundAbout to inform and encourage"*
- *"Climate Action Athelney is working in the North Curry, Stoke St Gregory, Lyng and Burrowbridge area to highlight the effects climate change and to encourage the public to help reduce these effects"*
- *"Transition Town Wellington is doing lots to increase wild life and local food as well as helping run the Repair cafe for reuse and recycle"*
- *"Active XR group working also on tree planting, supporting schools in developing Green Flag status; & lots more"*
- *"Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council ... recently passed climate emergency resolution. I will be seeking to involve us locally in support of SW&T's plans"*
- *"Extinction Rebellion Wivey... Current projects include: Community Woodland initiative (tree planting / wilding; Community plastic recycling initiative until kerbside catches up; Many events locally to raise awareness of climate change and what we can all do now; Climate Crisis Hub opened to offer Information, Actions and Solutions; Action group concerned regarding lack of eco credentials in Kingsmead new build"*
- *"Setting up of Community Benefit Society in Wiveliscombe and 10 Parishes with the aim of buying land and managing it for wildlife and tree planting"*
- *"Sustainable Roadwater"*
- *"WWT Steart Wetlands - nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation along a dynamic coastline. High biodiversity and other benefits (including carbon sequestration) arise from a change in land management and accommodation of natural processes"*
- *"Holnicote Estate. Catchment-based land management to deliver a range of ecosystem services including adaptation to climate change and reduction in carbon emissions"*
- *"A good example of an innovative circular economy business in West Somerset is the collaboration between BIOHM and the Onion Collective in Watchet that aims to use fungus to consume locally wasted resources to grow materials for construction"*

Action prioritisation by workstream

Respondents were presented with five summarised ideas for action for each workstream and asked *"Which two ideas do you think should be priorities"* for each workstream. The tables below give the results of these questions. Where "Other" was checked respondents provided further details. Respondents were also asked to state if there was anything they thought had been missed or should be added, and to state any concerns or worries about the ideas outlined in each workstream.

Transport

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
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Electrifying transport options and meeting that demand through renewable energy	15	58%
Supporting Taunton Park & Ride, reopening Wellington Train Station and exploring innovative urban and rural transport options	13	50%
Developing new routes and pedestrian zones that make walking and cycling the preferred choice	11	42%
Other	10	38%
Enabling people to reduce the amount they need to travel (e.g. through better digital connectivity)	5	19%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"Open rail links from Minehead to Taunton"*
- *"Construct cycle routes along/on A39"*
- *"All of the above are critical."*
- *"More school buses to reduce cars on the road"*
- *"Make the existing road network safe for non-vehicular traffic"*
- *"The best way to reduce travel is to provide work places and more facilities such as shops near to and within residential areas"*
- *"Concentrate new housing near to larger existing urban rather than in rural areas so providing better connectivity with existing and more efficient infrastructure"*
- *"It would be great to have a scheme where people can book an electric car for when they need one. My car sits outside my house sometimes for days and I would consider getting rid of it if I knew I could book a car when I needed one"*
- *"Much better local transport from county to urban areas and conveyor belt type public transport from park and ride to town centre"*
- *"Ban diesel vehicles in town centre except deliveries and put up parking charge to encourage use of park and ride"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Transport, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Ensuring new housing development prioritises walking, cycling and public transport, requires no cars, include local shops and services and are built near jobs;
- Enabling car-sharing car clubs and bike/e-bike clubs;
- Ensuring solutions don't disproportionately adversely affect certain groups;
- Tackling home deliveries;
- Reducing risks to pedestrians and cyclists;
- Reducing costs of public transport;
- Ensuring action applies across the district (not just Taunton and the M5 corridor);
- Tackling extravagant and polluting behaviours of the most well-off (e.g. private helicopters and travelling to second homes);
- Enabling holidaymakers to use public transport;
- Accurately measuring progress;
- Changing our collective mindset and economic model to slow down and travel less.

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Difficult to understand how transport could practically be tackled in a rural area with low population density;

- How will it be funded?
- Could be unintended consequences (e.g. re-opening Wellington Station could increase traffic on local roads and make it easier to commute longer distances);
- Any action we take locally is futile unless Russia, China and India make great strides;
- Not feasible in the allotted time frame;
- The furthest reaches of the district will be left behind;
- Car parking costs at stations on top of train ticket costs only encourages car use;
- Long distance bus/coach services need better connectivity;
- Reducing the need to travel could kill off town centres;
- The measures regarding reducing the need to travel do not go far enough;
- EVs and digital connectivity still have carbon and environmental footprints associated with them.

Energy

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Building new cases for renewable energy like wind, solar and biomass	19	73%
Developing a Somerset Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	8	31%
Enabling and raising awareness of local community energy projects	8	31%
Other	7	27%
Providing advice for reducing and shifting energy demand	7	27%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"If a "core" energy mix could be supplied by Nuclear/Gas, battery recharging and some supply could be met with wind/solar"*
- *"Heavy energy users such as large businesses and factories need to play their part in providing alternative power sources for their consumption"*
- *"Energy generation needs to become more localised"*
- *"Obligatory solar panels on the roofs of all the business buildings and all new builds"*
- *"Wind turbines and solar farms are ugly and despoil the landscape. Surely biomass is the way to go? One step further would be to use treated, composted sewage (a renewable and plentiful resource) to power biomass sites. We are also a tidal community, so I would think that investment in tidal stream should be investigated and pursued"*
- *"Provide grants to enable homes to reduce reliance on fossil fuel energy"*
- *"There should be active support for reducing and shifting energy demand, as well as advice"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Energy, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Targeting updating of outdated products/machinery;
- Supporting large scale renewables rather than small scale local initiatives;
- Avoiding the growth of crops simply to feed Anaerobic Digesters and Biomass plant;
- Exploring use of waste heat;
- Mandating all new builds to be energy efficient and incorporate solar PV;

- Targeting energy efficiency of existing and new buildings;
- Considering hydrogen vehicles;
- Investing in tidal energy of the Bristol Channel;
- Educating and encouraging the public on reducing energy consumption;

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Nuclear should be the main focus to quickly reduce fossil fuel dependency until battery storage is more efficient to enable solar and wind;
- Scepticism about smart meters;
- How will this all be funded?
- Concern about the environmental impacts associated with EV batteries;
- Wind turbines and solar farms will despoil the countryside and threaten habitats;
- All home energy grants have dried up;
- We don't need any more strategies;
- Prioritise energy reduction over switching supply;
- Hinkley Point needs greater focus on how it can be safely managed both on site and in terms of waste produced.

Built Environment

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Retrofitting homes and advising home owners on changes they can make	13	50%
Ensuring new buildings achieve zero carbon emissions as soon as possible	13	50%
Locating new developments sustainably, close to transport and services	11	42%
Planting trees and re-wilding urban spaces to increase well-being	11	42%
Other	4	15%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"There are hundreds of thousands of homes laying empty across this country yet the councils are forced by this government to allow developers almost carte blanche when it comes to building. This has to stop"*
- *"Ensure all new developments make it possible to live car free"*
- *"All four are equally important"*
- *"Stop over building. Build smaller developments. Spot build. Use brown field sites only."*
- *"New homes should be carbon-neutral NOW, not some time in the future and they should be built in sustainable areas close to workplace"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Built Environment, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Requiring holistic sustainability improvements to new development (e.g. rainwater recycling, locally sourced and sustainable materials);
- Requiring improved stewardship of trees, hedgerows and habitats in developments;
- Improving Council-owned buildings;

- Any zero carbon standards must also apply to new homes constructed under Permitted Development rights;
- Bringing empty homes back into use and greater control over second and under-occupied homes;
- Being honest about the climate risks in coastal and floodplain areas and planning for appropriate responses including adaptation and potentially abandonment/moving;
- Taking a brownfield first policy approach;

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Building fewer homes is not presented as an option;
- "As soon as possible" is too vague;
- Concerned that building on greenfield sites has not been ruled out;
- How will this be funded?

Natural Environment

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Planting more trees and sowing more wildflower meadows	16	62%
Working with landowners to enhance vulnerable habitats	14	54%
Empowering residents and communities to deliver local wildlife projects	8	31%
Other	7	27%
Introducing less intensive practices in managing Council owned space	6	23%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"Stop destroying existing habitats through development"*
- *"Sumps are needed upstream to allow the sediment to settle before the water proceeds downstream. This would also help prevent flooding. Planting trees around the sump areas and making wetlands would help further"*
- *"Vulnerable habitats tend to fall under the radar and need more help from a central body"*
- *"The Council could save considerable amounts by adopting less intensive practices and invest these back into the other initiatives"*
- *"Protect ancient woodland"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Natural Environment, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Stopping fly-tipping and the environmental impacts this brings;
- Working with local farmers to enable less intensive practices and deliver ecosystem services;
- Requiring environmental net gain from new developments ASAP;
- Stopping use of herbicides and pesticides in Council practices and encouraging others to do the same;
- Stopping excessive cutting of verges and flailing of hedges;
- Improving the linkages between climate and wildlife/biodiversity action;
- Stopping recreational use of ATVs and scramble bikes in the countryside;

- Make specific reference to new duties placed on the Council through the Environment Bill (e.g. Nature Recovery Networks and enhancing biodiversity);
- Using Nature-based catchment management to bring multiple benefits for biodiversity and communities (e.g. Holnicote Estate);
- Prioritising the environment over profit.

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Road safety and maintenance concerns of planting on roundabouts and verges;
- Efforts on Council land may detract from wider scale of change necessary;
- Conflict between growth/development plans and protection of natural environment;
- Not nearly ambitious enough;
- Not enough consideration of habitats and natural areas at risk from impacts of climate change;
- Beware unintended consequences of thoughtless responses that may contribute to biodiversity losses.

Waste

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Diverting remaining waste away from landfill to energy generation projects	16	62%
Reducing supply chain waste in key areas, like the public sector	16	62%
Creating campaigns to help us all reduce plastic use	8	31%
Working with business to develop joint waste schemes	7	27%
Other	4	15%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"Somerset has been banging on for years about increasing our recycling at the kerbside. This is impossible when the recycling teams REFUSE to take things which are supposedly on the recycling lists"*
- *"A more comprehensive Kerbside waste collection scheme. People are lazy but if the option to recycle a wider set of products at the kerbside they are more likely to do it"*
- *"All of the above. This shouldn't be an either or option"*
- *"More could be done on food waste--too large a proportion still goes to landfill"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Waste, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Communicating information about what is being recycled;
- Enabling greater levels of plastic recycling in kerbside collections and publicising Terra Cycle scheme;
- Pressing for investigation into alternatives to plastic packaging;
- Ensuring policies do not inadvertently discourage responsible recycling (e.g. costs of recycling some items);
- Providing public recycling bins especially in sensitive and coastal areas;
- Focusing on reducing business waste;
- Moving away from the concept of waste and an economic model based on growth and limitless consumption to more circular processes where everything is re-used, recycled or re-purposed and using this to build a green economy;

- Stopping burning of waste on bonfires;
- Working to stop and educate about the impacts of fly-tipping;
- Opening more village/local based recycling sites from 'green' waste;

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- The carbon and climate impact of recycling is low and should be a lower priority;
- Beware of unintended consequences of waste to energy which may detract from work towards adoption of more circular processes;
- We should be aiming to recycle/re-use everything;
- Too many campaigns, not enough action;
- Careful not to introduce more red tape and restrict productivity and efficiency of businesses

Farming and Food

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Land management techniques that reduce emissions and protect wildlife	18	69%
Improving understanding about the importance of buying local produce	12	46%
How we reduce reliance on the use of plastics in food packaging	9	35%
Supporting farmers in adapting to the impacts of climate change	8	31%
Other	7	27%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"Encourage and support a return to more sustainable farming methods, with smaller scale more diverse farms"*
- *"Educate people so they are aware of the deleterious impact of soy, almond and the other non dairy 'milks' being sold"*
- *"Moving to organic farming would enable massive increases in the soil acting as a carbon sink"*
- *"Currently cheap food (high sugar, highly processed, intensively farmed) could be heavily taxed"*
- *"Supporting community supported agriculture"*
- *"If our soils are so exhausted that they only have a few harvests left in them we should maybe consider assisting in the introduction of soil restoring crops like hemp which are also profitable; fats growing carbon sink crops such as bamboo; smaller fields, more trees and hedgerows to help wildlife and mitigate flooding and soil erosion; more garden crops to feed the local community and provide food security and fewer food miles, less need for packaging"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Farming and Food, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Recognising the importance of properly managed hedgerows;
- Supporting farmers markets and development of local routes from farm to plate;
- Encouraging more allotments and community growing spaces;

- Promoting practices that avoid use of pesticides and herbicides;
- Encouraging healthy and sustainable diets with reduced dependence on carbon intensive and processed foods and increasing plant-based diets;
- Slowing the flow of water towards the river network by changing farming practices to reduce run-off and soil erosion and planting more trees;
- Encouraging reduction of food waste;
- Restoring peat bogs;
- Exploring the potential for seaweed farming which sequester carbon and provide good marine habitats;
- Helping farmers to diversity crops and livestock, moving to away from large scale industrial monocultures to micro and small scale regenerative sustainable farming systems;
- Tackling poor diets in children;
- Basing the Action Plan in the recommendations of the CCC report 'Land Use: Policies for a Net Zero UK' to include improving low carbon farming practices; afforestation and agro-forestry; restoring peatlands; expanding growing of bioenergy crops; and reducing consumption of the most carbon-intensive foods;
- Encouraging and incentivising a transition to plant-based farming;
- Prioritising the health of our soils to enable sustainable food production, carbon capture and protect against drought and flooding.

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Farmers won't listen, are not interested in protecting wildlife and will simply grow what is viable;
- No normal person can afford to buy local, force supermarkets to sell at reasonable prices;
- People don't rely on plastics in food packaging, it is forced on them;
- Ideas are short of ambition, too amorphous and undefined;
- Farmers will need assurance that they will be able to continue to be financially viable;
- There is much here beyond the remit of the Council and lies with the Government's replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy, which the Council can lobby on;
- Farmers need help, support and positivity to change, not criticism;
- Careful not to introduce more red tape;
- People need educating not to waste food;

Water

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Increasing use of sustainable urban drainage systems in developments	14	54%
Delivering flood alleviation improvements and coastal erosion management	14	54%
Harnessing the energy generating potential of water treatment processes	12	46%
Other	7	27%
Working with businesses with significant water usage to reduce their consumption	3	12%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"Stop all building on flood plains"*
- *"Have catchment management member organisations to enable upstream and downstream land owners and water users to cooperate - the Parrott catchment used to have this, maybe it still does"*
- *"Using natural flood reduction processes, e.g. Beavers etc."*
- *"look into natural flood alleviation i.e. re-wilding and replanting up river provides natural flood prevention down river at a fraction of the financial and carbon cost of built versions and defences"*
- *"Encourage tree planting on higher land to soak up heavy rain and slowdown runoff into rivers. As UK exports much lamb to EU it now seems likely trade will reduce so land use change from lamb production to tree planting will help reduce methane emissions, increase carbon sequestration and reduce flood risk"*
- *"Harnessing the energy generating potential of water GENERALLY"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Water, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Improving fresh water storage capacity;
- Delivering more accessible green space that can also act as flood storage like Longrun Meadow in Taunton;
- Requiring grey and rainwater water re-use in new developments and enabling more in existing buildings;
- Providing more information about and encouragement for water conservation;
- Cleaning up our rivers;
- Referring to Natural Flood Management solutions at catchment scales;
- Enforcing SUDS;
- Increase capacity of reservoirs;
- Being honest about the climate risks in coastal and floodplain areas and planning for appropriate responses including adaptation and potentially abandonment/moving;
- Reducing water consumption and improving land management in agriculture;

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Forcing water companies to do things will lead to bills increases, so bills need to be capped;
- What are the relative impacts of harnessing energy from water treatment?
- Building flood defences is not always the most sustainable option, sometimes we should consider whether these areas are the right places for development long-term;
- Overbuilding increases pressure on flood prone areas;
- SUDS must be maintained for their entire lifetime to ensure they remain efficient;
- Too much money will be spent on flood defences and they won't work;
- Not ambitious enough;
- Specifications should assume 'worse case scenarios' as precise impacts of climate change remain unclear;
- Beware unintended consequences of thoughtless responses that may contribute to loss of nationally important geology through coastal erosion

Business, Industry and Supply Chain

Survey Priorities	Total	Percent of respondents prioritising
Changing Council procurement processes to engage sustainable suppliers	14	54%
Sharing best practice and championing businesses that make positive changes	13	50%
Increasing the resilience of small businesses affected by changes	12	46%
A business toolkit to help reduce emissions from supply chains	8	31%
Other	2	8%

Comments under "Other" included:

- *"What exactly does all this mean?"*
- *"Encourage consumer buying groups at a local level"*

In terms of things which respondents felt had been missed in relation to Business, Industry and Supply Chain, respondents identified that the workstream should concentrate on:

- Financially supporting small businesses (especially on high streets) to ensure communities remain sustainable;
- Resolving the fact that for many workers the only way to get to work is by car;
- Setting more rules around business operation, with less reliance upon the market to incentives and self-regulate itself, with costs of climate damage built into cost-benefit scenarios;
- Working with Government to ensure co-ordinated top-down and bottom-up strategies;
- Reducing council tax for green industries;
- Promoting local retailers that support greener goods to encourage retailers to stock more;
- Streamlining and restricting deliveries on a daily basis to consolidate and limit number of delivery vehicles on the roads;
- Encouraging growth in environmental professionals to help deliver the actions of this plan is a real economic and social opportunity;

In terms of concerns with the ideas raised, respondents highlighted:

- Increasing internet deliveries will have a major impact, what can be done to ensure they only use electric or zero carbon vehicles?;
- The ideas are very minimal and amorphous;
 - We need a truly circular economy which re-localises and looks towards self-sufficiency of supply chains at all scales;
 - The proposals could result in too much red tape and frighten businesses off rather than encouraging them in;
 - Action should be guided by 'just transition' principles.

Emailed comments

A small number of emailed comments (seven) were received. These are broadly summarised in the table below:

Respondent	Summary of comments
Individual responses (four)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shops leaving their doors open with heat / air conditioning on is a major waste of energy. Taunton should lead a national initiative to re-introduce a level playing field where no shops leave their doors wide open and instead display clear notices to welcome people in. • The populace needs to be forced to take action. Increased tax etc. • Council to reduce heating in ALL buildings by 3 deg. (especially hospitals). • Schools, hospitals, Council offices etc. Remove ALL beef products from menus. (As an interim, use minced lamb instead). • Schools, hospitals, Council offices etc. Do not use ANY food that has been air freighted. • Use video conferencing where journeys would exceed 10 miles. • For Central Government:-Individual Tax on journeys by air that exceed 1 per person per year, ESPECIALLY business trips. • For Central Government:- Make representation on governments that continue to allow export of coal (Germany, Australia etc) I have given up eating beef at all and no holidays by air – travel by train – cheaper, no airport hassle & enjoys the view] • Ensure that ALL lighting has been retrofitted with LED sources. • For Central Government:- Impose import limits on beef. • For Central Government:- Impose import limits on wood from S. America (Brazil!) • No more ice rinks in town centre, VERY environmentally unfriendly. • Be clear about which responsibilities lie with SWT and which with SCC; • All potential actions should be time-bound and measure carbon reduced; • SWT and SCC should jointly employ a data scientist and team to sit independently of the Councils to advise on how it would be possible for the SWT area to be carbon neutral by 2030, then this plan consulted on; • Local Plan seems to suggest that housing and employment growth are a given because of the housing crisis, but is this crisis more important than the climate emergency? • Only truly affordable and social housing should be built and it should have highest levels of insulation; no individual parking; no individual boilers but connection to a district wide heating and power system; solar panels or wind turbines; builder contributions used to support electric mini-buses to get people into areas of work and leisure; retail shops to support living needs etc. • People who need affordable housing already have jobs so don't need new employment opportunities; • SWT should ask Government for its share of money from energy company obligations and use it to retrofit all older properties; • Suggests a survey of where people travel or need to go within the district and how services could change to persuade them to take the bus or train rather than car; • Suggests that Taunton Bus Station should be retained and upgraded with retail units rather than sold off and using a 'virtual bus station'; • Transport is the area the Council can exert most influence and should be the centre piece of efforts. • Bus service should be brought 'in-house' and reinstate evening slots; • Houses should have a minimum of ten solar panels on roofs; • Conservation farming should be encouraged; • It is already possible and practical to ensure new buildings achieve zero carbon emissions, "as soon as possible" should be deleted.
Tertulia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would expect the Council to pursue solar and wind opportunities without the need for consultation;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing numbers of EV charging points will benefit those who can afford to buy one, but hinges on gaining wide acceptance and understanding of the phasing out of combustion engines; • The Council should encourage retailers to shut their doors to avoid wasted energy for heating; • The Council should proactively begin removing ash trees suffering from Ash Die Back now using our own workforce, subsidised by the income generated by selling the wood for use in power stations and others using wood fuel, rather than waiting and having to pay out for expensive contractor tree surgeons; • Our public transport model is out of date and under-used. Look at the Wivey Link model as an alternative; • The Council's planning department is understaffed and overstretched, leading to developers becoming their own regulators. Hire more planners and re-define their purpose as to serve people's needs more effectively; • If houses must be built on flood plains, why not design them as flood resistant, with habitable rooms higher than floodwater levels; • More resources, either borrowed or taxed, are necessary to effect change; • Focus on the 'low hanging fruit' in early stages and don't introduce rules you cannot enforce compliance with; • Revise the Council's terms of reference to more overtly express and obligation to pay due care to the natural environment in all activities, starting with an audited environmental section in the Annual Report and accounts; • Should begin to decarbonise the investment profile of the LA Pension Scheme; • Think of ways to reward pro-environment behaviours e.g. car share members pay less parking.
Stoke St Mary PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only actions necessary to reduce emissions and which can be affected by local action should be prioritised; • Dealing with the effects of climate change which will be felt locally should be a focus of the Councils; • Transport emissions from M5 and other major roads and railway will be difficult for Councils to affect change in. Remaining emissions are from local traffic but we are a rural county. More walking, cycling and electric buses are good but will make limited impacts. Time and money spent on transport schemes will be wasted unless forensically targeted and will be small in overall impact; • Main issue with emissions from new housing is embodied carbon – accounts for 11% of all UK emissions. There is a serious conflict in ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and drive to build 300,000 homes per year; • Over life of a house embodied carbon is in excess of 0.6 tonnes per square metre, about 50 tonnes. Associated infrastructure adds up to another 40 tonnes per dwelling. • If climate were the only agenda, we would stop building new houses and use existing stock to house the growing population, but it is not, so we must find ways to reduce or offset the impacts of new homes; • Housebuilders should re-use existing materials, switch to sustainable materials like timber, and not build on greenfield sites, thereby reducing infrastructure requirements and maintaining soil carbon sinks; • Should follow example of Brighton City Council who require measurement of embodied carbon in new development; • Offsetting requires either an awful lot of trees or a rooftop solar array larger than most new roofs;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils should: be sourcing their own electricity from green sources; supporting development of Hinkley Point; looking proactively at sites for wind, perhaps associated with Hinkley; and looking at being one of the first to introduce hydrogen into the gas mix; • Councils should: assess energy efficiency of council housing stock and raise through simple measures; encourage housing associations to do same; and publicise results to encourage private owners to do same.
Taunton Transition Town	<p>TTT submitted three separate documents: 1. Relating to SWT's Framework, 2. Relating to the Somerset Framework, and 3. Relating to both documents. This summary reflects the response to SWT's framework and where signposted parts of the response to both documents. All three documents had relevant comments within them though.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council must commit to specific tasks and actions; • Glad to see the Council taking positive steps on actions it can get on with alongside strategy production; • Highlight who is responsible for each action (many likely SCC not SWT); • Hope can trust the Council to use <u>all</u> of its powers as suggested; • Would be good for the living delivery plan to have six-monthly updates; • Careful including offsetting that they aren't double counted by others and that have sufficient control; • All consumption emissions need to be included within scope; • Each section should have CO₂ emissions figure, and each initiative should have a likely saving of CO₂ to enable the council and the public to see the likely impact of actions, and likelihood of achieving targets; • Suggested measures to monitor: % of journeys / commutes / school runs by public transport and active travelling; % of Journeys possible by public transport / active travelling; % of waste recycled (including public litter bins and own estate); % of tree covered land; % of homes well insulated; % of homes on efficient eco or electrical heating systems; % of energy generated from renewable sources; • Measures of wellbeing / happiness are often more important to individuals than economic measures; • Need SMART targets (inc. interim targets) and progress graphs in interim progress reports; • Consider how can raise funds locally to invest in this work e.g. through workplace parking levies, UK municipal bonds agency, S106, CIL, licensing of private rented sector; • Divest from fossil fuels, invest in renewable and sustainable investment; • Require higher standards of new build homes than building regulations; • Utilise the 'Transport for New Homes' checklist in planning to support wider transport objectives and move away from narrowly prescribed transport assessments focusing on capacity and road safety; • Beware the rebound effect where energy efficiency savings cause us to use technology more, which could be seen on a large scale with EVs; • Switch street lighting to LED; • When switching electricity provider, choose your supplier carefully to ensure it actually increases renewable energy produced; • Continue to oppose fracking and other fossil fuel extraction; • Not just food miles that matter, also how it has travelled and artificial heat used. Need an education strategy on this and shops to provide basic information so public can make informed choices; • Pasture fed locally reared beef and lamb have much lower footprints than imported or industrially farmed meat. Labelling standards needed; • Use farming colleges to help with research and education; • Look at more allotments with hubs to borrow/hire tools;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses should adopt a three part environmental strategy: 1. Improve their own impact from own buildings and supply chain, switching to renewable energy and divesting from fossil fuels; 2. Enabling others to improve their own impact; and 3. Lobbying Government for carbon constraints in global carbon deals and industry standards; • Embed natural capital consideration into all decisions; • Ensure all woodland is protected , given the chance to recover and expanded – existing woodland better at sequestering CO₂ than new planting; • When planting trees consider secondary purposes such as coppicing, fruit trees, nut trees, low density grazing, or leisure activity; • Support idea of using sustainable transport hierarchy so long as it means they do gain priority over car infrastructure – we must stop investing in increasing road capacity (which is proven to encourage more driving and fill up again) and instead invest in active travel and public transport instead; • Suggest a cycle route from Galmington to Huish College; • Actively constraining road space can help reduce speeds and traffic flows in town; • Fully support pedestrianisation in Taunton and other towns as appropriate; • Explore methane capture from waste and use in energy generation; • Improve recycling from public litter bins; • Flats should have the same waste collections as houses; • Explore use of 5 star scale for businesses operating high environmental management and waste standards; • Identify high waste families and support/encourage to recycle more; • Improve public litter bins to reduce losses to the environment; • Can we separate and send dog bin waste to Anaerobic Digester and capture the methane? • Aim for zero waste to landfill or incineration; • Require Council suppliers to use a minimum % recycled product; • Poster / campaign to highlight plastic litter issue; • Think big and act early in terms of communities and areas at biggest risk of flooding/coastal change. Where is unsustainable to protect? • Be clear about the roles of organisations in relation to flooding issues; • Ensure new development does not adversely affect flood risk and brings forward benefits; • Don't over emphasise the carbon footprint of cold water; • Need to reach all sections of community, not just those already engaged in the subject matter; • Consider carbon literacy training for communities; a community eco awards celebrating action in the community; poster design competition; conduct an annual survey; organise a 'green week'.
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You said, we did, what next?

The comments received through the consultation have directly informed development of the CNCR Action Plan. We have considered all comments received and applied professional judgement as to whether or not they merit changes in approach from that set out in the Framework or in the case of specific ideas, whether or not they are something we could or should explore. In some cases this has resulted in specific suggestions or specific community ideas/projects being directly reflected in proposed actions for delivery, support or enablement, in others it has resulted in a shift of emphasis. But not everything suggested was deemed to be relevant, realistic or appropriate, and some things, whilst in principle would be good ideas, are simply not possible for us to do locally or as quickly as some may like.

Importantly, we have listened to the overwhelming sentiment that the public want us to get moving on delivering against our climate emergency declaration and taking important climate actions seriously, and to work with communities to deliver meaningful action and change. As such, we have actively chosen to scrap plans for a second round of consultation on a draft action plan, in favour of developing an annually reviewed Y1 Action Plan and Y2+ route map, and establishing a local multi-agency Climate Emergency Task Force to aid collaboration, delivery and implementation with key stakeholders. There will be an open dialogue with our communities that helps to review and develop local action and climate responses as we move forward on delivering against the declaration.

We intend to use the Climate Emergency Task Force as the primary means to collaborate and drive greater public and community involvement in climate action in the district. However, as the actions identified in the Action Plan progress into project business cases and then delivery there will in many cases be further opportunities for specific and targeted public consultation.