

Eco Audit action plan - Sawbridgeworth Town Council

Top 10 priorities identified in 3 Acorns report

19C/25C heating/cooling settings; 21C in Hailey

Heating/AC off in parts of building less occupied

Energy saving computer settings; use LED lighting; install light movement sensors

Switch to 100% green energy tariff

Updated job specifications/training and 'green' purchasing procedures

Biodiversity action plan for cemetery etc. (with Wildlife Trust)

Electric vehicle transition plan (purchase and charging)

Town zero carbon plan (part of Town Action Plan)

Explore solar panel options

Office waste/recycling system (lobby EHDC)

Appoint Green Champion (as well as working group?) to support Town Clerk in audit implementation; Green Champion for events?

Include eco audit as standing agenda item at staff, full council meetings and via annual reports (town/council)

02/11/2020 update

- o AC system not being used especially as it recirculates “bad” air
- o Heating is by recommended electric panels
- o Cooling is by opening windows
- Clerk confirmed these actions had been taken
- o Heating/AC in chamber turned on and off manually as appropriate
- Clerk confirmed these actions had been taken
- o computer energy savings set
- o LED fittings used as replacements when current fittings expire
- o Light movement sensors already fitted in the appropriate places
- Clerk confirmed these actions had been taken
- o Currently in year 2 of a 3 year contract with British Gas.
- o Prices and choices are improving, will research with companies such as “Green” before next renewal
- Clerk confirmed these actions had been taken
- o All staff aware of the Green agenda
- o A rider to their contracts of employment emphasising their responsibilities will be issued
- Clerk confirmed these actions had been taken
- o Cemetery manager in touch with the Wildlife Trust
- o Meadow mixture has been purchased and has been sown
- o Publicity photos and an article will be sent to the BS Independent
- o Grant application on STC’s behalf by EHDC was unsuccessful
- o Suggestion that more grants will become available, officers to monitor availability
- o EV charging points in the Bell Street car park were promised by EHDC by end of December 2019
- o Appears to be a delay in the granting of way-leaves by the Property Services Department EHB reported that four additional lawyers were being recruited by EHDC which might speed up the process
- o Clerk responded to request by EHDC for other recommended locations. Town Station, Shell Garage site, school car parks, public houses and the library/Memorial Hall were suggested
- o Phase Two of the EcoAudit. Clerk to contact 3 Acorns to arrange one-year review, already paid for – and seek proposal for town wide survey
- o School Streets initiative to be pursued. Agreed that this would be difficult to implement in Sawbridgeworth because of the location of the schools
- o Agreed that efforts on this subject should be included on the town council web-site
- o Not practical on STC building as shielded by trees
- o Suggestion of installation on Hailey Centre roof
- o Investigate with recommended Solarbarn company of Saffron Walden. Clerk said this had not yet been pursued
- o Question of financial payback thought to be a stumbling block
- o Office waste collections have been suspended during the current coronavirus pandemic
- o Opportunity to apply from recycling waste bin when collections are resumed
- Clerk confirmed these actions had been taken
- o This was not thought to be appropriate initially but now agreed that Cllr Furnace should be the Green Champion
- o Audit to be maintained collectively by this working party
- o Information and activities to be publicised on the STC website
- o Standing item on Amenities committee agendas. Clerk confirmed this action had been taken
- o Agreed that in future there should be a meeting of this working party quarterly, two weeks in advance meetings of the Amenities Committee, so that the committee can be send the notes of the working party