

Pontesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Climate Change Workshop – 31st July 2020

Draft write-up and workshop outputs – for agreement by workshop attendees

On 31st July 2020 Pontesbury neighbourhood planning group held a public workshop facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, looking at the likely predicted impacts of climate change within and beyond the plan period, and the actions and policies necessary to deliver a zero carbon, climate adapted future. CSE gave an introductory presentation on the likely impacts of climate change and the UK's current legal commitments to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 and posed the question:

“Imagine its 2050. We have cut carbon emissions to nothing and have a stable climate. What have we done to achieve this? How have we adapted Pontesbury to reduce carbon emissions and how have we adapted to the impacts of climate change?”

The workshop was attended by 20 people, comprising: local residents and members of the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group and from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Draft Group ideas and outputs

The group as a whole suggested the actions and policies on the following page and agreed them prior to the close of the workshop. The outputs have been tidied into the table below for ease of reference, but have not been altered. I have however added comments in yellow highlighted italics suggesting clarification, which the group can accept or reject when the minutes are circulated.

Resilience to Extreme Weather and protecting biodiversity	Our Buildings	Transport/service provision (Inc. employment) and location of development	Energy (electricity and heat)
- Water scarcity: by 2050 every house will have a water butt, every new house with greywater-harvesting (more efficient water-reuse systems). Similar systems already in place in rural AUS: tanks need to be underground in future? - Permeable/porous pavements - to improve drainage and runoff - Green space: protected, growing, expanding. Already lots of space in and around Pontesbury to maintain and manage responsibly. Managing in a way that encourages biodiversity: rewilding, not overly-manicured. Existing 2036 plan already limits potential building d'ment in future: already some good progress on this. Potential for more afforestation in future. - Other green space: verges, hedgerows - maintaining wildlife access, crossings etc. - Education around biodiversity: awareness/celebration of local biodiversity taught to young people. Growth of similar initiatives to local forest school existing already. - Flooding! Minimising runoff; how can we build flood resilience into the natural landscape without needing actual defences? Limiting new d'ment in particularly vulnerable areas. Attenuation ponds. - Suggestions assume ground is suitable for infiltration - clay soils?	- Stopped using fossil fuels for space heating and for electricity production. - Possibly community owned electricity generation. - Very well insulated - so less need for energy. - Difficult to retrofit (<i>existing historic / traditional buildings?</i>) - New builds need to be carbon neutral from the beginning - Addition of solar panels on new build (<i>or other renewable energy generation?</i>), efficient heating systems. - Not building with concrete - neither foundations nor block work - minimising embodied energy and embodied carbon emissions - Modular housing - short build times, adaptable for a variety of uses, different family uses. - Buildings in keeping with environment/design. - Green space/outdoor spaces for buildings - merging our builds with local environments. Maintaining green space that we already have. - Community buildings - shared use. Ties into transport and local employment. Could be used for start-ups etc.	- Dedicated, safe cycle routes between villages, schools, different service provisions. School children encouraged to cycle. Cycle route to Shrewsbury. Old railway lines could be re-used. Might require buying pieces of land back. - Cycling currently not safe on main roads. - Public transport - buses (electric or hydrogen or biofuel) - Community electric cars - pooled/car club. - Community electric bikes as well. - Localised bus routes that could pick people up from outlying areas that link up the centre to outer villages. - Charging points for electric vehicles. - Community production of food and then distributed locally. - Allotments for local growing. - Public transport: currently an okay bus service but empty at others. More adapted to local needs: smaller buses, flexible schedules. - Local food deliveries? - 170 small businesses in Parish (before Covid) - protecting small businesses + enabling startups - Designated services for commuters: electrical, user-friendly for communities: opening up of the old railway line to Shrewsbury and using	- Well insulated houses (existing) - New housing also well insulated - No fossil fuels for cooking or heating - Solar panels - Community energy generation. - Solar? (<i>Is this solar farms? Are the group happy to confirm this or do you want the bullet point removed? If there isn't consensus, you could leave it in with a question mark for further consideration.</i>) - Wind? (<i>Are the group happy to confirm this or do you want the bullet point removed? If there isn't consensus, you could leave it in with a question mark for further consideration.</i>) - Heat pumps for new builds - ground source - Communal street lighting - switching off at certain times of night, giving dark skies back. Probably room to minimise provision of street lighting, especially in rural areas where they're not in demand. Improved provision of automatic/ambient lighting, movement sensors for cars. - Roof with solar tiles. - Solar farm - community owned. Battery storage for excess? Have to think about how it fits in with local surroundings. - Farmers offering/selling unused fleece for housing insulation. - Hydro projects: potential to make use of local water resources - Domestic lighting: LEDs, timers, sensors.

- Tree planting - for shade, carbon sequestration and flood mitigation - Designing for overheating - shade and resilience to overheating - Not just protect biodiversity but increase it! - Stepping Stones project - become part of it - making corridors for wildlife. Grass verges, hedgerows, personal gardens all play a part. - Use more local green spaces to increase biodiversity, rather than formal planting - Local farmers are on board and are engaged with. - The whole village needs to be more aware of benefits of countryside and what it offers - in terms of biodiversity and climate change. - Could be a tourism 'pull' - a countryside that people want to come and visit and spend time in.	- Reducing energy demand within buildings: physical and cultural. - Lighting: larger windows to minimise daytime lighting; roof natural light tube! - Bathrooms: are baths still going to be a thing? Showers with timers - Heating: renewables at a domestic level: heat pumps. - Houses as self-generating/sustaining units - energy produced and conserved within the house itself. <i>(post meeting note from Dan Stone – this sounds like a Passivhaus, highly insulated, air tight, and low carbon construction, with very little need for energy inputs for heating)</i> - Massive social benefit, esp. For cost-effective affordable housing where fuel poverty an issue. - Community hub in Pontesbury as an exemplar: pavilion as a social hub reflecting/showcasing social/environmental values of the whole community. - Co-op as a local food-hub: distributing waste food to vulnerable etc - fights climate change by minimising waste but also a powerful exemplar. - Creative places for solar/renewables: not only on buildings but in urban fabric (pavements, roads etc) - Houses with EV chargers/technology - Mixed developments: residential, business, commercial, leisure in one space. Bringing things closer together.	as a bus route. The biggest potential improvement. Wider impacts for other local villages that commute to Shrewsbury. How can we improve commercial viability of buses. - Last bus from Shrewsbury town = 6 pm. - Parish covers small hamlets with really poor provision. - School: children walking to school, walking buses (currently running one day a week), improved cycle/pedestrian infrastructure. - The old 'hitching post': how can we recreate these social/environmental benefits → car shares, community responsibility for organising, not reliance on council. Community vehicles? - Waste: zero-waste solutions in place, circular economies, minimising food waste, facilities for clothing swaps/sharing, repair cafes.	- Ensuring new housing as passive as possible. - Anaerobic digestion: technology becoming more efficient, use of local agricultural resources, potential to use at a small-scale, local community hubs, eg. pubs - Battery storage - Working with farming communities: solar, anaerobic sites - Cultural: how can we ensure people use LESS energy?
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	- Shared workspaces: flexible working arrangements to limit need for unused office space - 'drop in', communal, similar to WFH but with communal benefits. Linking this with connectivity and digital inclusion aims. Already some hotdesking happening in community hub. - Guidance about reusing / retrofitting historic buildings - balancing reducing energy consumption and protecting the building. - Demand for bungalows and small houses to allow downsizing		
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CSE's list of policy suggestions

Below is CSE's list of the likely measures and policies necessary to deliver a zero carbon, climate adapted future which the group asked to see. Note that this is not written specifically for your community, and some of these measures might be delivered by your local planning authority. As will be evident, you've already included most of these. I've highlighted those which are not currently included in your list, for your consideration, and would suggest that once you've finalised your list, we delete our list from the record, for clarity. I'd suggest the steering group indicates if they wish to adopt any of CSE's suggestions in Pontesbury's list for agreement by workshop attendees.

Resilience to Extreme Weather and protecting biodiversity	Our Buildings	Transport/service provision (Inc. employment) and location of development	Energy (electricity and heat)
Avoiding areas of future flood risk	All new development to be zero carbon (highly energy efficient in construction, requiring little to no heating, with zero carbon emissions)	Sustainable patterns of development which minimise the need to travel – new development in locations which are accessible to services on foot, by bike and on public transport	Fossil fuels phased out - 100% of electricity from renewable energy sources - no new homes with gas for heating / cooking
All suitable development to have sustainable urban drainage systems to manage flooding and provide habitats for wildlife (also delivering cooling effects)	Retrofit existing housing stock (e.g. historic buildings) to radically reduce energy use / carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty, whilst protecting historic value	Safe, convenient and pleasant walking and cycling routes in new development	Local renewable energy developments maximised – e.g. solar farms, micro hydro, onshore wind, anaerobic digestion.
New development to achieve a net benefit in biodiversity and incorporate wildlife habitat	Encourage sustainable design + construction in new development – e.g. minimise the use of energy + carbon intensive materials – steel, concrete, glass.	- Removing barriers to cycling and walking (existing development) e.g. danger points (Related issue) addressing air pollution in urban areas	Where possible, community aims to provide all its own electricity from local renewable sources and to own some of its energy supply.
- New developments to be resilient to overheating and heat stress - Community and local food growing	All new development to maximise on-site energy generation from renewable sources (e.g. solar panels), with use of on-site electricity storage?	Decarbonise transport – new developments to provide electrical car charging points	Smart houses incorporating battery or other energy storage to enable intermittent renewable electricity supply (e.g. from solar panels) to be stored to match demand
New development to incorporate green roofs and walls to manage flooding and heat stress (especially in urban areas)	Rainwater collection and recycling (greywater systems) to minimise flooding and water use	Maximise local access to services employment + minimise travelling time	Stand-alone energy storage to maximise renewable energy potential
Tree planting / landscaping to manage heat stress (especially in urban areas) and flood risk, provide habitat and mitigate flooding		Measures to safeguarding local shops + facilities and support local high street – to meet peoples needs near where they live	Maximum exploitation of district heating systems in dense urban areas (District heating = communally provided heat, circulated through insulated underground pipes to multiple buildings)

• Safeguarding carbon sinks (e.g. peat bogs) and tree planting for carbon capture		• Measures to support and enable home working	
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Action planning

At the end of the session, we agreed the following actions to take the outputs from the workshop forward. In bold italics are some additional suggestions, which you are welcome to accept or reject.

What action is needed next	Who's going to undertake this	When are they going to complete it
e.g. Write up and circulate draft workshop outputs to all attendees for comment + include Dan stone list of policies	Dan Stone	Week commencing 3rd Aug
Invite attendees to climate emergency action group meeting	Liz Knowles	Mid September
Invite attendees to steering group	Allan H	After Dan S sends minutes.
Look at revised Local Plan re climate issues (and contact Dan Stone to discuss if you like) and setting priorities for NDP	Steering group	Local Plan comes out 3rd August
Dan S to share best practice on local plans	Dan S	Week commencing 3rd Aug
Working with exemplar community in Cheshire (Anna Martin to clarify). Anna to make contact	Anna Martin	
Make contact with local farming community / and Wildlife Trust	Duncan Fletcher - to talk to farmers Anna to talk to wildlife trust	Week commencing 3rd Aug

CPRE - is there any support they can give - housing standards + biodiversity	Susan Lockwood	After Dan S sends minutes.
<i>Suggested additional action – to decide which are planning polices, delivered or funded through decisions on planning applications and subsequent development or community actions and initiatives, running in parallel to the plan, but separate from the planning system</i>	<i>I can help with this - Dan Stone</i>	<i>Once the group has confirmed the workshop outputs.</i>
<i>Suggested additional action – to formulate a strategy for how the workshop outputs can be reflected back to the wider community, to get wider buy-in to your agenda. “We had a workshop where attendees said ... do you agree?” See also our questionnaire picklist which might help with this.</i>	<i>I can help with this - Dan Stone</i>	<i>Once the group has confirmed the workshop outputs.</i>