A Climate Friendly Future for Brimscombe and Thrupp

Community Proposals Workshop Sunday 19th January 2020

Agenda

- 10:30 – Welcome, introduction and ground rules

- 10:40 – Presentation – Context of climate change

- 10:55 – Workshop – Policies and objectives

- 12:00 – Coffee & tea break (and reflection opportunity)

- 12:10 – Finalisation of objectives and what can be done through planning

- 12:20 – Agreeing next steps

Workshop Mission

What would a climate friendly future look like in Brimscombe and Thrupp? What are the opportunities it presents to make our community better and how might this fit into our neighbourhood plan? Attendees were challenged to

> "Imagine its 2050 (or 2035 – choose your own date) and we've solved the climate crisis and are enjoying a safe, stable climate. Look back and describe what you did to reduce emissions and you adapted your neighbourhood in response to the climate crisis."

Workshop Participants

The workshop welcomed participants not only from the Parish of Brimscombe and Thrupp, but also from Standish and Colerne Parish in Wiltshire. The morning was facilitated by Dan Stone of the Centre for Sustainable Development.

Workshop Operation

The desired workshop outputs were an initial list of high level policy objectives, a list of possible community actions and initiatives to sit alongside the plan and an action plan setting out next steps. The outputs are intended to inform the development of the neighbourhood plan and will be used as the basis for wider community engagement and policy writing.

The participants divided into a number of groups, each of whom collected a set of thoughts, considerations and proposals which were documented on flipcharts. These were then shared amongst the other groups and additional points captured.

The shared material was then reviewed and discussed, and next steps actions were assigned. This document is the product of the first action point, to collate and document the workshop output.

Summary of Output

Cultural

- Education/awareness
- 'Don't tell me, Show me' – lead by example
- Less heating, more clothing
- No air travel – local leisure

Transport

- Community ride-sharing schemes ("Local Uber" or the Grenada Model) – flexible transport models rather than rigid traditional timetables
- Community charge points and vehicles
- Cycleways improved for commuting use, not just leisure. Extended to permit micro-EV usage eg personal mobility devices for the elderly/less able
- Improved support for walkers as well as cyclists
- Electric buses (possibly trolley-style with overhead wires on main routes)
- Integration of cycle infrastructure and public transport
- Potential provision of small-scale transport assistance technology such as 'Ski lifts' for cycles
- Canal-based transport: solar powered water bus
- Incentives for personal electric transport such as Pedelecs
- Reduced speed limits: 20mph throughout the Parish
- Priority of walkers/cyclists over vehicles, improved footpaths/safe access across main roads – push for 'Quiet Lane' status
- Extended secure parking for bicycles
- Re-open local halts on railway
- Review Local Transport Plan

Climate

The community will have a very high degree of resilience to extreme weather events. This resilience could be embodied through:

- Natural flood management schemes leveraging the canal and local rivers
- Flood Warden to monitor drainage and ensure preventative measures are implemented
- Highways authority involvement to help improve drainage
- Water management through storage and distribution schemes
- Windbreak schemes
- Tree planting to absorb Carbon Dioxide and absorb excess water, also to increase shading and promote cooling.
- Green walls / roofs wherever possible

Energy

- Widespread micro-generation: solar, micro-hydro, wind turbines on higher ground, water-based heat pumps in the canal, mill pools
- Potential for methane capture from old landfill
- Anaerobic digester fueled from community compost
- Energy storage in hydrogen flow cells
- Improved insulation for existing and new housing, Solar panels on all houses
- Reversed water flow for energy storage
- Electric Vehicles used for energy storage/generation when not being used (Vehicle to Grid Systems)
- Working with an ethically run energy company to research and run on our behalf (Virtual Power Plant)
- Community energy use optimization – distribution of timeslots

Food

- Focus on locally sourced food, organic wherever possible and with minimal food miles
- Farming practices modified to increase carbon sequestration in soils and move away from monocultures
- Maximise availability of local allotments on all available land
- Local landowners to be incentivized to donate land for community food production/growing

Health

- Community local leisure facilities – open swimming at Brimscombe Port
- Localised medical provision – community health centre

Housing

- Domestic rainwater storage systems in use
- Home heating through electricity / heat pumps / green gas
- New-build housing required to meet stringent carbon requirements (Passive Homes)
- Support available for retrofitting green technology to older properties
- Maximise use of insulation & double/triple glazing
- Processes in place for resolving preservation issues with listed properties
- Reduced load on sewage systems through composting toilets

Community

- Local education resources available
- Focus on localism for schools (but noting that falling birth rates may need mitigating as under-use of school places will lead to reduced resource allocation)
- School transport plans
- Community composting schemes
- Community vegetable and seed banks
- Community excess food/resource sharing
- Mobile library service

Natural Environment

Characterised by

- Community tree planting schemes with local involvement
- Preservation of wildlife through appropriate habitats (e.g. dead trees being left for insects etc.)
- Wildflower meadows
- Re-wilding
- Grey water use / water recycling
- Improved hedgerows
- Linked wildlife sites and corridors
- Fewer horses, more trees
- Protection of established woodlands/wild areas

Industry / Enterprise

- Localised production wherever possible – low material miles
- Community resource repair, recovery, and re-use
- Cradle to Cradle view for manufacturing
- Localised provision of all possible services
- Community-owned social enterprises

External References

Deep Adaptation from Professor Jem Bendell: https://jembendell.com/category/deep-adaptation/

Bob the Bus Community Transport from Totnes: http://bobthebus.org.uk

Cradle-to-Cradle design: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cradle-to-cradle_design

Carbon Footprint Calculators

https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

https://www.carbonindependent.org

https://www.resurgence.org/resources/carbon-calculator.html