

BREDFIELD'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY POLICY

Introduction

Climate Change is a global issue, with local impacts. Tackling climate change requires cross-national cooperation and international shifts in business activities, but there are still things that can be done locally. When combined nationally, local strategies can make a significant impact in tackling the climate emergency. Along with many other local councils, Bredfield Parish Council is responding to the climate emergency. To help develop our guiding policy, we canvassed residents and received suggestions on what local actions should and could be taken.

Some actions, such as use of solar energy and reducing carbon emissions, address the issue of global warming directly. Other actions, such as environment care and making the village wildlife-friendly, mainly address the issue of how best to ameliorate the effects of global warming, especially on nature. There are already many positive things that happen locally - solar panels on the Village Hall; a school bus service for local children; an active local wildlife-friendly village group; and much more - so we have made a good start. There is still more that can be done.

The Policy

The actions which Bredfield Parish Council will take in response to the climate emergency will be guided by the following policy. Bredfield Parish Council will:

1. Consider the environmental impact of prospective new buildings in the village, and weigh this consideration in decisions regarding planning applications.
2. Ensure the optimal use of green energy use in local public buildings.
3. Promote greener transport options, through such actions as: lobbying; providing information about local public transport; facilitating and encouraging lift-sharing; providing charging points for electronic vehicles, where appropriate; etc.
4. Encourage and facilitate wildlife-friendly practices in the green spaces and gardens of Bredfield.
5. Provide information for residents (or help direct them to sources of information) about green energy; recycling facilities; repair shops; etc.
6. Encourage local cycling and walking through such things as footpath maps and guides to local nature.
7. Strive to ensure that Bredfield residents enjoy fast and reliable broadband connections which facilitate working from home, where appropriate.
8. Plant trees wherever is appropriate; and protect existing trees.
9. Reduce the use of single-use plastic, and other environmental harmful products, in the Village Shop and at Village Hall events.
10. Encourage local landowners to adopt practices, and take local actions, that will help tackle climate change and reduce adverse impacts on wildlife: engaging with government Environmental Management schemes; ensuring correct hedgerow maintenance; and so on.
11. Provide educational resources that will help individuals and families assess and reduce their carbon footprint.
12. Network with other local authorities and share best practice on ways to tackle climate change.
13. Review and evaluate the actions we take.

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