

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025

Climate Emergency Working Group 2024-2025

CLlr Denise Denis, CLlr Sarah Powell, CLlr Deborah Orrett, CLlr Georgie Robbins, CLlr Gordon Folkard, Maddy Milnes and James Mochrie

Meetings- The Climate Change Working Group has met 4 times in the last 12 months and regularly submitted Reports to the Outsides Spaces Committee.

Climate Emergency Working Group Aims for 2024 (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound).

- i) Enable/support a community event which brings all the organisations together to inform/lead to further actions to help mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.
- ii) Work with Council/Town Hall to ensure energy efficiency of the buildings- Town Hall/Portway Annexe from Climate Budget
- iii) Work with Council/Town Hall Manager/Outside Spaces to review energy efficiency/carbon footprint reductions where possible.

Outcomes from Strategies for 2024- 2025

1. The Climate Change Working Group worked with Local Partners and Organisations within Wells Environment Network (WEN) to organise the WEN showcase event Ecoweek 2024 which was held 11-20 October. Wells City Council provided the venue for the Greener Tomorrow event and funded the publicity materials.
 - Supported Wells Bus Users Group to apply for WCC Community Grant
 - Supported Litter Picking Volunteers led by CLlr Orrett throughout the year.
 - Tor Hill Lane Pilot project continued to be supported by WCC through signage and insurance and Outside Spaces team.
 - Worked with Somerset Wildlife Trust to start the Wells Act to Adapt Draft Plan Consultation
2. £10K allocated reserves held for Climate Change. Spend so far- £673 spend on Ecoweek Publicity. Projects including works to Portway Annexe and Town Hall for energy efficiency have been identified but the total funds are still insufficient to start major works yet. The Climate group would like to recommend that the balance of £14, 327 is carried forward and will be used to make a significant difference to energy efficiency measures in the Town Hall or the Portway Annexe.
3. Outside Spaces Team Reports preparing for Devolution show a commitment to looking at sustainability in the Wells In Bloom plantings timetable and plants used. Machinery and equipment that will be as energy efficient and carbon neutral is currently being considered within budget allocation for Devolution.

CLlr Denise Denis (Chair Climate Emergency Working Group) 10 February 2025