

Sampford Courtenay Environmental and Sustainable Living Plan 2020/2021

Objective - To work, under the 'umbrella' climate action plans of DCC and WDBC, towards mitigating the detrimental effects of modern living on our environment as far as possible and to encourage sustainable living – as individuals, a group and a community.

Aims -

- To increase awareness of the way that our actions and lifestyles impact the world around us
- To adapt aspects of our actions and lifestyles to reduce carbon emissions and other wasteful by-products
- To improve communication between local people, thus facilitating the above and also fostering good community relations generally

Overview

Early in 2020, Sampford Courtenay Parish Council identified a priority to establish a focus/working group to look at and take action on climate/environmental/sustainable living issues.

In June 2020 SCEnSus (Sampford Courtenay Environmental and Sustainable living group) held its first meeting.

SCEnSus identified the following priorities:

	Priority	Intended Outcome / Option	Evidence gathering / Measure	Outcomes Achieved
1	Community garden			
1.1	To create an outside community space that encourages biodiversity	To establish a garden/outside space that is realistically manageable by those able to commit to it. This would be set up and maintained in a way that is environmentally sustainable. It is hoped that this will provide a beautiful and interesting space for events and relaxation. The Village Green and land around the Village Hall are the proposed sites	Following a parish-wide consultation the village green initiative was created through a separate Action Plan	Wild flower garden planted and Large Bug Hotel created as part of the national Great Big Green Week

2	Peat-free initiative			
2.1	To reduce the use of peat-based products within the parish	Greater awareness of the impact of using peat-based products, resulting in many people choosing to use alternatives. For these alternatives to be readily available to buy locally. Maximisation of the production of homemade compost	To present the case for cutting back on peat use, together with offering constructive help/ideas to further this	Sales of Peat Free Compost successfully achieved with participants of the potato growing competition taking part in a peat free class as part of the Parish produce show
3	Community hub			
3.1	To establish good local communication route whereby vehicle use can be minimised and recycling/reuse can be maximised	That a 'communication hub' (online and by telephone) can facilitate lively connections between those with something to offer (time, transport, goods to recycle/reuse) and those who need or would like similar services or goods in the community. This could take the form of sharing car trips, shopping collections and various events to encourage swapping or selling items no longer needed	To arrange events to support this, including a 'recycle and reuse' sale to be held by households (on or outside their property) around the parish. To coordinate communications via information on the parish website, Facebook, other social media, local advertising and by telephone (for those not on line)	A successful recycle & Reuse bring and buy sale undertaken in aid of Roof-us Appeal at the Village Hall. Regular communications re the SCEnSus activities are now routinely published through social media and on line as well as through local publications
4	Reduction of reliance on regular vehicle use where avoidable			
4.1	To keep vehicle trips to a minimum, thus reducing damaging effects on the environment, and to encourage healthy, active forms of transport where possible	That fewer vehicle journeys are made within the parish and that those that are made maximise their potential (e.g. shopping can be procured for several people on one trip etc.). To encourage cycling and walking as alternatives where practicable. Installation of an electric cycle charging point	To seek views on the ways in which local residents are likely to engage with this initiative. To establish (in conjunction with the proposed hub) a simple, easy-to-use structure to facilitate this engagement	See below activity to encourage more use of rail and other public transport facilities

4.2	Support the Sampford Courtenay Station working Group to seek to influence the reopening of the station on the Dartmoor Line	Fewer vehicle journeys both locally and to Exeter Improved public transport network to support the use of the Dartmoor Line avoiding the use of vehicles to and from the stations	Link in to the ongoing Oke Rail Forum meetings To support the members of the SCPC working group in liaison with the rail companies	A joint working group of local Councils have undertaken a survey to ascertain the need and desire for more train use and are working together with WDBC and DCC for improved transport links to the proposed railway stations at Sampford Courtenay and Okehampton
5	Litter			
5.1	To maintain, as far as possible, a litter-free environment around Sampford Courtenay, to minimise the threat to wildlife posed by litter and to keep our surroundings pleasant to live and work in	Minimal levels of litter	To encourage the reporting of significant litter or tipping. To organise an ongoing programme of voluntary litter clearance (excluding A roads). To have a 'design a poster' campaign for younger residents to raise awareness of the issue of litter	Ongoing litter cleans continuing