



# ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2020 – 2023

UPDATED OCTOBER 2020

## Strategy Action Plan – OBJECTIVE 1

Alton Town Council will lead by example, focusing on reducing its own carbon footprint, adopting policies and practices to reduce its consumption of resources and minimise its impact on the environment.

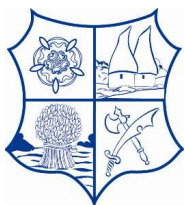
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Actioned by</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Method of Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.1	Undertaking a green audit to cover the entirety of the Town Council's estate and assets.	To establish the current carbon footprint of the council and a baseline for future comparisons, demonstrating ATC as an environmentally responsible organisation	Town Clerk,	£2,000	Report produced by Expert Energy.	Audit undertaken in October 2019, results circulated to councillors. Actions below designed to reduce council's estate and assets carbon footprint. The Assistant Clerk is now formally logging all fuel consumption every month so year on year comparisons will be readily available going forward. Aim was for 10% in the first year just through better awareness. Figures are currently being prepared. Targets overachieved but Covid has hugely impacted the figures as many buildings empty. Behavioural change target of 10% achieved Physical changes now required to make greater savings.
1.2	Reducing fuel emissions from ATC estate and operations	To lower the council's carbon footprint toward the carbon neutral target of 2030	Town Clerk and Managers	N/A	Annual year on year comparison will establish improvement, taken from green audit baseline	Grounds Team evaluation of fuel consumption to see where efficiencies can be made to reduce use by at least 10% per annum, through rationalisation of cutting regimes and creation of wildflower areas. Capital replacement programme of vehicles reducing diesel use over the longer term. Research to be undertaken in respect of use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) also known as renewable diesel, which can reduce emissions by up to 90% in existing diesel engines and machinery.



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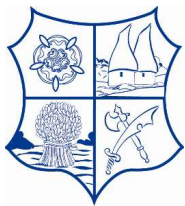
						Annual summer usage comparison now undertaken showing a 62% reduction in diesel – this has been a direct result of better awareness but also changing one of the grounds vehicles from a 4 x 4 (20MPG) to a more fuel-efficient van (60MPG)
1.3	Reducing energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources.	To invoke behaviour change to lower the council's carbon footprint toward the carbon neutral target of 2030	Town Clerk	£10,000	Annual year on year comparison will establish improvement, taken from green audit baseline	Installation of solar lighting where appropriate. Upgrading current town council owned lighting and floodlighting stock to LED where viable to reduce energy consumption. Reduce temperatures in public buildings. Installation of behaviour change signage on light switches and heating dials. Reduction of office paper use. 2020 has resulted in a 90% drop in paper use due to all meeting being held virtually resulting in no paper copies of meeting bundles being prepared for councillors or the public.
1.4	Retrofit existing council-owned properties	To achieve Energy Performance Certificate c or higher wherever possible. This should include fitting eco-heating and developing heat networks where appropriate	Full Council	£200,000	EPC certificates.	There is significant cost to upgrading existing oil fired heating and older gas systems. Investigate with EHDC's Conservation Officer the option of using fully removable magnetic inner glazing which can be taken down each spring and re-fixed in the Autumn on listed buildings where double glazing no an option. EPCs still needed to be undertaken for each building. Currently seeing if grant funding is available for this option. – Salix Low Carbon Skills Fund and Decarbonisation fund for Public Sector



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1.5	Aspiring to achieve carbon zero delivery of new public buildings	To lead by example in establishing innovative, environmentally friendly design and build of new buildings to help reduce overall carbon footprint of the council. To be an exemplar Council for the delivery of zero carbon public building creation.	Full Council	£700,000	Certification from the Carbon Trust (or sector equivalent) of carbon neutrality	Budget set aside for 2020/21 to scope the new pavilion at Jubilee Fields, secure planning permission and grant funding for the new build. Project delayed to 2021/22
1.6	Explore the renewable energy sources which could operate within the Town Council's premises; consideration of community energy scheme	To reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's estate, through use of solar, wind etc..	Full Council	Not yet costed	Lower carbon footprint (year on year comparison)	<p>Feasibility study required for suitable locations, ascertain costs – longer term objective.</p> <p>Meeting with Salix (fund administrators) in October 2020 to look at accessing the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (£1bn) - This grant scheme is available for capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within public sector non-domestic buildings. It aims to deliver carbon savings in the public sector and deliver stimulus to the energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation sectors, supporting jobs. Public sector bodies can apply for a grant to finance up to 100% of the costs of capital energy-saving projects that meet the scheme criteria</p> <p>Another option not yet researched but listed below  <a href="https://avieco.com/case-studies/woolpit-parish-council-benefits-its-community-with-a-local-energy-project/">https://avieco.com/case-studies/woolpit-parish-council-benefits-its-community-with-a-local-energy-project/</a></p>
1.7	Install additional tree Planting and	To help reduce the carbon footprint of our open spaces	Open Spaces Committee	£5,000	Increased trees and	Creation of wildflower meadow at Flood Meadows created October 2019.



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	Hedgerows on public open spaces; creation of more wildflower and wilderness areas	through the installation of pollutant absorbing hedgerows along entrances into the town and encouraging more spaces for wildlife to grow and thrive			hedgerows in open spaces and more wildflower planting	<p>Installation of new tree planting (16) for National Tree Charter Day November 2019</p> <p>Members to sign up as a Woodland Trust Tree Charter Branch in 2020.</p> <p>On-going dialogue with local groups and schools over tree planting projects ( particularly fruit trees) Alton Society wished to plant 50 fruit trees but no update on when. Amery Hill School have planted a hedgerow alongside the Hawthorns allotment plot and the WI with help from students and funding from EHDC and the Woodland Trust will be planted 150 whips up at Windmill Hill this coming November.</p> <p style="color: red;">(Follow up with Jan Hargate and Jane Devlin on dates )</p>
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### Strategy Action Plan – OBJECTIVE 2

Alton Town Council will seek to promote opportunities for residents, schools and businesses to become involved with initiatives which will have a positive impact on changing consumption habits in our community both now and in the future and which engender a strong civic pride.

	Action	Purpose	Actioned by	Budget	Method of Evaluation	Status
2.1	Put in place EV charging - at council owned locations	To encourage the take up of electric vehicles (residents, visitor and staff) and to provide free to use, accessible charging points for emergency use.	Policy and Resources /Officers	£2,000	Take up/usage	<p>Audit of ATC owned buildings has identified locations for charging sockets at Anstey Park, Jubilee Fields, The Public Gardens and Market Square</p> <p>Lobby EHDC Parking for increased discount for season ticket permits for electric vehicles. – no response on this from EHDC.</p>



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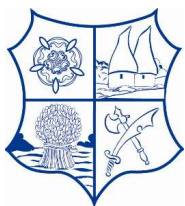
						Consider use of government voucher scheme for councils <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workplace-charging-scheme-application-form">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workplace-charging-scheme-application-form</a>
2.2	Installation of wayfinding in key locations across the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists	To assist visitors on foot and travelling by bicycle in navigating around the High Street to make the town centre easier to access from Alton Station or via public transport.	ATC, facilitated by HCC/EHDC where consent for installation is required.	Up to £60,000	Survey data	<p>Survey carried out October 2019 with a specialist surveyor to undertake a comprehensive survey with recommended actions ( for pedestrian wayfinding NOT cycle) . Survey costed at £4,000 and an application made as part of the place making project to release S106 to pay for 75% of the survey cost with the remainder being met by ATC approved tourism budget. Report indicated a cost of £111,000 to implement changes. EHDC are auditing the survey to cost the works being undertaken in house, which should be lower.</p> <p>LCWIP – EHDC document proposed to go to Cabinet October 2020 Cycle Alton Proposals for options to improve the high street put forward June 2020 – still being considered Recovering High Streets Cycle Infrastructure Improvements implemented September 2020</p>
2.3	Promotion and support of community led creative solutions to reduce waste and impact on landfill sites	To invoke behaviour change, to encourage residents to “buy less stuff” and heighten awareness about recycling, repurposing and upcycling	ATC Officers in partnership with ACAN	£10,000	Numbers of people using “green” community schemes,	Promotion of the Repair Café and Community Cupboard/ Community Share/ Community Fridge/ Toy Library.



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					calculations of overall reduction by the town to landfill as a result	Promotion continues through social media and the Altonian, undertaking partnership projects where appropriate.  Community Recycled Planters worked well and will be re-run in 2021
2.4	Replacement of traditional “In Bloom” schemes with environmentally sustainable alternatives around the town.	Create a welcoming, colourful High Street to welcome visitors as they come into town whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the displays and creating sustainable alternatives to annual bedding plants.	ATC Grounds staff and contractors	£10,000 per annum	Public response and anecdotal evidence	Seasonal planting extended to all year round perennial planting to reduce watering and help absorb pollutants. Proposal to replace the colourful schemes with banners to brighten up the street scene without the need for the use of electricity or water. Introduction of “incredible edible” planting around the town using fruit and vegetables in place of traditional schemes. Introduction of wildlife and wilderness categories to In Bloom from 2020. New cycle rack planters are all filled with perennial herbs.
2.5	Hosting of community events designed to influence behavioural change of residents and to attract new audiences to better understand their environment	To inspire many more people to take action in an inclusive, encouraging way, advocating cost effective, easy solutions to redress current consumption habits.	ATC working with ACAN and Energy Alton	£2,000	Public consultations and feedback to gauge public opinion and evaluate behaviour change.	Eco Fair - Celebrating Earth-friendly living, to be held with ACAN in July 2020 in the Public Gardens – cancelled due to Covid – rescheduled for 2021  Bio Blitz – learning about our local environment and habitats, as well as the concepts about the father of ecology, Gilbert White. June 2020 – King’s Pond – cancelled due to covid – rescheduled for 2021  AVLAN new wild garden in front of All Saints Church, with plants from Gilbert



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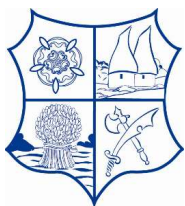
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						White and Interpretative Panel Story board explaining the project.
2.6	Creation of a sustainability centre / hub for climate change projects and information	To give local people a fixed location as well as on-line methods of engaging to become more informed and find resources to help them on their own journey to live more sustainably.	ACAN/EA working with ATC to secure venue	£10,000	Creation of Hub, number of visitors/ footfall. Subsequent behaviour change.	ACAN successfully applied to ATC for partnership funding to create a hub at the Community Centre for a one-year trial, based in room 8. – deferred due to covid, funding redirected for other schemes such as a new Community Share project.

### Strategy Action Plan – OBJECTIVE 3

Alton Town Council will seek to influence decision makers in the adoption and promotion of policies to provide sustainable alternatives to traditional construction, infrastructure and transport models.

	Action	Purpose	Actioned by	Budget	Evaluation	Status
3.1	Reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change	To increase awareness of car share schemes, school park and stride, reducing idling to lower emissions, the benefits of use of public transport, cycling and walking	ATC / ACAN / EA / Schools	£1,000	Feedback from schools, resident surveys on frequency of use of public transport and alternatives	Covid has significantly reduced car travel and congestion in 2020. Working with Cycle Alton to capitalise on the resulting behaviour change. ATC officers now working 2/3 days a week from home reducing the staff carbon footprint. Public Transport promotion on hold.
3.2	Promoting low-emissions buses and taxis in partnership with the county council, bus companies and taxi companies.	To lobby providers of buses and taxis to consider more environmentally friendly alternatives to diesel powered vehicles	EHDC/ Stagecoach/ local taxi firms	Officer hours only	Roll out of more low emission vehicles within the local public transport network	Lobby EHDC vehicle licencing for reduced fees for electric taxis. Update fees went up in 2020 (so not implemented)
3.3	Creation of a sustainable community transport scheme	To lead by example to enable residents to actively make a sustainable transport choice,	ATC in partnership with ACAN and Energy Alton	£600,000	Creation of a sustainable bus service for the town	Expression of interest form has been submitted to the National Lottery Climate Change fund. Not successful.



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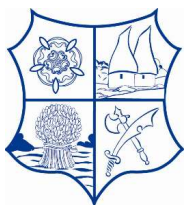
		reduce social isolation and reduce the emissions on our roads				Currently on hold with the change in travel behaviour due to covid.
3.4	Review the current 20mph limits in town with a view to extending across the wider town	To lower emissions in the across the town and increase safety of the network across the town for pedestrians and cyclists	ATC /HCC / EHDC through the place-making strategy	Not yet costed	Successful extension of the 20mph limits across the town	Proposed to be part of the Enhance East Hampshire project over the next 5 years. Also potentially to be included in ANP review.
3.5	Requiring residential and commercial developers to adhere to Passivhaus / AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) standards.	To develop more carbon neutral properties, which eliminate energy waste, through the fabric of the build process rather than with measures which help offset energy consumption	ATC / EHDC / P & T Committee	Not yet costed	Inclusion of suitable policies in the Neighbourhood Plan & Local Plan	Development of new Local Plan on-going and commencement of ANP review to be considered October 2020. We will be looking for more than a fabric first standard.
3.6	Contribute towards and assist in delivery of the EHDC LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)	To develop a priority plan for proposed improvements to enable walkers and cyclists to navigate more easily and safely around the town	ATC/EHDC/HCC/ Local walking and cycling groups – Enhance East Hampshire Programme	Not yet costed	Increased use of walking and cycling for short journeys across town.	Response to Technical Report given on 29 <sup>th</sup> November. Revised draft and public consultation awaited carried out February 2020. Final version and report due to EHDC cabinet in October 2020. May be used as a baseline evidence for ANP review.

### Strategy Action Plan – OBJECTIVE 4

Alton Town Council will promote the principles of responsible tourism in Alton as a “Destination Town” for walking and cycling, minimising negative environmental impacts of tourism and making positive contributions to the conservation of our landscape.

	Action	Purpose	Actioned by	Budget	Evaluation	Status
4.1	Improving accessibility to walking routes,	To encourage a wider demographic to walk into	ATC / HCC, Ramblers, Walk Alton and volunteers	£1m+	Increased number of participants in the	Station Forecourt scheme scheduled for implementation summer 2021.

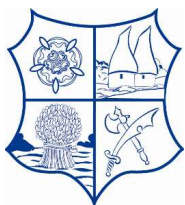




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	through clear mapping, signage, and publicity.	town as well as providing safe, increased permeability on routes for those with mobility issues, wheelchairs, push chairs and buggies, particularly to enable easy access to public transport, including additional seating on routes.			organised walks; uptake of self-guided walking tours leaflets/web stats.	Walking and Cycling Technical document for priority improvements to the network commissioned by EHDC reviewed by Steering Group prior to public consultation
4.2	Promote Walkers are Welcome and its ethos and seek to host the annual Walkers are Welcome convention in 2021	The scheme is a known brand aiming to benefit local economies by attracting low environmentally impactful tourism, on foot and using public transport	Community Officer with Walk Alton	£4,000	Increased number of walkers/cyclists to Alton via survey data.	Alton put forward to host the Walkers are Welcome National annual event in 2021 to promote the town. Deferred to 2022
4.3	Increase areas for secure cycle parking and introduction of Cycle Pod Repair Stations in Public Open Spaces/along cycle routes	To provide more locations where cycles can be securely stored whilst in town or on public open spaces and enable run-in repairs to be undertaken where needed	ATC	£15,000	Increased use of bicycles in and around town, through surveys and anecdotal evidence	First Cycle Pod repair station installed at Jubilee Fields by National Cycle Route 23 and new skate park February 2020 2 more installed September 2020 in town alongside 15 mobile cycle rack planters providing 30 additional parking places for cycles. Funding of just under £14,000 secured through EM3 LEP for the above plus a cycling map of the town, leaflet and website launching end September 2020
4.4	Securing status for Alton as an official gateway of the South Downs National Park	To encourage walkers and cyclists to base themselves in Alton as a gateway town to the park, accessible from London on public transport.	ATC officers working with South Downs National Park Officers	Officer hours plus publicity costs (up to £5,000)	Increased number of walkers/cyclists to Alton via survey data.	Work in early stages with SDNP but authorisation given to refer to Alton officially as a gateway town. EHDC preparing new town entry gateway signage to reflect this.



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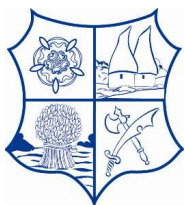
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4.5	To help visitors to be better aware of their surroundings, encouraging and educating people on the spaces they are visiting engendering love and care of the countryside	Ensuring that tourism makes positive contributions to the conservation of natural heritage, that visitors leave a minimal impact on the countryside and learn more about sustainable local industries and farming.	ATC/ EHDC / HCC Tourism / Ramblers/ Walk Alton	Officer Hours plus publicity	Increased number of walkers/cyclists to Alton and surrounding areas via survey data. Anecdotal evidence from Ramblers / HCC on the state of the Rights of Way Network	Included with ATC Marketing and Promotions Strategy.
4.6	Offering local walking and cycling along the network, with considered start/finish locations which feed in to the local transport network.	To promote tourism which minimises carbon footprint	ATC / Local companies and organisations promoting walking and cycling	Officer Hours plus publicity	Take up of events and surveys of local accommodation to ascertain reasons for staying locally and if this is increasing for walking and cycling.	Review of walking publications underway. Promotional strategy required. My Journey Hampshire Social Media Campaign ( 6 months ) starts late October.

### Strategy Action Plan – OBJECTIVE 5

Alton Town council will seek to promote schemes to reducing energy consumption and emissions from existing homes and businesses in the town by promoting energy efficiency measures, renewable energy sources and behaviour change.

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Actioned by</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>
5.1	Provide start up assistance for environmentally sustainable retail or social enterprise initiatives in the High Street. Support for existing shops who wish to more sustainable.	To reduce the number of vacant units on the High Street, encourage behaviour change, embracing shop local, rather than driving out of town and increasing footfall in the centre of town.	ATC	£20,000 per annum	Number of vacant units decreases; new initiatives take shape.	Support already given to the launch of the Repair Café, Community Cupboard & Refill Alton in 2019. Community Share launched in 2020 and looking to secure a refill pop up.



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5.2	Encourage residents to make better use of existing local sustainable community initiatives such as the Toy Library, Furniture recycling, dementia friendly café,	To help reduce social isolation through participation, maintain and develop and a sustainable local community committed to reducing the production of unnecessary waste.	ATC Officers/ local groups and organisations, EHDC Communities Department	Officer Hours	Increase in the use of these initiatives.	ATC using local media outlets and social media platforms to promote these initiatives.
5.3	Encourage public schemes which reduce waste, increase recycling and improve energy efficiency.	To help improve the sustainability of our local Community promoting the town as a destination which proactively is seeking to reduce its impact on the environment.	ATC / EHDC / Alton Matters? / Chamber?  Drawing on examples of best practice	Officer Hours, promotional materials	Increased use of “environmentally friendly” initiatives and schemes through the Town	We have already joined the “Refill Campaign” to promote re-use of bottles for water. Consideration to be given to the installation of additional public drinking fountains in the town centre.
5.4	Promotion of the work undertaken by Energy Alton	To help residents in the retrofitting of existing homes across the town to help reduce energy consumption,	ATC Officers, local businesses, local retail representatives & Energy Alton	Officer Hours, promotional materials	Increased take-up of decarbonisation schemes	Paper going to Full Council on 28th October to given grant assistance to Energy Alton for this.
5.5	Promotion of electric car use. Now include promotion of e-bikes.	To lower emissions of our roads for those who are unable to access public transport.	ATC/ EHDC/ ACAN	Officer Hours	Increased number of electric cars and decreasing numbers of diesel cars on the local road network	Promotion of Electric cars at Eco-Fair, Classic Car Rally and other high footfall local events. BABBOE – electric bike trial to consider! <a href="https://www.babboe.co.uk/cargo-bike-test-ride/become-ambassador">https://www.babboe.co.uk/cargo-bike-test-ride/become-ambassador</a>