

# **THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN FOR MORCHARD BISHOP**

## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

We are looking to bring our community together with other organisations in order to deliver an integrated action plan. We have therefore taken the first steps to agree where we want to be in the future (THE VISION) and how we want to get there (THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN).

## **THE FIRST STAGE – CREATING THE VISION AND PRIORITY PROJECTS**

On the 21 May 2022 after two years of delay (Covid) the Parish Council held the first community assembly. Invitations were sent to all residents inviting them to come to the first meeting. Thirty residents attended for a two hour afternoon session to put forward their ideas of community action for environmental improvements. Round table discussions resulted in a variety of projects and ideas (Appendix 1). These have now been pulled together into a VISION and a STRATEGY to take forward.

## **WHERE WE WANT TO BE - THE VISION**

Following debate at this first meeting “the big picture” of where we want to be is “MORCHARD BISHOP – THE SUSTAINABLE RURAL PARISH”.

## **HOW WE ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE THE VISION**

We will work with partners to deliver and integrate projects that will benefit our community and make measurable progress towards environmental sustainability.

**NB** Whilst the focus is on our parish we are keen to involve neighbouring areas. Involvement will produce “economies of scale” such as sharing knowledge, learning and working together and delivering wider benefits eg green corridors of biodiversity, transport and energy.

## **THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

Our approach and plan is open to all for comment and involvement; however the sheer urgency that faces us means action must proceed. Our CORE VALUES are to:

- Listen to and evaluate new and innovative ideas
- Practice high ethical standards
- Ensure inclusivity of all residents
- Respect, protect and improve the environment
- Ensure work and projects demonstrate real progress in environmental improvements
- Meet the changing needs and desires of residents and businesses

Many projects interact. By thinking and working through the THEMES and projects we will make sure we maximise the benefits to the environment, our residents and businesses. Whilst we will harness the skills and talents of our residents it is crucial that we obtain meaningful and tangible support from others. By others we primarily mean the members of the Devon Climate Emergency Response

Group (DCERG) – see [www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk](http://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk). It is recognised that communities can take a pivotal role in addressing climate change (and associated crises) but they cannot continue to expend energies on wading through the endless plethora of advice agencies, authorities, non-integrated policies and funding streams. There are also a vast array of resources that could be “joined up” and support us such as local authority, agency and other organisation staff, advice and expertise. Our strategy relies heavily on DCERG support: we would like them to work closely with us and evaluate our community plan as an “action learning” trial that can be rolled out across other rural parishes (and clusters of such parishes as appropriate).

## THE THEMES

Our projects can be grouped around these THEMES:

TRANSPORT  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
ENERGY AND BUILDINGS  
LAND USE AND FARMING

There are many links and interactions across these themes, of course.

## **APPENDIX 1 - THE PROPOSED THEMES, IDEAS AND PROJECTS FROM THE FIRST PARISH ASSEMBLY**

### P Potential priority

#### TRANSPORT

Electric charging points And electric vehicles P  
Share cars for journeys  
Minibus for the village taxi service providing local employment  
Car clubs  
Better public transport P  
Postal delivery, use less white vans  
Ring and ride electric  
Post buses  
Speed limit

#### COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY

Community garden/veg plot/nature area P  
Communal land to be worked on Greenaway P  
Community compost scheme  
Community recycling  
More orchards  
Hub for recycling villagers donate this used items which are then sold to those that need them, money goes to the village  
Of skills to reduce food miles, for example plumbers, gardener's and builders  
Excess fruit and vegetables to be given away in Morchard Bishop  
Grow our own food

## Sustainability P

More joined up coherent thinking towards sustainable and environmental issues P

Page in morchard messenger giving access to information, what is mid Devon doing, future funding available nationally and access by low income P

Set up Action Group with subgroups to research climate change etc, link with sustainable crediton P

More recycling areas convenient to places such as doctors surgery, memorial hall, Car park and more advertising where recycling places are

Small tools library for borrowing tools and donations

Men in sheds concept to help with mental health issues

A repair café and swap shop

Musical instrument amnesty and donate to schools etc

Verges cancel application of mowing

Buying local support local shop and farm shop

Reduce usage and consumption

For example reduce plastic use, have a repair shop, local vineyards

## YOUNG PEOPLE

School teaches more about climate change P

Clear messages needed for young and old P

How to involve young people P

Clothes exchange for example school clothes and football boots

Does the school have a uniform exchange

## ENERGY AND BUILDINGS

Turbines in rivers

Wind turbines needed the bigger the better P

Need a carbon footprint for morchard Bishop P

Consider where to put renewables P

Solar Farm in morchard Bishop

Stop the ban of wood burners

Support the local electricity bill P

Wind power and subsidise electricity for local people P

Local power generation P

Community owned wind generation P

Community owned infrared indicator and monitor P

No energy planning at mid Devon

Why does conservation officer block solar panels

Use intelligent thermostats, and timers on immersion heaters

Use One Cup kettles instead of normal kettle

Solar diverter to send extra power to immersion heater not back to grid

Why or street lights not switched off at midnight

LED lamps everywhere

All households in morchard Bishop to be as energy efficient as possible

Solar panels and insulation P

Solar panels on public buildings

All new houses should have solar panels

Retrofitting of solar panels where possible P

Heat pumps in new houses and retrofit existing properties P

Underground water tanks for new houses

All houses should use water butts  
Vegetable gardens for new houses  
Every dwelling in the village properly insulated P  
Affordable and sustainable housing  
Could second properties be rented out by the council  
Should be easier for listed properties to have a double glazing or solar panels

#### LAND USE AND FARMING

No planting of trees on good agricultural land  
Let farmers let their hedges and trees grow higher P  
Allotments is there a waiting list  
Biodiversity Green corridors P  
Get farmers involved buy organic  
Wildflowers  
Space to grow vegetables with shared space to do this  
Talk to mid Devon and jubilee walk to identify spaces  
More conversations with farmers on subjects like rewilding, orchard's and community compost P  
Planting native wild flowers on unloved verges  
Consider mowing the churchyard for wildlife such as Newton St Cyrus gods acre  
Hedge biodiversity around the village with involvement from villagers P  
Increased biodiversity in the village the green village P