

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

July 2021 Issue 8

The Low Carbon Warwickshire Network aims to connect low carbon groups across the county, sharing ideas and stimulating and supporting new activity. Although primarily rural in focus, we exclude no one.



<https://www.harburyenergy.co.uk/warwickshire-low-carbon-network>

Welcome to the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) Newsletter

The LCWN aims to create a central hub providing guidance, information and inspiration for new and existing groups, mainly in rural areas. 'Creating Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill and Henley-in-Arden. The events at Church Lawford, Snitterfield and Kenilworth were on-hold due to the pandemic and are being re-arranged.

A range of partners are working together to help secure the resources the Network will need to grow and deliver on its vision.

Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT), Pillory Green Wildflower Project

Adapted from an article by Mike Wakeford. Photography: Irene Wincott

Over 30 people of all ages came out in force, despite the heavy showers, to clear and shift the turf in preparation for planting wildflowers on Pillory Green in Napton.

The soil will lay bare over summer to allow remaining grass and hiding weed seeds to germinate and show themselves, so they can be removed before sowing the wildflowers. Wildflowers don't compete well with lawn grasses, so removing as many as possible gives them the best chance. Leaving soil bare can also help reduce the fertility level, which again helps wildflowers compete against the fast growers. Wildflower seed will be sown in September, hopefully germinating in the Autumn warmth and getting some growth before the winter, giving them a good start in the Spring. We are sowing a recommended mix of 100% native flowers, suited for clay soils.



The patch will change through the seasons and from one year to the next. Some species will come up well straight away, others will take time, no doubt some won't come at all and surprises will find their way in – this is all part of the interest of 'wild' flowers. Ultimately nature will choose what grows well.

[Native British Wildflower Seed Mix for Clay Soil - Meadow Mania](#)

The patch should have visible interest from Spring through to Autumn, with a mix of flowers, leaves, structure, colour and of course the insects and birds that are attracted by the new habitat. Traditional wildflower meadows exist due to their cutting regime – a late summer cut allows for seeds to

fall ready for next year, but stops bushy plants establishing. Our cuttings will be removed to help reduce fertility and to keep the patch tidy overwinter. Hopefully, by allowing just a small area go wild, we will all be witnessing the huge array of life that can thrive.

NEAT contact details: neat@gmx.co.uk or call Jonathan on 07910 124 324

Who are we? Introducing.....

This month we get **Philip Mayer** from **Harbury Energy Initiative** to talk to us about his low carbon journey.

1. What is your first memory of when you realised things needed to change?

I was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme adjacent to the five pottery towns. During the fifties when all the bottle kilns were firing the pottery and the local steels works was pumping out coke fumes the atmosphere was toxic and many people suffered breathing difficulties.

Sponsored for my electrical engineering degree by the Electricity Council I spent time working in coal fired power stations and became part of a select group working on strategic plans for “cleaner” nuclear power. However, the government rejected our strategic thinking in favour of supporting the miners!!!!

Subsequently I have worked on power related projects in West Africa, The Peoples Republic of China, India, north and south America and nearer to home in Eastern Europe.

I have experienced the choking smog in capital cities like Lagos, Beijing and New Delhi, and it's awful.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

Over 2bn people worldwide have no access to electricity and cook on open fires inhaling poisonous fumes. In India some 160,00 villages use multiple small generators using toxic “cooking oil” for fuel. China and India are building coal fired power stations at pace because they have an abundance of cheap coal. Australia is planning to export coal for new power stations in East Africa to the chagrin of the Maasai and related tribes. Until now the world has just watched!!!!

Urban pollution is putting tens of thousands of people at health risk in major cities of the UK and the capital cities of the world. In the UK air pollution contributes to 40,00 deaths a year and an estimated £6billion a year is spent on the wider health impact of toxic roadside fumes. Polluting petrol and diesel engines will be progressively banned from city centres. The requirement for electric charging points and “green” hydrogen produced at the point of sale in existing fuel stations faces exponential increasing demand.

The UK government envisages a “hydrogen neighbourhood” by 2023, a large village powered with hydrogen by 2025 and a town by 2030. The EU envisages spending €470Bn on hydrogen production by 2050 and last year several countries kicked their investment in hydrogen into high gear. These included Australia, Japan, Chile, Germany, Saudi Arabia, China, and Canada.

3. What have you done?

The need to act on Climate change is real. We are part of the problem, so we need to be part of the solution. Renewable energy is on an unstoppable growth trajectory. I am working on 3 low carbon projects:

1. Currently I am supporting the commercialisation of an innovative Vertical Axis Wind Turbine which will be capable of generating “green” energy from wind and sun and converting it into useful power for transport and buildings at home and overseas.
2. An example is the Rural Communities Energy Fund supporting Harbury Energy Initiative to explore the potential for providing public EV charge points on the car park behind the Village Hall with energy from wind and sun stored in lithium batteries until required.
3. The boiler in our 13th Century village church has “died” and there is no heating during the winter months. I am co-ordinating a project to provide energy efficient heating focusing on hydrogen ready gas fired boilers feeding hot water high level radiant heating panels. We also need to rewire the church and install LED lighting. I have taken advice from the Church Building Council and Historic England to assist in specifying the lowest carbon solution. Sadly the Coventry Diocesan Advisory Committee are objecting to our forward thinking -----and attempting to persuade us to install inefficient floor mounted fan coil space heaters (because that is in their tried and tested comfort zone). Watch this space!!!

4. What's kept you going? What sustains you?

At last Governments around the world are working towards reducing greenhouse gases and achieving net zero carbon by 2050 or sooner.

Electricity from waste, wind and sun is the lifeblood of prosperity in the developing world.

The recent G7 meeting in Cornwall and the prospect of Britain hosting the United Nations climate change conference in November puts climate change at the top of government initiatives.

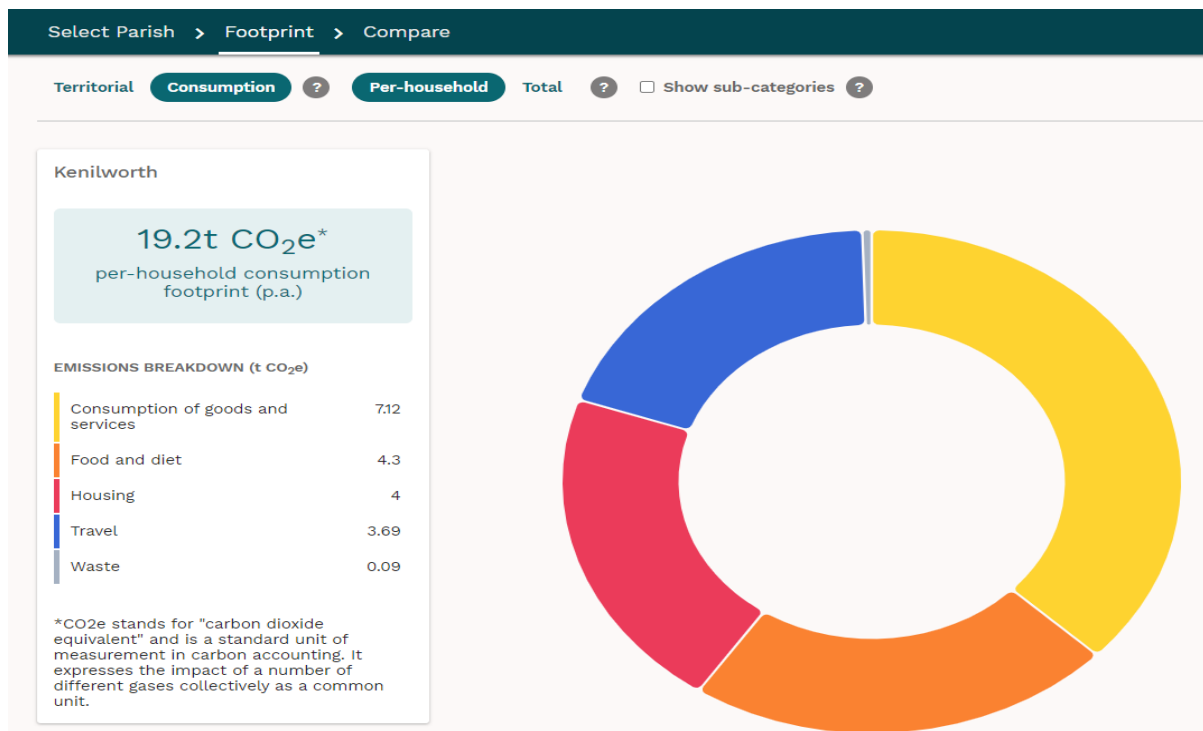
5. If there was one thing / one solution you wished everyone knew about / did - what would it be ?

Technologies capable of generating cheap “green” hydrogen from waste wind and sun.

Have you looked at your Parish or Town carbon footprint yet?

Do you agree with the results?

The aim of the Impact carbon footprinting tool is to give small communities data on their carbon emissions that is easy to interpret, easy to share, and which gives them a clear idea of their main ‘impact areas’ – those big segments where concerted, community-based action could really make a dent in local emissions. The information is displayed visually via a series of charts. However, for those who do want to access the raw data, you can visit the Downloads page to do so. [Impact | Community carbon calculator \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](https://impact-tool.org.uk)



Kenilworth's per household carbon footprint

Want to get Involved? – find your local climate action group

1. Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) and
2. Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI) – Bob Sherman, email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com phone: 07919157224
3. Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) – Jonathan Horsfield and Jacky Lawrence, email: neat@gmx.co.uk email
4. Grapevine Environmental Action Team (GREAT) (Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley) – Tass, email: hellogreatfuture@gmail.com
5. Henley Climate Action - John Stott, email: jdstott@uwclub.net phone: 01564 792251
6. Stretton on Fosse Sustainability Initiative - Dave Passingham, email: davepassingham@hotmail.com phone 07973 846605
7. Warwickshire Climate Alliance (WCA) - Dominic Harrison, email: harrison_dominic@hotmail.com phone: 07977 279002
8. Build Back Better (Ilmington) - Liz Garton, email: lizgarton15@gmail.com Liz is also a contact for Ilmington 2020
9. TRACC (Bishop's Tachbrook) - Martin Drew, email: BishopsTRACC@outlook.com
10. GROW (Wolverton) - Paul Anthony, email: paul.anthony@wolvertonpc.org.uk phone: 077109821456
11. Pillerton Hersey PC - Tim Newcombe (although no longer on the PC), email: timnewcombe123@btinternet.com
12. Transition Town Rugby <https://www.facebook.com/transitiontownrugby>

13. Kenilworth All Together Greener <https://www.facebook.com/Kenilworth-All-Together-Greener-331940026990994/>
14. Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change [Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change | Community Group \(snitterfieldacc.org\)](https://snitterfieldacc.org/)
15. Avon Dassett Parish Council
16. Bishop's Itchington Parish Council
17. Church Lawford

News

Anthesis Report - South Warwickshire Climate Action Support

A report has been published which was jointly commissioned by Warwick District Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council in response to their climate emergency declarations and ambitions to become carbon neutral Districts by 2030. Both District Councils will use this report to help inform the nature and extent of interventions needed to quickly and effectively achieve emissions reduction within South Warwickshire.

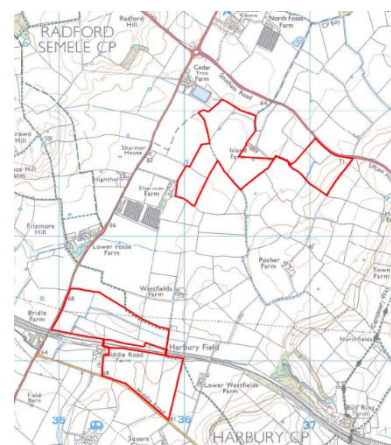
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/210437/name/Warwick%20and%20Stratford%20on%20Avon%20District%20Councils%20Baseline%20and%20Pathways%20V30.pdf/>

Middle Road Solar Farm proposal and consultation

The proposed development is for a 49.9 megawatt ground-mounted solar farm with associated energy storage to include boundary landscaping; security / fencing; wildflowers to provide a biodiversity net gain on site; and areas for additional ecological and landscape planting enhancements.

The site consists of two separate parcels of land comprising several fields divided by hedgerows. The A425 is located to the north of the site and connects the settlement of Radford Semele to Ufton. The B4455 (Fosse Way) forms the western border of the site. The southern parcel of land is dissected by the railway line (Leamington Spa- Banbury route) which runs on an east-west trajectory. Beyond the eastern and southern boundary lies predominantly agricultural land, with isolated farm buildings located in the wider area.

[Middle Road Solar Farm \(middlesolarfarm.co.uk\)](https://middlesolarfarm.co.uk/)



Covid Recovery Commission

[CRC-Ambition-2030.pdf](https://covidrecoverycommission.co.uk/CRC-Ambition-2030.pdf)

covidrecoverycommission.co.uk



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4. Decarbonising energy demand to deliver net zero

Delivering on net zero will fundamentally change the way our economy works and how we lead our lives. This presents a challenge, but it also provides an opportunity to develop globally competitive clusters, built around a strong UK supply chain, focussed on green growth and exporting to the rest of the world. This year's COP26 summit provides an opportunity for the UK and UK businesses to demonstrate commitment to decarbonising our economy, showcase the UK's ambitious plans and drive international collaboration on decarbonisation topics that play to the UK's existing strengths.

Transition Town Rugby Green Drinks

<https://www.transitiontownrugby.org/working-groups/community/green-drinks-rugby>

Anyone interested planning a Climate Change Skills summer camp for 2022?

Harbury Open Gardens

Please note - it's a cash only event.



Net Zero Week 2021

The UK's National Awareness Week is 17th – 23rd July 2021. [Net Zero Week 2021 | UK's National Awareness Week](#)

Useful Links

- [Native British Wildflower Seed Mix for Clay Soil - Meadow Mania](#)
- <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/210437/name/Warwick%20and%20Stratford%20on%20Avon%20District%20Councils%20Baseline%20and%20Pathways%20V30.pdf/>
- [Middle Road Solar Farm \(middlesolarfarm.co.uk\)](http://middlesolarfarm.co.uk)
- <https://cat.org.uk/past-webinars/> The Centre for Alternative Technology run really useful webinars. Topics covered include: Energy, Building, Water and Sanitation, Nature and Ecology, Food and Growing, Behaviour Change, Climate Justice, Zero Carbon Solutions.
- There is one on renewable energy: community and commercial [Renewable energy: community and commercial - Centre for Alternative Technology \(cat.org.uk\)](#) and one on ecosystems [The Role of Ecosystems...whatever did they do for us? - Centre for Alternative Technology \(cat.org.uk\)](#) that are recommended viewing by GREAT.
- **Stratford time bank** - [Stratford Time Bank \(timebanking.org\)](http://timebanking.org) Stratford District Timebank is open to anyone who lives or works within Stratford District. The timebank enables its members to help each other and the community as well as being able to receive help themselves. Everyone's hour is worth an hour and everyone has something they could offer and a lot they could gain by getting involved. Timebanking is a simple, social way to connect with others, swap and share skills and services as well as strengthening the communities we live in. Timebanking is open to individuals of all ages, abilities, employment status or mobility. Everyone is welcome. We also have organisational members. These organisations must be not for profit and offer occasional or regular volunteering opportunities. If your organisation might benefit from this please get in touch with the timebroker on 07419373680.
- Covid Recovery Commission report. [CRC-Ambition-2030.pdf \(covidrecoverycommission.co.uk\)](https://covidrecoverycommission.co.uk/CRC-Ambition-2030.pdf)
- [COP26 - COP26 Coalition](#) The COP26 Coalition is a UK-based civil society coalition of groups and individuals organising towards mobilising around climate justice during COP26.
- [\(3\) March To Glasgow East Column | Facebook](#) A group of XR Zaragoza members plan to walk from Portsmouth to Glasgow for the COP 26.
- [Net Zero Week 2021 | UK's National Awareness Week](#)
- [SCHOOLS PACK: GET INSPIRED - Together For Our Planet \(ukcop26.org\)](https://ukcop26.org)
- [What is COY? - COY16 \(ukcoy16.org\)](https://ukcoy16.org) The UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY).



Have your say— What do you want to see in future editions?

This is your newsletter and only as good as you make it – it is your opportunity to :

- publicise any on-line events you are holding
- let other community groups know what you are currently up to and other news
- share your experiences

Ideas, requests, offers, Q & A, hints & tips

Please send all copy (by 5th of each month), news items, case studies, details of events, comments, suggestions and enquiries about this newsletter to: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com referring to the issue date and number for queries or phone Jacky Lawrence on 07906 440496.

