

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

November 2021 Issue 12

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. 'Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill, Henley-in-Arden and Church Lawford. The next event will hopefully be in Rugby in Spring 2022 – we're awaiting confirmation.

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

In the next Newsletter we will give a round up of the RSA Warwickshire and LCWN event at Church Lawford which was on Sunday 7th November 2021: Your community - towards a greener future



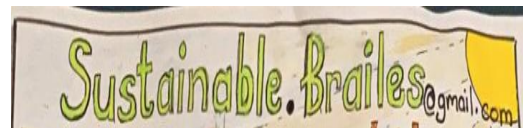
Do you want to host an event in your community?

If you would like to host a "Low Carbon Community" event where you live, please email:

lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com and let us know where and when and we'll get in touch and see how we can help.

Sustainable Brailes

Sustainable Brailes is coming up to its first year anniversary. Started in Tier 4 gloom it became a regular cheerful zoom initially laying out plans for a more sustainable approach in the village. Our two founders were already environmentally conscious and they have drawn together lots of new people with different ages and backgrounds. The number of ideas came thick and fast and it became priority to streamline our approach.



We started with a list of proposals and aims - tree planting, wildflower verges, grow your own and more! Over the year we have acquired and completed a growing cycle on our community allotment including in the latter part of the season building compost bins from pallets and sowing green compost. We have planted trees on the playing field, had No Mow May and a seed/plant swap. We even held a "Planting for Pollinators" garden competition and inspired some very young people to have a go. Currently there are



four proposed sites for tree planting, active discussions about greener energy proposals and the school have a new clothes bank so the young ones are joining in!

At a recent “Freshers' Fair” for the village groups we gained lots of attention and several people signed up to get involved. We’ve tried to engage on social media and through our local village printed newsletter as we know it’s not just the minority that care and people need encouragement to join in.

Moving forward we are hoping as the country returns to some kind of normality to get the local community more involved and link up with other local groups such as the flood control volunteers and the local primary school. We’ve got some interest in the Food Waste campaign and we hope to link an event to this. There is definitely change in the air and the ideas are becoming more mainstream and hopefully soon our green village will be even greener.

sustainable.brailes@gmail.com

Who are we? Introducing.....

This month we get **Liz Garton** from **Ilmington 20:20 Vision** to talk to us about her low carbon journey.

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

I was a slow learner. The hot summer of 1976 felt like a warning that something wasn’t right, but I wasn’t sure what that something was. Then in the 1980’s I became aware of things disappearing from the natural world: the insects that had stuck to my car windscreen suddenly weren’t there. It was annoying having to clean the windscreen regularly, but not having to do it was worse, and was deeply disturbing, as was the noticeable decline in the number of dead hedgehogs in the road in the 1990s.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

In 2008 there was the financial crash. People I knew and people I didn’t know were struggling to keep their heads above water. At about this time I heard about a man who lived in my village being evicted from his home. I didn’t know him but learned he suffered from mental ill health. There was something very wrong if someone living in a small community, such as ours, could fall through the net so easily. I started talking with neighbours about what we might do to support each other better, particularly in times of crisis. We needed to get to know each other better and what better way of getting to know someone than working alongside them?. In March 2009, we set up Ilmington 20:20 Vision to:

“think collectively and creatively about ways in which we can build a resilient community and sustain it through the next decade of diminishing resources.”

3. What have you done?

The 20:20 group started by following the Transition model used in Totnes. We ran a big first event which involved participants planning in four areas: energy, food, environment and social. Each of the four groups then met to take things forward. After initial enthusiasm, one by one, they fizzled out.

Undaunted, we organised and ran a number of events ourselves including sustainability events, a Made in Ilmington Market, a film night showing Age of Stupid and coffee mornings. Each one was successful, well attended and sociable but, as far as we were aware, didn't result in any noticeable lasting impact.

Our group was at an impasse. We weren't sure how to take things forward, and there was no appetite for organising more of the same.

When the village store closed in 2013, we trialled an emailed weekly newsletter called 20:20 Circulation for six months, listing community events plus a for-sale and wanted section. We were fortunate to have two dedicated technical professionals on board who have successfully managed to send out a newsletter every week for the past seven or eight years.

Through the newsletter, we actively supported the setting up of a new Community Village Shop and Café and we took on the updating of the Ilmington Directory, which lists names, phone numbers and addresses of village residents. Both continue to be wonderful resources for the Ilmington community.

Covid and the floods and fires of the last year have had a profound impact on community life. People are much more informed and more concerned about climate change and its impacts. As part of The Great Big Green Week in September, we took a new approach and started inviting individuals from each village street to take on a **Green Street Challenge**, of their choice, with their neighbours. We encouraged them to each plan and trial a 'green' project that was manageable and was something they and their neighbours could support as an on-going green commitment. We were delighted with the response! We now have about twelve fledgling green projects which include a wildlife survey of the village; planning of wild flower verges; collections of soft plastics; an eco- assessment of the church; investigations into feasibility of alternative energy sources in the village hall and shop; and a planned workshop to make bat and bird boxes. Each was conceived and carried out by street volunteers from Ilmington to engage their own skills, enthusiasms and capabilities! A couple of young would-be filmmakers have been engaged in making short documentaries about the Green Challenges and the people who've got them off the ground.

So far, so good. Fingers crossed that the **Green Street Challenges** will not just survive but will thrive!

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

There is clearly a need for action regarding sustainability, and, in the spirit of 'we're the people we've been waiting for', we do what we can.

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

Our own community needs to take the bull by the horns and turn words into actions, do whatever we can, big or small, and trust that our commitment and energy will find its reflection in the national and international stage. Our starting point is our own community.

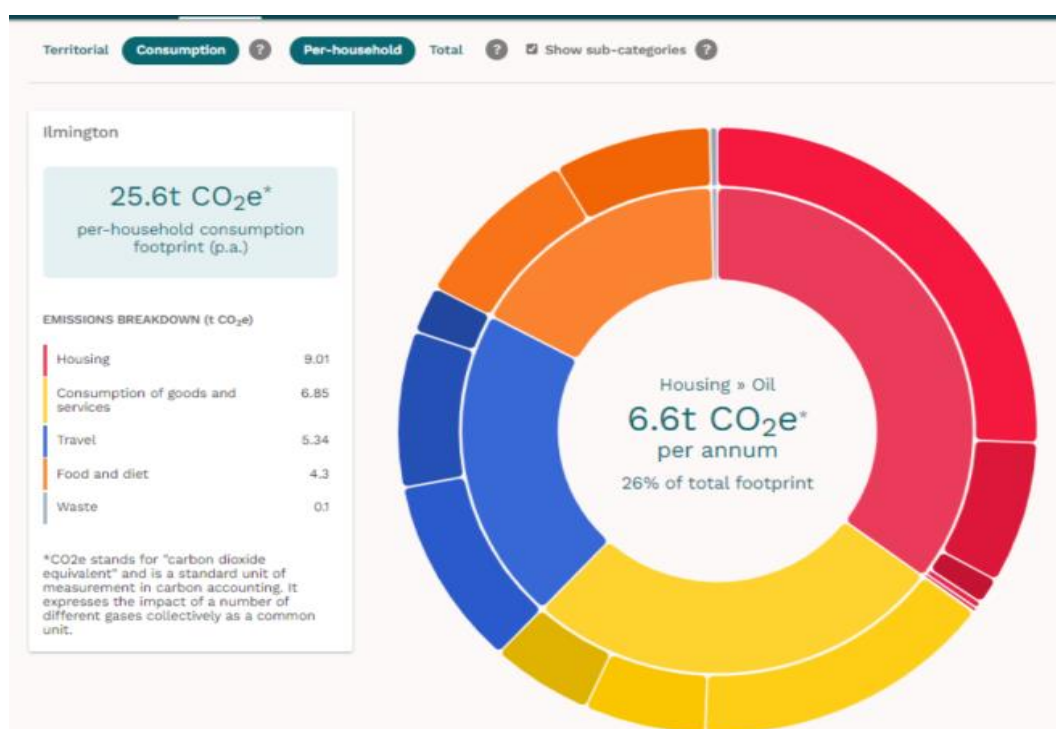
Liz Garton, Ilmington 20:20 Vision

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)

A footprint for a geographic area (what this tool considers) may be produced on a strict territorial basis (all emissions occurring within the area) or on a consumption basis (all emissions caused by residents of the area, regardless of where geographically they occur). For example, territorial emissions (who to lobby) would include those from all industry, agriculture and transport activity within the area (even if the agricultural output is consumed in a different place). Consumption-based emissions (what local people can do), on the other hand, would include upstream and downstream emissions from residents' consumption of manufactured goods, food and their own transport activity, regardless of where the emissions occur.



Ilmington per household (p.a.) consumption 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 Trello Board: <https://trello.com/b/Pz8kWzqd/hello-great-future>
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 20:20 Vision
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, Duncan Parker, [Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change | Community Group \(snitterfieldacc.org\)](https://www.facebook.com/SnitterfieldActioningClimateChangeCommunityGroup)
15. Sustainable Brailes, Jo Taylor and Louise Appleton, email: sustainable.brailes@gmail.com
16. Avon Dassett Parish Council, <http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/>
17. Bishop's Itchington Parish Council, [Bishops Itchington Parish Council \(bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk\)](http://www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk)
18. Church Lawford, keithsinfield@talktalk.net

News

The UK won't meet Net Zero without local authorities at the heart of delivery. UK100 have published a report giving practical guidance to local authorities and community networks tackling decarbonisation and mitigating climate change. [UK100 | Publication | In-country local government networks | UK100 Framework final.pdf \(uk100.org\)](#)

Research into a National - Local Net Zero Delivery Framework

Researched and produced by Quantum Strategy & Technology Ltd. for UK100

October 2021

Events / Meetings

Children's Climate Change Poster Exhibition

The posters are on display at Holy Trinity Church, Broadgate, Coventry. Everyone is welcome.



Warwickshire Association of Local Councils AGM, Climate Emergency: Practical Steps for Parish and Town Councils

WALC will be hosting a further climate action event for Parish and Town Councils

Local Council Climate Action Day

Register

Add to calendar ▾

Details



Training in climate action planning, and how to support the rapid transition to a zero-carbon economy.

A one-day workshop for parish or town councillors with a mix of presentations and facilitated workshops.

Funded by a grant from Warwickshire County Council **Green Shoots Fund**



Event date	Wed 19 Jan 2022 9:00
Event Ends	Wed 19 Jan 2022 16:00
Registered	11
Available places	29
Registration closes	Mon 17 Jan 2022 8:00
Notes	£30 to Members
Location	WALC Zoom Room
Event Categories	Climate

Useful Links

- [UK100 | Publication | In-country local government networks | UK100](#)
- [Framework final.pdf \(uk100.org\)](#)
- [39 Ways to Save the Planet \(penguin.co.uk\)](#)
- [HANDOUT - Friday WS2 - CSA LA Policy Proposals.pdf \(walc.org.uk\)](#)
- [20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency | Policy and insight \(friendsoftheearth.uk\)](#)
- [Upcoming events - Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils \(walc.org.uk\)](#)
- Community Energy Warwickshire Fund <https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf>
- [Heart of England Community Energy | HECE Community Solar Farm England \(hecommunityenergy.org\)](#)
- [What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Contract for a Better Society by Minouche Shafik – IMF F&D](#)
- [SCHOOLS PACK: GET INSPIRED - Together For Our Planet \(ukcop26.org\)](#)
- [Together for Our Planet | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#)

This National Lottery funding can pay for activities or items, costing between £1,000 and £10,000 in total, that will support your community to take climate action. These could be activities that bring people together to talk about what matters to them and what they want to do, events to raise awareness or to

reach other members of the community, or equipment to support something such as a community growing project.



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.