

Full Council Meeting – 8 February 2022

Report of Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

Electric Vehicle Charge Points

Somerset West and Taunton car parks and fleet vehicle charging points have started to be installed across our district, with 2 x 22kw double headed charging units going live in the Belvedere Road car park w/c 17th January 2022.

The charge points can be accessed by the Swarco E-connect app or RFID card and are publicly accessible 24hrs a day. They are also visible on electric vehicle apps such as Zap Map, the UK-wide map of charging points. The current price is set at 30p per kwh.



We have also installed 7kw fleet vehicle charging points for use by our pool cars in the Deane House staff car park. Further fleet chargers will be installed at the Wellington Depot and Kilkenny over the next couple of months.

The Instavolt charging units were installed and went live during 2021: the monthly stats show how they are being used and the resulting greenhouse gas savings

Site Name	Month/Year	Energy (kWh)	No. of Sessions	GHG Savings (kg)
ALEXANDRA ROAD	01/07/2021	542.9	23	501.0966855
ALEXANDRA ROAD	01/08/2021	4710.6	165	4347.883674
ALEXANDRA ROAD	01/09/2021	3810.1	138	3516.722198
ALEXANDRA ROAD	01/10/2021	4628.4	171	4272.013077
ALEXANDRA ROAD	01/11/2021	3017.1	104	2784.78322
ALEXANDRA ROAD	01/12/2021	2492.4	89	2300.485134
		19201.5	690	17722.98399
BLACKBROOK	01/05/2021	75.02	10	69.239
BLACKBROOK	01/06/2021	1010.43	55	932.633

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	215	120	15,003
Total distance travelled	244 miles	140 miles	24,407 miles
Average trip length	1.14 miles	1.17 miles	1.77 miles
Average trip duration	0:12:14	0:21:55	0:16:32
Average Speed	5.57 mph	3.19 mph	6.43 mph
Total time spent on scooters	43 hours	43 hours	4133 hours
New users	29	16	5,499

Queen's Green Canopy

We have taken delivery of the trees for our Taunton, Wellington and Minehead Queen's Green Canopy schemes this week. Planting at Taunton and Minehead will start later this week with official opening ceremonies taking place in March.



Water Refill Stations

The third and final water refill station will be installed in Wellington in February. Continuing with our collaboration with Wessex Water, we are looking at ways we can create a comms campaign that engages people to look at their water usage with a view to reducing water wastage in their homes.

Recycling on the Go

The schools' poster campaign has been extended to 31st January to allow time for more schools to take part. Following the installation of our new segregated recycling bins across the district, our post installation waste audit is taking place w/c 17th January. The data recorded will identify how well members of the public are using the new bins within the first few weeks of installation. Data gathered will help inform any future decisions regarding a wider rollout.



Exmoor National Park – Bye Wood, Woodland Creation

Somerset West and Taunton have previously committed to support the Exmoor National Park and their woodland creation at Bye Wood, by providing £8,000 funding towards the purchase of trees. This weekend (18th January) Exmoor National Park held their second volunteer tree planting event and officers from the Somerset West and Taunton Climate Change Team took part, helping to plant over 500 trees in total on the day.



Trees Call to Action Funding Bid

Working in partnership with the Somerset Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park, Somerset County Council, and the other District Councils within the county we have submitted a bid to the 'Trees Call to Action' fund, to produce a strategy for the creation of Somerset Forest. The closing the date for all applications was 20th January 2022.

Building Decarbonisation

We are progressing the recommendations within our previously commissioned strategy report.

We have pledged to support the Brewhouse by funding a whole building decarbonisation strategy.

Our CNCR budget is also supporting remedial works at Wellington Sports centre, including the replacement of air handling units which will reduce energy used by 60%.

Corporate Emissions

When we declared our Climate Emergency in 2019, we appointed Exeter University to carry out a baseline audit of our corporate emissions; this information was used to inform our Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience action plan. We are now recording the data for Year Two and carrying out an in-house assessment using the tools widely available to local authorities.

Ecological Emergency Vision and Action Plan

Somerset West and Taunton declared an Ecological Emergency in October 2020 and have recently appointed a project manager to produce an Ecological Vision and Action Plan. Our project manager started in October 2021 and work on the vision and action plan is progressing well. Somerset West and Taunton Cllrs have recently attended an all-Member briefing session to discuss the approach and have been invited to take part in further workshops to develop the plan.

We will keep you updated on progress of this extremely important work.

Funding Bid Writer

Our new funding bid writer started in September 2021 and has already started to make significant impact across the council, in supporting applications to the 'Social Housing Decarbonisation' fund at the end of 2021 and more recently the 'Trees Call to Action' fund. We will keep you updated of progress, and hopefully we will be able to share our successes soon.