



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership  24 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	<u>Item</u>  <b>3</b>
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## **SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE CONFERENCE AND SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

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### **Summary**

This paper provides information on two complementary community climate action partnerships, and seeks active engagement and support for these from Partnership members.

### **Recommendation**

The Partnership is recommended formally to support the partnerships and to identify ways for their own organisations, or as individuals, to contribute through signing up as supporters and active involvement.

### **Background**

On the back of widespread declarations of Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019 and a ramping up of activity, active community-led partnerships have formed in both South Shropshire and the county as a whole. These are doing vital work in charting the local course to net zero carbon emissions and ecological recovery, and deserve our active support. There is much valuable synergy with activity of the AONB Partnership, which we will continue to develop.

South Shropshire Climate Action Group <https://shropshireclimateaction.co.uk/>

This group formed from a public event in Craven Arms in November 2019 attended by Philip Dunne. A planned conference for May 2020 was amended into an online event held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020. This was attended by 120 people, and after overall sessions, split into theme groups of Transport, Energy & Buildings and Land & Biodiversity. Phil Holden made a presentation in the Land & Biodiversity session on integrating climate change and nature recovery responses. Recordings of the event can be viewed here <https://shropshireclimateaction.co.uk/conference-recordings/>.

A comprehensive set of resources has been gathered on the excellent website, including documents, videos and case studies under the three themes <https://shropshireclimateaction.co.uk/resources/>.

The Group has set out in its Statement of Purpose of September 2020 that

*“We are looking for interested individuals to collaborate in working groups to research and devise practical ideas and solutions which can be implemented and put into practice in South Shropshire. The ideas will be recorded and drawn together in a clear and usable way; hence we describe a report or manual or handbook.*

*We don't quite know what it will look like, but it will be a 'live' document, which can be added to as experience or application indicates. It's a place where you will be able to find out what is already happening, who to contact or visit, a resource where great ideas are collected together, where a person, a business, an organisation in everyday South Shropshire can find out what to do next to reduce carbon outputs.”*

The group is focussing on the geographical area of the Ludlow constituency, and remains in close contact with Philip Dunne. There is an intention to take output of the group to the delayed COP26 meeting being hosted by the UK.

We have been closely involved with the Land & Biodiversity theme group, which has engaged around 38 people willing to contribute following the conference to developing the follow-up plan. This involves looking at data needs, technical knowledge and networking.

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) <https://zerocarbonsshropshire.org/>

This Shropshire-wide group developed during 2020 with a combination of grassroots community initiative, and support from Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. The Partnership describes its work as follows:

*Bringing together organisations, businesses, and communities across Shropshire, through collaboration, knowledge-sharing and empowerment, SCAP will support rapid decarbonisation, large-scale restoration of biodiversity and the natural environment, and the development of the sustainable, resilient, and inclusive communities and enterprises needed for a sustainable future.*

*The first step is to develop a practical zero carbon Shropshire plan (ZCSP) by the end of 2020, and to achieve support from stakeholders for immediate implementation. SCAP will draw on the world class expertise of the Shropshire environmental technology sector and enterprises offering products and services for the sustainable future we need.*

*After this, from January 2021, SCAP will expand its scope to oversee the implementation, updating and further refinement of the ZCSP, and support Shropshire residents and businesses to achieve the rapid shift away from fossil fuels that we need. SCAP will work alongside organisations, businesses, communities and local residents to engage, build consensus, and maintain support for the actions and the key milestones along the road to a net zero Shropshire by 2030.*

The work of the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership is being undertaken by working groups focused on different themes:

- Consumption and Resources
- Buildings

- Land and Biodiversity
- Energy
- Transport

Organisations can become members and individuals can also sign up, and members of the Partnership are encouraged to do this.

The Land & Biodiversity group is working on the following sub-themes and would welcome further involvement of people in these areas:

- Rivers, waterways, streams & wetlands
- Woodland & agroforestry
- Food production
- Energy production
- Local green spaces
- Recreation & tourism
- Nature reserves
- Hedgerows

Other more local groups

The resources page for our Climate event for community groups has proved popular.

<https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/a-special-place/resources/environment-and-climate-emergency>

Parish groups focussed on climate are active in a number of places. Clunbury is one good example (see page 5 of <https://www.theparishpost.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/parish-post-july-2020-for-reading-on-screen.pdf>). Information on others would be useful to share.

<p><b>List of Background Papers</b> None</p>
<p><b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b> The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Appraisal</b> The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.</p>
<p><b>Risk Management Appraisal</b> Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.</p>
<p><b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b> The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.</p>
<p><b>Appendices</b> None</p>