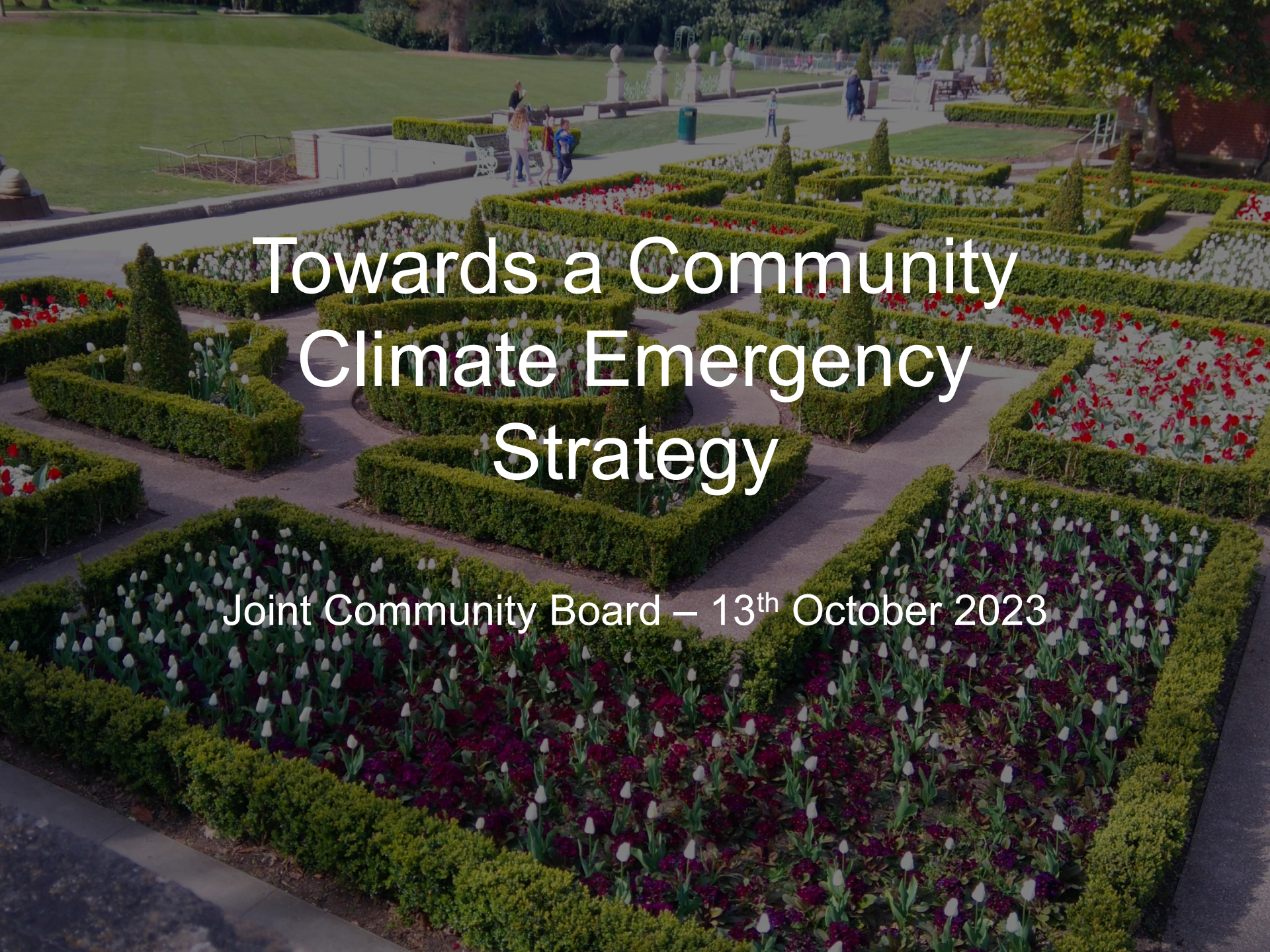


Towards a Community Climate Emergency Strategy

Joint Community Board – 13th October 2023

Bracknell Forest Council have declared a **Climate and Biodiversity Emergency**

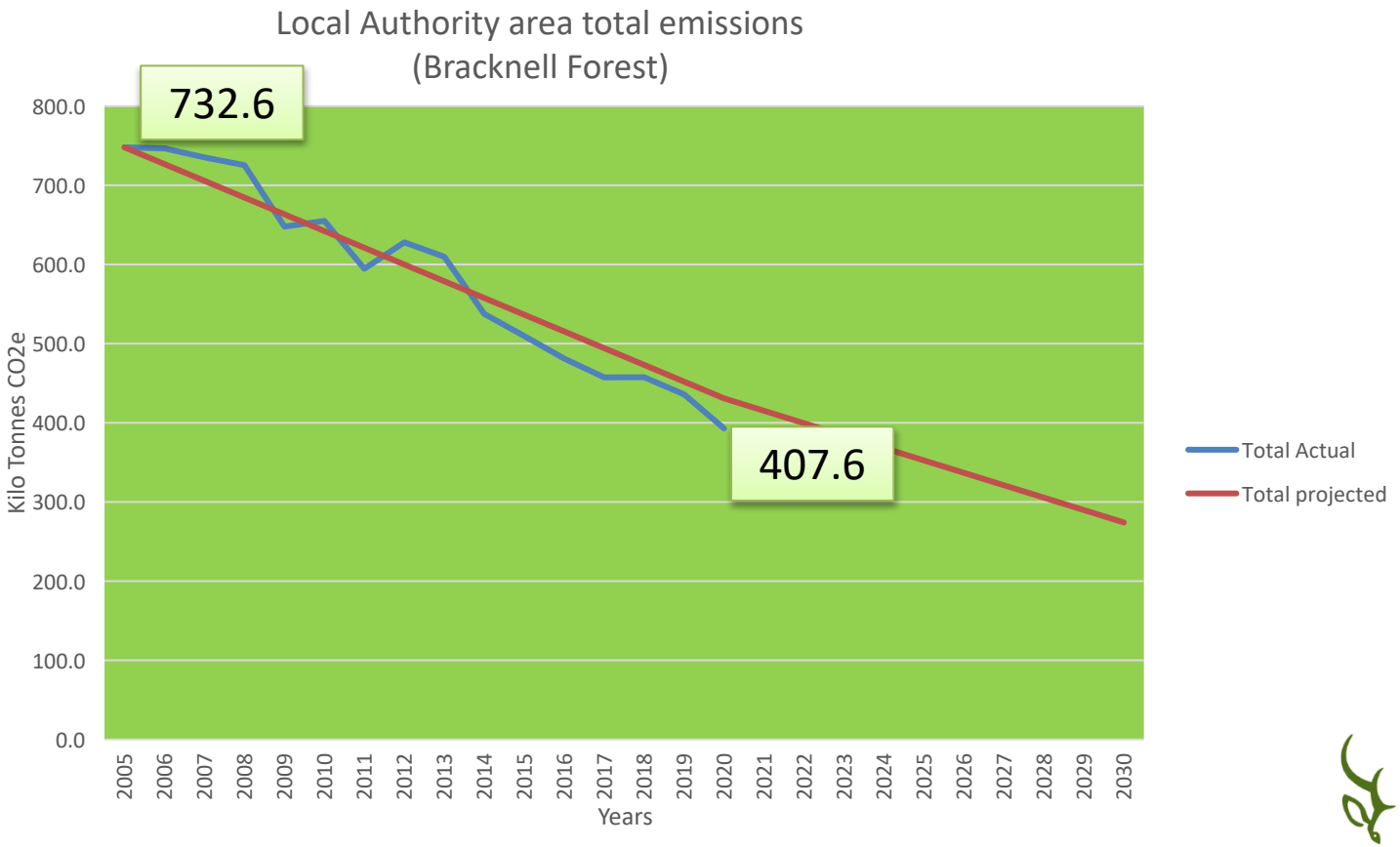
Tackling this includes:

- Co-producing with the community a Community Climate Emergency Strategy, with the aim of making the wider Bracknell Forest area net-zero as close to 2030 as possible.

- Doing so in a financially transparent way to demonstrate accountability, affordability and economic benefits, with clear interim, smart targets.

Bracknell Forest Council

Emissions over time – where are we now?



Where are we headed for 2030?

Bracknell Forest Council

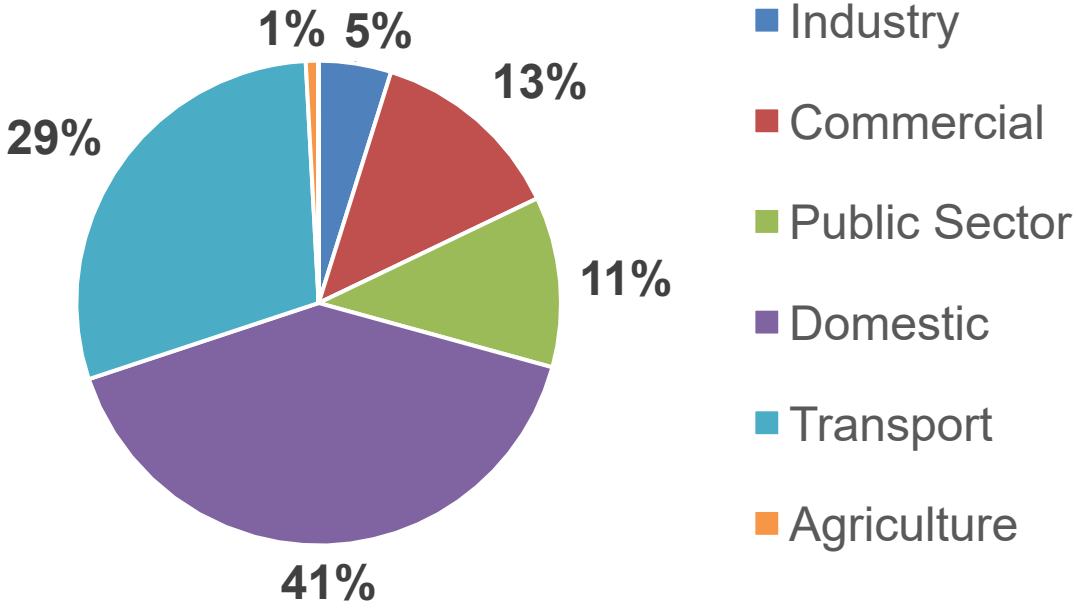
Breakdown of emissions across the borough (2021)

Territorial emissions cover all direct emissions from activities taking place in the borough and the energy we're using.

This includes emissions from;

- Houses
- Vehicles
- Shops
- Offices
- Farms
- Industry here in the borough

However, it doesn't reflect emissions taking place elsewhere from the goods and services we consume (aside from energy).



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Further insight to these emissions

Transport

- Decarbonising transport is largely focused on moving to Electric Vehicles. New sales of diesel/petrol cars will be banned from **2035**. However, there are current concerns around grid capacity and the provision of EV charging points. Up to 20,000 properties have no off-street parking and will rely on public charging infrastructure.

Domestic, Industry and Commercial

- There is a UK target of **decarbonising our electricity supply by 2035 -** replacing fossil fuel generation with renewable alternatives, mainly wind and solar power. However, there are spatial challenges to do this at scale locally.

- With regards **decarbonising heating**, the UK government has recently relaxed targets on **phasing out new gas boilers by 2035 and off-grid oil boilers by 2026, making both targets an 80% phase-out instead and moving the latter to 2035**. The alternatives – heat pumps, district heating, biogas, hydrogen – all face significant infrastructure, cost & technological barriers.

Bracknell Forest Council

What has BFC been doing to reduce emissions?

Passed a motion reaffirming our commitment to action in the face of the climate emergency

In the last 2 years, we have worked to reduce emissions by:

Converted all of our street lighting to LEDs

Reduced the council's direct carbon dioxide emissions by **21%**

Initiated a weekly household kerbside food waste collection diverting more than 6,000 tonnes away from landfill in the first year.

Improved our **waste recycling** rates from 43% to **56%**

Have **improved** the **average energy rating** across all borough homes to a **'C'**

Embedded climate change impacts within all council project decision reports

132,507 miles of green journeys logged on the **EcoRewards active travel scheme**

Held a secondary schools' climate change conference featuring Chris Packham

Worked to allign climate change ambitions within all Public Health policies

Purchased **100% renewable electricity** for supplying the council estate since April 2021

Secured Public Sector Decarbonisation funding to help us create heat decarbonisation plans for our property estate

Bracknell Forest Council

Key themes from July 2023 Bracknell Forest Climate Summits

Measuring emissions, making pledges and setting targets

Energy efficiency and heating solutions

Green economy and jobs

Air quality

Food waste

Water refills

Recycling

Behaviour change

Reducing water usage

Reducing consumption

Home or flexible working

Planning process and new housing

Litter picking

Business support

Education and comms (for children and adults)

Gardening and healthy cooking

Fewer emails

Climate projects

Repair cafés

Community & working groups

Climate hubs and events

Volunteering

Reducing flying

Phasing out single-use items

Active travel

Car sharing

LED bulbs

Solar panels and renewable energy

Circular economy

Habitat creation and maintenance

Sustainable procurement

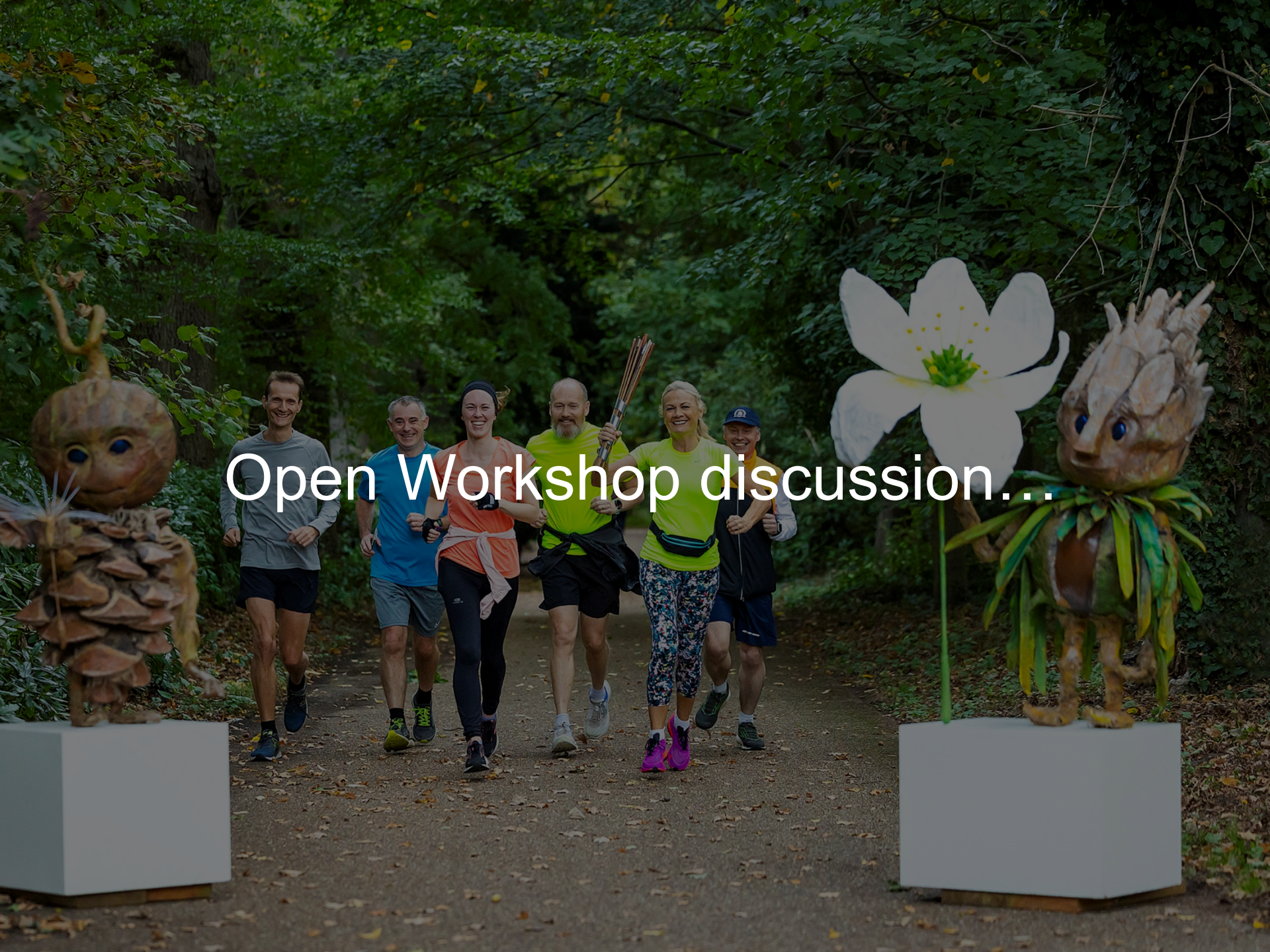
Electric vehicles and charging infrastructure

Celebrate successes

Sharing resources and best practice

Workshop ideas

- Energy Schemes
  E.g. Solar Together, the potential for further schemes ‘together’
- Ways to increase active travel around the borough
- Reducing ICE vehicles and increasing EVs
- Consumption: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
- Improving and maintaining our green spaces
- Behaviour change
- Building a climate conscious culture
- Climate Adaptation


Open Workshop discussion…