

## Notice of Meeting

### Climate Change Advisory Panel

Councillor Virgo (Chair),  
Councillor Mrs McKenzie-Boyle (Vice-Chair),  
Councillors Dr Barnard, Mrs Hayes MBE, Mrs Ingham, Kennedy,  
Leake, Mossom, Parker and Temperton



### Non-Voting Co-optees

Councillor John Harrison  
Councillor Chris Turrell

**Monday 10 October 2022, 4.30 pm**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

### Agenda

*All councillors at this meeting have adopted the Mayor's Charter  
which fosters constructive and respectful debate.*

Item	Description	Page
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <b>Reporting: ALL</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.  Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days.  Any Member with an affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting. <b>Reporting: ALL</b>	
3.	<b>Minutes</b>  To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Panel on 8 June 2022. <b>Reporting: ALL</b>	1 - 4
4.	<b>Urgent Items of Business</b>  Any other items which, pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman decides are urgent.	

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**If you hear the alarm, leave the building immediately. Follow the green signs. Use the stairs not the lifts. Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.**

	<b>Reporting:</b> Hannah Harding	
5.	<b>Climate Change officer</b>	5 - 12
	Faith Everett, the Council's new Climate Change officer will introduce herself and cover some of the climate change measures the Council is taking. (10mins) <b>Reporting:</b> Faith Everett	
6.	<b>Head of Climate Change's Update</b>	13 - 18
	Gareth Jones will update the panel on his portfolio including house insulation to the most needy. (10 mins) <b>Reporting:</b> Gareth Jones	
7.	<b>Octopus Energy</b>	
	Simon Connelly, Senior representative of Octopus Energy, will cover what the company is doing to help customers get through the Energy Crisis. (10mins) <b>Reporting:</b> Councillor Tony Virgo	
8.	<b>Executive Member for the Environment's Update</b>	
	To receive any updates from the Executive Member for the Environment. <b>Reporting:</b> Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE	

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media is permitted. Please contact Hannah Harding, 01344 352308, [hannah.harding@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.harding@bracknell-forest.gov.uk), so that any special arrangements can be made.

Published: 30 September 2022

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

If you hear the alarm, leave the building immediately. Follow the green signs. Use the stairs not the lifts. Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.



**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY PANEL  
8 JUNE 2022  
6.30 - 8.40 PM**

**Present:**

Councillors Dr Barnard, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Mrs Ingham, Kennedy, Leake, Mossom, Virgo and Temperton

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Mrs McKenzie-Boyle

**2. Election of Chairman**

Councillor Tony Virgo was appointed as Chairman.

**3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Councillor Tina McKenzie-Boyle was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the Climate Change Advisory Panel on 25 April 2022 were approved.

**6. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**7. Countryside Partnerships presentation on Climate Change : Pathfinder - Marking out the route to net zero.**

Percy Mullany and Robert MacDiarmid of Countryside Partnerships attended the meeting to give a presentation and answer questions.

The presentation set out Countryside's approach to sustainability and detailed how they planned on tackling issues in relation to net zero carbon and wider sustainability issues.

Robert spoke of Countryside's purpose: to create places where people love to live, with sustainable communities built to last. This aim had been broken down into three broad pillars: 'built to last', 'sustainable communities' and 'thriving together'. Each pillar was underpinned by various targets.

Concerning the 'built to last' pillar, targets had been set relating to safety performance, sustainable materials and modern methods of construction – all geared towards building a high-quality home.

On the second pillar, Robert spoke about a mix of social and economic targets. There were clear commitments to tree planting and biodiversity net gain, job creation schemes and EV charging port installations – among other targets.

The final pillar contained more internally focussed targets relating to, for example, the training of the workforce.

Robert spoke about Countryside's net zero reduction strategy. In reducing the emissions that Countryside were forecast to make during the period of 2020 to 2030, three interventions were to have an effect. There were:

1. A change to the building regulations to the Interim Future Homes Standard in 2022.
2. The Future Homes Standard in 2025 when gas boilers were no longer to be fitted.
3. A commitment to build 50% of homes by timber frame.

Robert spoke about some of the key challenges Countryside would face when building homes at scale:

- An increase in build costs was mentioned, although economies of scale would likely bring these down over time.
- Whilst an issue with the supply of heat pumps themselves wasn't likely, there were not enough contractors to install them.
- Homes being completely electrified was to increase pressure on local infrastructure.
- The drop off in performance from a gas boiler and a heat pump was likely to take time to acclimatise to and emphasis was placed on the need to bring the customers along on the journey.

During a period of discussion, the following points were made and answers were given:

- There was less concern relating to the manufacture of heat pumps as manufacturers will scale up their operation. More concern was attributed the lack of contractors able to fit the heat pumps at the time.
- A modern heat pump works better when it heating water to a lower temperature than a gas boiler would. Therefore, a higher level of thermal efficiency were to be required in new build homes. Heat pumps were starting to come onto the market that could heat water to a temperature not dissimilar to a gas boiler.
- Air source heat pumps are effective and have lower infrastructure costs than water or ground source heat pumps.
- An emersion heater has an coefficient performance of 1 unit of electricity to 1 unit of heat. An electric heater has a coefficient performance of 1.1:1. A heat pump has a coefficient performance of between 1:2 and 1:5.
- Draughts coming into the home results in reduced efficiency and increased heating costs. Therefore, homes with heat pumps require more airtightness. Because of this, air would have to be mechanically moved around the home.
- Houses with 2-3 bedrooms or more were likely to need a water tank.
- The same regulations applied to apartments as they did to low rise housing. A move away from gas heating to renewable heating was required. This were to be achieved by having an energy centre in the building with pipes carrying

water around to individual apartments. There was to be provision in certain apartments to top up the water temperature.

- From June 2023, every home that has an associated parking point was to have an EV charging point made available to them.
- It was advised that anaerobic digestion would not have been economically viable on a small scale.
- Both of the planning applications that the joint venture was looking at included provision of solar panels.
- Air source units were to be placed inside homes.
- The government had issued guidance to direct local planning authorities to take into account some of the newer design features of buildings with heat pumps.
- Heat pumps worked more efficiently when heating water to 19-20 degrees.
- Concerns were raised as to whether the district operator could meet the demand during peak EV charging times.
- Public subsidies were going to be needed for homeowners with lower value homes to support the retrofit. The economic outlay for upgraded insulation was to be such a large sum that it would not be recovered in its sale value.

## 8. **Annual report on Climate Change Strategy**

Damian James presented the Annual Report on the Climate Change Strategy.

The Council had adopted a four pronged approach to the Climate Change Strategy from 2020-2024. This was to involve working with partners, working with schools and young people, preserving the climate beneficial elements of the COVID-19 emergency and preserving the natural environment sustainably in line with the Bracknell Forest Strategic Plans.

Damian illustrated the general trend of reducing emissions across the borough.

Some of the strategic highlights of the year prior were detailed:

- The Council had altered the corporate decision making process so that climate considerations were incorporated in the matrix.
- Climate change elements had been added to service plans for 22/23.
- A number of programmes within the public service team had impacted on climate change in the previous 12 months.
- In the Business Survey 2021, 51% of businesses had the intention of being more environmentally friendly.
- The Council had had a number of Ministers at landfill sites to discuss a range of possible eco-projects.
- The Schools Climate Conference had been a success.

The Council had been successful in obtaining grant funding for various environmental projects over the previous year.

An overview was given of the work various teams across the Council were doing to contribute to the Councils climate efforts.

During a period of discussion, the following points were made and answers were given:

- Due to the economic climate at the time, many businesses were primarily concerned with survival.

- Many organisations, including the Council’s partner The Economic and Skills Development Partnership, had been doing excellent work to help businesses with their climate efforts.
- The ‘looking forward’ section of the report was to be expanded.
- Statistics relating to Borough emissions not directly under the control of the Council – about 98% of Borough emissions – were to be provided.
- Small businesses were facing many of the same pressures as individual households. They were to be able to access and make use of some of the same Council initiatives as individual households.
- A number of EV charging points were being installed at Lily Hill Park for community use.
- The Council was engaging with Silver Homes to help them receive grant funding in the next tranche.
- The Council held a database containing information on the least well insulated properties within the Borough. The Council was to target the individuals most in need and the least efficient homes with funding as a priority.
- Residents were thanked for the excellent effort they had made so far. Lots of people making small changes had the cumulative impact of a large change.
- 8 schools within the Borough were to receive funding for climate projects.
- Some revisions to sections of the report were suggested.

The Chairman proposed that ‘This Panel would like Executive to consider a proportion of the SIL money so go towards home insulation’. The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Leake.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Panel will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**CHAIRMAN**

# Climate change & The cost of living

Faith Everett, BFC Climate Change Officer  
CCAP 10/10/2022



# Climate change

Across the UK, the implications of climate change are unavoidable.



A recent survey found **that 8/10 people in the UK are worried about climate change.**

9



Winter, spring, and summer 2022 were warmer and drier than average. A heatwave in July 2022 brought record high temperatures for England, Scotland, and Wales.

# The cost of living crisis

Households in the UK are feeling the financial squeeze. Last month, **91%** of UK households reported an increase in their cost of living. The households involved mainly attributed the increase to:



Rise in the costs of food



Rapidly rising utility bills

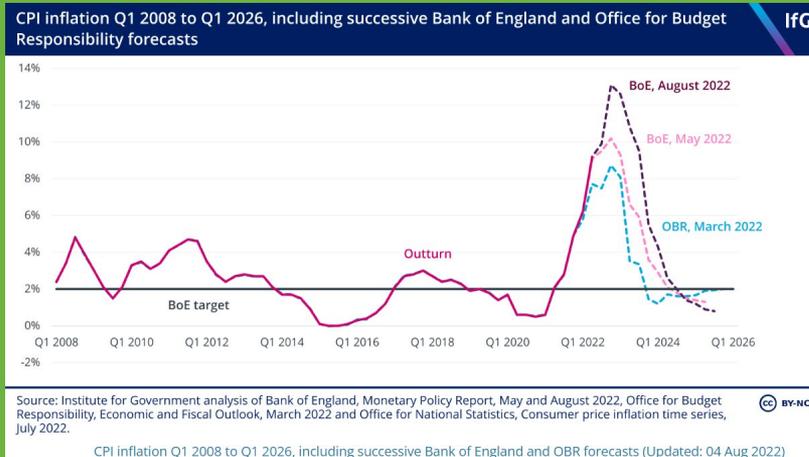
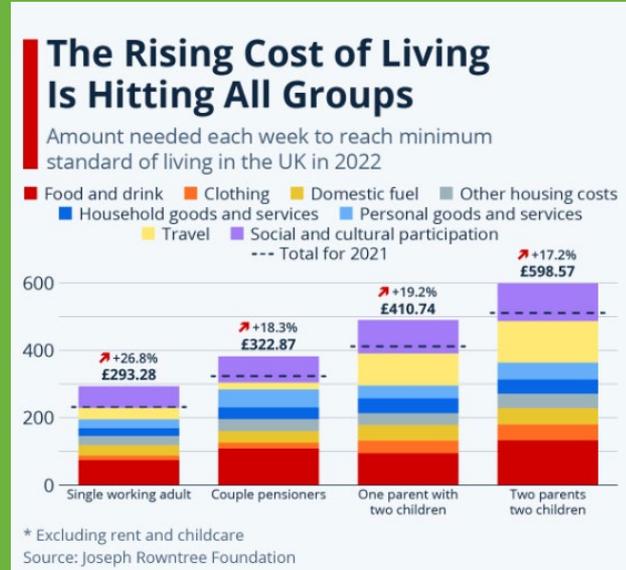


A sharp increase in the cost of fuel



# What does this cost of living crisis look like for a Bracknell Forest resident?

- The average family of 4 in the UK spends about £163 on food shopping per week. That's 8% up on last year.
- The average energy bill per month for a 3 bed home is estimated to jump from £164 to £296 this year.
- Last month, the average cost of fuel was £1.92 per litre for petrol, and £1.99 for diesel. That's around 40-45% higher than the year before.

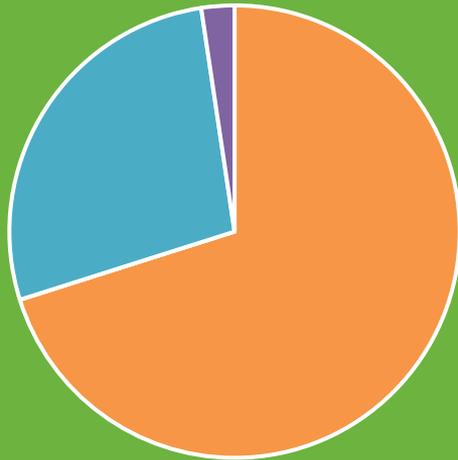


What practical help can we offer to residents to save costs whilst looking after the planet at the same time?

# What we're doing... ⚡ Energy ⚡

Energy consumption contributes to greenhouse gas emissions across the borough. The most recent research suggests that domestic gas use contributes up to 70% of domestic energy emissions across Bracknell Forest.

Domestic emissions across Bracknell Forest



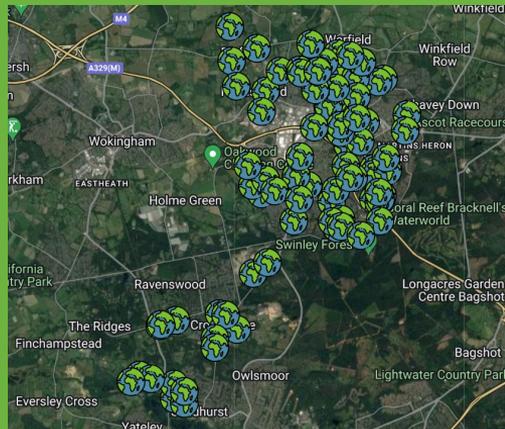
■ Gas 70.13%   ■ Electricity 27.50%   ■ Other fuels 2.37%

- Advice and support on energy efficiency at home including warm safe and well Public Health funding The scheme offers up to 50% of funds towards home energy efficiency improvements.
- Warm home discount scheme, Winter fuel payment and Cold weather payment
- Boiler upgrade scheme and Flexible home improvement loans.
- Energy supplier grants and schemes – British Gas Energy Trust, EDF Energy Customer Support Fund, Octopus Assist fund, OVO energy fund.
- DIY energy saving tips

# What we're doing... Transport

The transport sector is one of the highest contributors to local carbon emissions and is also one of the sectors with the highest rate of inflation. In Bracknell Forest alone, transport makes up 35% of the borough's total greenhouse gas emissions.

- Love to Ride and Eco Rewards are free active travel sign up platforms which reward sustainable travel choices.
- Signposting towards map of electric charging points for electric cars in UK which can be filtered to free to use stations (e.g. Waitrose and Tesco).
- Currently installing 32 additional EV charging points at local neighbourhood hubs.
- Encouraging our residents to consider alternative methods of travel with active commuting and flexible working policies



## BRACKNELL FOREST ALL TIME STATS



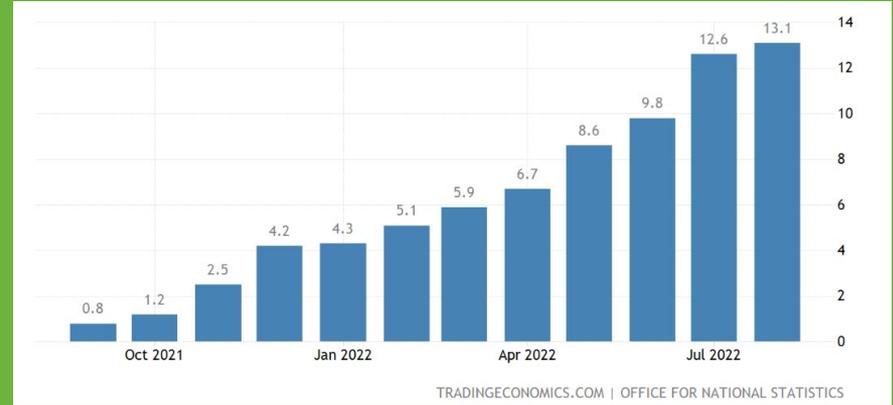
 Bracknell  
Forest  
Council

Above: Left: Love to Ride stats  
Left: Map of Eco Rewards tag locations around  
Bracknell Forest and Eco rewards QR example

# What we're doing... 🍌 Food 🍌

The way food contributes to climate change is wide ranging – production and processing of food, food delivery miles, packaging, storage and preparation, and food waste.

- We are developing a climate change 'daily tips' to encourage behaviour change and help save our residents money.
  - Tips include; downloading apps such Olio and Too Good to Go and measuring food out to reduce waste.
  - Love food hate waste
- Successful food waste bin scheme across the borough.



Graph illustrating the inflation rate of food in the UK from September 2021 to August 2022.



# Encouraging our residents at home

**Food, energy and transport** are intersectional themes within both **climate change** and the **cost of living crisis**. BFC comms and marketing are helping to encourage individual actions as some of the most effective ways to tackle rising emissions that can also impact rising costs too.

## Food

Freeze food that is approaching its best by date – this allows it to last longer.

Meal planning – allows you to only buy what is needed.

More sustainable eating habits – consuming less red meat and more seasonal/local produce.

## Energy

The Energy Trust have a free home energy check tool to help you understand your utility bill.

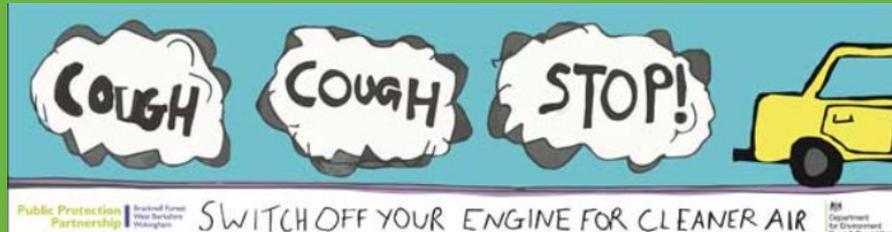
Get in touch with your energy provider.

Request an energy “smart” meter so you can keep track of your usage.

## Transport

Check Petrol Prices to find the cheapest petrol near you. Empty the boot of car/ carry only what needed.

Turn off your engine when stationary.



# Final points

## Successful

£100k to increase publicly accessible EV charging provisions in the borough (supports EV ownership / move away from costlier diesel/petrol fuels)

£160k from Dept of Transport to promote active travel

£900k Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 1A funding improving energy efficiency within hard to heat homes

## Unsuccessful

£500k Public Sector Housing decarbonisation (joint bid supporting social housing provider Silva Homes) to promote energy efficiency measures in hard to heat homes

£1.3M Sustainable Warmth bid to implement energy efficiency measures in hard to heat homes.

# Climate Change Advisory Panel 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

Green Homes Grant Local  
Authority Delivery (LAD 2 and 3)  
update

Gareth Jones, Head of Climate Change  
and Sustainable Living



# Background Info

- GHG government funding (BEIS)
- BFC previous success with LAD 1A. GSEEH successful with Berks wide bids for LAD 2 and LAD 3
- <sup>14</sup>wall/loft/floor insulation, solar panels, or heat



- Eligibility based on income and energy efficiency rating
- Managing Agent leads / BFC identifies beneficiaries



# GHG LAD 2

- GSEEH combined bid initially allocated £276k towards BFC
- False start/delay in arranging Managing Agent (MA) for GSEEH. MA only in place by Dec 21; BFC allocation reduced to £87k;
- BFC identified 32 potential beneficiaries to the MA;
- Currently advised that following surveys 14 homes went forwards for possible works allocation subject to procurement of contractors.



# Sustainable Warmth (GHG LAD 3)



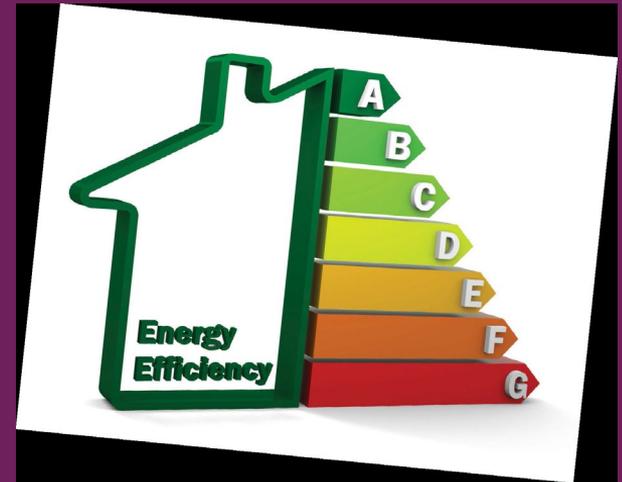
16



- Apr 22 – Mar 23. In Mar 22, GSEEH proposed to BEIS to allocate £1M towards BFC (we weren't in initial Berks-wide bid)
- Fund includes a budget for BFC promotional activities of circa £10k to support marketing efforts.
- Project marketing/promotions in GSEH area only commenced in Sep 22 owing to LAD 2 backlog.
- No indication project timeline will be extended. Initial (£) allocation ambitions already scaled back

# Summary

- GSEEH now reporting improving staff resource availability levels in our area; should reduce wait times for initial house surveys
- Survey leads to advised 'shopping list' of retrofit works required; could be one, two or three different improvements
- 3 contractors to bid for each improvement; can bid for more than one;
- Works agreed if fall within budget
- Still waiting on confirmation of LAD 2 successes and news of inclusion to Sustainable Warmth (LAD 3)



# Forward Look

- Elmhurst Database – position of relative strength for BFC. Known energy rating of 95%+ homes.
- Further funding opportunities – likely as Sustainable Warmth is now nearing an end. BFC will bid.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – separate funding stream route. Our largest Registered Provider will bid this Autumn.

