

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL ECO ACTION PLAN - Completed Items

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Community Engagement Committee

Highways and Lighting Committee

Planning and Development Committee

Open Spaces & Allotments Committee

Progress Key
No Progress
In Progress/ongoing
Completed
Closed: No Further Action

Area	Baseline	Proposal	Benefit/Impact	Cost	Timescale	Notes/Next Step	Progress
Contractors	Contractors chosen based on cost, locally based and use of existing satisfactory contractor.	Tenderers required to incorporate Councils commitment to ensuring that all procurements consider the environmental well-being of the Town and surrounding area, in their submissions. They will be required to provide evidence of compliance with relevant environmental standards with respect to themselves, their systems of work, equipment and supplies.	May lead to higher cost	Expected increase	When contracts are next reviewed	Procurement Policy Amended	
Paper Usage	100% recycled photocopying paper . The office uses very little stationery and paper use has reduced due to many more functions being carried out online during Covid.	1) Compare annual usage year on year commencing 30/09/21	Biodiversity - save trees Improve efficiency			Process in place to monitor	
		2) Request recycled paper for any external printing work for flyers, posters, questionnaires.				Standard request	
		4) To invest in technology in the Chamber				Completed	
Utilities	Suppliers chosen by cost only At present WTC is tied into 3-year contracts for the supply of gas and electricity so such a review must await contract expiry	1) Review utility suppliers to assess the extent to which their supplies can be said to be eco-friendly.	The increasing cost may impact our ability to select greener suppliers.	Expected increase	When contracts are next reviewed Electricity EDF 03/23	New Electricity contract agreed with SSE from <u>01/04/23 to 30/09/25 = 85.32% increase</u> . Part of OVO Group - committed to becoming a net zero carbon business by 2030.	
						Process in place to monitor	
Russell House	Energy Costs	1) To re-investigate feasibility of solar panels	Eco friendly Initial cost v long term savings	Unknown	KCC offered opportunity to express interest by 15/03.	Initial costings received c£6k. Discussed at May F&GP. Decision taken not to proceed due to cost.	
		4) To consider change of internal lighting to LED			Approved to change Chamber Lighting at Sep Meeting		
Cleaning materials	Chosen by cost only	1) WTC to use Eco friendly products where possible 2) Request cleaning contractor at RH and public toilets uses Eco friendly products	Note may add to time spent cleaning/quality of cleaning	Note slight increase in costs		Completed	
Refuse	No recycling of refuse from RH	Investigate business collections with SDC		Slight increase c£80 per annum		Completed	

Website	Nothing on website	1) Environmental section to be included on website		No cost		Completed	
		2) To investigate green credentials of host				Completed	
KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator		Introduce to Councillors				Completed	
Russell House - garden	No wildlife habitat	To explore introduction of wildlife habitats.		Unknown		Planning to leave area uncut with appropriate signage.	
Single use plastic by cafes/tea rooms	Mixed use currently	To visit all outlets to request do not use single use plastic		to be investigated	Six months	New law that outlets do not use single use plastic.	
Donate bird and bug boxes to CH primary school for them to put up and monitor	No monitoring of birds and bugs in parish	For Crockham Hill school to use bird and bug boxes in their school grounds and monitor activity	monitoring bird and bug activity in parish	none	Completed	Boxes given to Crockham Hill School. Data received from CH School regarding usage of bird boxes.	
Hedgehogs R Us Highways Project	Provide gaps in fences to allow hedges to pass	To investigate Kent Wildlife Trust initiative on hedgehogs.	protect environment	None.	Ongoing	To investigate Kent Wildlife Trust initiative on hedgehogs. Information given to Crockham Hill School	
Litter pick on King George's Field	Litter picking on King George's Field	To litter pick on KGF and involve Footballers and parents/carers	protect environment, to encourage young people to keep KGF tidy	None	Completed and ongoing	To carry out a litter pick on a Sunday	
Planting a garden at Crockham Hill School	A competition was held for a plan for sustainable planting in front of the School sign.	Two winners were chosen.	protect environment, to encourage young people to consider sustainable planting	Cost of plants in two stages, autumn and spring. A Gardner to help the winners plant the area.	Completed and ongoing	To monitor the planting	
Litter pick and Vegetation clearance - Wombling in Westerham	To pick up litter and clear vegetation from footpaths.	To have a litter pick and also ask residents to clear vegetation from the sides of paths.	protect environment, keep Westerham looking tidy	None.	September 30th 2025	A footpath between Croydon Road and New Street was cleared. Residents were very appreciative.	
Electricity contract for streetlights	Suppliers chosen on cost, locally based and use of existing satisfactory contractors.	Tenderers required to incorporate Councils commitment to ensuring that all procurements consider the environmental well-being of the Town and surrounding area, in their submissions. They will be required to provide evidence of compliance with relevant environmental standards with respect to themselves, their systems of work, equipment and supplies.	All aspects of ECO Policy May lead to higher cost	Annual cost for fixed rate ca £10,795.	Contract moved to Drax for fixed term of 3 years, expiring 18.8.28	Review Spring 2028 prior to end of fixed term	
LED lights at the Church	Current lights at the church use standard bulbs	To remove old bulbs and replace with energy efficient LED bulbs	Save energy and reduce CO ₂ emissions	Quote provided to supply and install LED floodlights £6,932.76 (all) or £2,920 (4)	Phased approach over 3 years	Four floodlights now installed	
Light Pollution	Light pollution	Article in TN16, reduce number of streetlights that are on during the night	Reduction in light pollution in Westerham	Nil	Lights off 11pm to 6am away from major roads		
Planning responses	Environmental issues not previously considered.	The Planning Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications.	ECO impact	None other than possible training.	Immediately		

Planning responses	Environmental issues not previously considered.	The Planning Committee will consider whether Biodiversity net gain has been considered by the applicant.	ECO impact	None other than possible training.	Immediately		
SDC	Environmental issues not previously considered.	To request SDC put new questions on their planning application forms regarding environment and biodiversity impact from the proposed work.	Environmental issues considered by applicants	None	Done	The planning forms are national forms not SDC forms. SDC has a climate change and net zero page on their website.	
Plastic use	Environmentally friendly product	To source recycled material bin sacks for our litter bins	Environmentally friendly product	?	Immediately		
Food and land Management	Eat local. Food Waste, Food bank	Allotment Surplus Sharing	Reduction in food waste. Environmentally friendly food miles.	Officers time.	Implement with allotment holders for growing season 2024/25	To be explored further and agreed with the Food Bank. Poster put up at Allotment sites/facebook and noticeboards.	
Remove tyres from Currant Hill Allotment	Remove tyres from Currant Hill	Tyres to be removed from site	Removal of potential toxic chemicals to leach into the ground.	Estimated £300	Summer 2024	Tyres to be collected 23/06/2024 by Hogtyres, surplus tyres to be collected by Go Karting company.	
Improve bio diversity	Increase opportunity for greater bio diversity	Introduce pollinators in troughs	Improve bio diversity within Westerham	Approx £30 per trough	Summer 2025	To consider adopting this into the summer planting schedule.	
Improve bio diversity	To work with FG&GP Committee to improve Russell House garden.	To review current type of plants and see whether more eco friendly planting is feasible.	Improve bio diversity within Westerham	Unknown	2020 / 2026	Further research to be carried out	
Improve bio diversity	Increase opportunity for greater bio diversity	Planting up of Beggars Lane Roundabout	Improve bio diversity within Westerham	£500 covered by donations	Summer 2025	Maintenance of the roundabout ongoing.	
Reduce pesticide use and other harmful activities	Review ways to encourage reduced pesticide use by allotment holders	Continue offering a weed control cover for allotment holders and encourage plot holders to cover any unworked areas of their plots. Cover is cut to length required by WTC's GMO.	Using Weed control fabric significantly reduces the need for chemical weed killers.	The bulk of the cost is recouped. WTC Officer time ordering material/stock control. GMO time cutting material.	Immediately	Agreed to carry on offering weed control cover. There continues to be a good take up by Allotment holders.	
Manage land for nature	Encourage wildlife on our land	To sign up for the Wilder Kent Awards - Villages & Towns		Officer time	May-22	WTC's submission won a Silver award for Towns and Villages. Council to review feedback.	
Manage Land for nature	Encourage Wildlife	Investigate swift boxes on WTC land/buildings with local swift group.			For 2022 nesting season	The area had been reviewed again by the local Swifts group and the outcome was it is not a suitable location for Swifts.	
Composting	There are communal composts at our allotment sites.	Encourage local composting of suitable materials rather than having materials burnt or moved to recycling/landfill sites.	All aspects of ECO Policy	None known	2021/2022	All allotment holders were encouraged to compost with their 2021/22/23/24/25 rent renewal letters. SDC Garden Waste collection was advertised in the June TN16 Magazine & social media.	

Equipment		As and when new equipment needs to be acquired (for replacement of existing equipment or as a wholly new purchase), investigate electric/battery-powered equipment instead of petrol.			2022	It has been agreed that as and when new equipment is replaced non petrol alternatives are investigated. A battery powered hedge cutter for the WTC Groundsman had been purchased due to the petrol hedge cutter coming to the end of its life.	
Cleaning Materials for pavilions and Outbuildings		Purchase eco cleaning materials where appropriate.		more expensive	ASAP.	F&GP to agreed to additional cost - Now Purchased. APFOS and CHWMPFT is being purchased separately to allow for correct budgeting.	