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Town Clerk: Hannah Bowden, CiLCA

16 December 2025

To Councillors - Cllr Danny Bonnett (Chair), Cllr Kath Greenman, Cllr Maggie Tyrrell, Cllr Chris Bloor (Vice Chair), Cllr Chris Rowe, Cllr Christine Carter and all non-councillor Committee members

Please take notice that a meeting of the **Climate and Nature Committee** of Thornbury Town Council will be held in the **Council Chamber of the Town Hall** on **Tuesday 16 Demcember** at **7.30 pm**.

All above named Councillors are hereby **summoned**, and non-councillors invited, to attend the above meeting for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out hereunder.

S] Gardha

Sharon Gardham, Climate and Nature Officer

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and the need to conserve biodiversity.

Public participation: Please note that this meeting is open to the public. Please take note of the guidance notes for public participation provided.

If you would not be physically able to use the stairs in the event of a fire, please inform us of your intention to attend this meeting no later than 9.00am on the Monday before, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

AGENDA

- 1. To note any apologies for absence
- 2. To receive any members' declarations of interest
- 3. To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda
- 4. To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025 (paper attached)
- 5. To receive a presentation from South Gloucestershire Council on proposed improvements to the Streamside Walk (briefing note and plans attached) * awaiting confirmation, may be deferred to Feb.
- 6. To receive an update on the Tiny Forest feasibility study (paper attached)
- 7. To consider options for a decarbonisation roadmap and comms plan (paper attached)
- 8. To consider TTC participation in the Watermark Towns Scheme (paper attached)
- 9. To note planned in person events for first four months of 2026 (paper attached)
- To note that the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 3
 February 2026
- 11. Date of next meeting 7.30pm on Tuesday 17 February 2026



THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 7:30pm at Council Chamber, Town Hall

Members present: Councillors Danny Bonnett (Chair)

Chris Bloor (Vice Chair)

Chris Rowe **Christine Carter** Kath Greenman

Non-councillors Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury)

Geraldine Barnes (Thornbury in Bloom)

In attendance: Sharon Gardham (Climate and Nature

Officer)

Members absent: Councillors Maggie Tyrell

> Non-Councillors Ella Wiggans (Sustainable Thornbury)

> > Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers)

CN2526.14 To note any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were noted from Ella Wiggans (Sustainable Thornbury) and

Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers).

CN2526.15 To receive any members' declaration of interest.

No declarations of interest were made by members.

CN2526.16 To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda.

There were no representations from the public.

CN2526.17 To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting

held on 02 September 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee held on 02 September 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings,

and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

CN2526.18 To consider the future of the EcoThornbury Guardians scheme.

> It was **<u>RESOLVED</u>** cancel the EcoThornbury Guardians scheme. It was suggested that this may be replaced by a networking group for local volunteering organisations whose goals support the Local Climate and Nature Action Plan. Further consideration

will be given to this idea at the Thriving Nature Working Group.

CN2526.19 To consider plans for a Road Map to Net Zero

> It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with a road map to net zero and to defer detailed discussions regarding its content to the Thriving Nature working group.



CN2526.20 To consider a proposal to refresh ecological surveys and biodiversity management plans

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with repeated ecological surveys and refreshed management plans in Spring/Summer 2026

CN2526.20.01: SG to investigate the ideal schedule for repeated surveying for the benefit of forward planning and investigate the possibility of running a 'bioblitz' (a time-boxed citizen science survey of all wildlife in a certain area) with the assistance of Avon Wildlife Trust or another interested organisation.

CN2526.21 To consider options for a TTC administered recycling scheme

It was **RESOLVED** that blister pack and other TTC administered recycling schemes be removed from the Climate and Nature agenda.

CN2526.21.01: SG to contact local retailers to again reiterate the public demand for blister pack recycling facilities in the town.

CN2526.22 To consider options for the remaining 2025-26 budget spending and suggested 2026-27 budget

- It was **RESOLVED** that the remaining budget for 2025-26 can be used as suggested, with the addition of £500 to be used to purchase and site swift boxes.
- It was RESOLVED that the requested budget for 2026-27 be increased to £10,250, comprised of an additional £1000 for ecological surveying and management plans, £500 for further swift box purchase and installation and an additional £250 for events expenses (to support a potential volunteer networking group)

CN2526.22.01: SG to contact the Bristol Swift Group for advice about swift box purchase and siting and to discuss the potential for a Thornbury Swift Group.

CN2526.23 To note dates for the Thriving Nature Working Group meetings

The dates for the Thriving Nature Working Group were noted.

CN2526.23.01: It was noted that the proposed November date clashes with another Council meeting. SG to send out a poll to Committee members regarding alternative dates.

CN2526.24 To consider Thornbury Castle tree planting plans

Cllr Kath Greenman explained that Thornbury Castle are keen to work with the local community on tree planting in their grounds. Options for this will be taken forward via Thornbury in Bloom.

CN2526.25 To note the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 2 December 2025.

The deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda was noted to be Tuesday 2 December 2025.

Briefing note



12 November 2025

Streamside Walk Enhancements

Objective

The Getting About in Thornbury initiative aims to encourage and support travel by more active modes. To encourage walking and wheeling within Thornbury, we are proposing enhancements to the Streamside Walk. Our aim is to make the area more inviting and accessible for local residents, and to encourage greater use of the route as both a practical thoroughfare and a recreational space.

Scheme overview

The team at South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) has developed some initial high-level design concepts and proposed interventions. One of the key elements being considered is the introduction of play and interactive stations for children along the route. These would be designed to engage families and make the path a more attractive option for leisure and everyday journeys.

Our initial work has suggested 'play' space could be provided at a number of locations along the route. The locations will be agreed in collaboration with Thornbury Town Council (TTC) and other stakeholders.

Potential equipment has been identified, including activity panels and natural play. It is proposed for a collaborative design process to take place with SGC and TTC, to develop designs and play spaces that provide most benefit to the residents and visitors of Thornbury.

Maintenance

At present, SGC does not maintain the existing play equipment and areas in Thornbury. This maintenance is undertaken by TTC. For efficiency, it is proposed that TTC also takes ownership and responsibility for any equipment installed on Streamside Walk through this project.

Funding

Funding is expected through the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), pending approval of a Full Business Case.

Timetable

Should the proposal be supported by TTC, design development will take place throughout the remainder of 2025. Designs will be agreed in early 2026 and support the Full Business Case application. Works will need to be completed by March 2027.

Recommendation

- Proposals to enhance Streamside Walk are supported by TTC.
- Members of TTC support in the design and choice of play equipment on the route.
- TTC take ownership and maintain the play equipment once installed

Briefing note



09 December 2025

Streamside Walk – Climate & Nature Enhancements Briefing Note

Objective

The *Getting About in Thornbury* initiative aims to encourage and support travel by more active modes while delivering nature benefits. To achieve this, we are proposing enhancements to the Streamside Walk that will make the route safer, more inviting, and ecologically richer. Our aim is to encourage walking and wheeling within Thornbury and strengthen the town's green infrastructure by improving habitat connectivity and public appreciation of local ecology.

Scheme overview

The team at South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) has developed initial high-level design concepts and proposed interventions. Key elements being considered include:

- Active Travel Connectivity: Improving links between destinations such as Castle School Sixth Form, Manorbrook Primary, and the town centre, supported by clear signage and seating nodes.
- Nature Corridor Enhancements:
 - Selective trimming of hedgerows and brambles to maintain visibility and safety while preserving habitat continuity.
 - Enhancing the ability for sunlight to reach the stream to improve water quality and support aquatic plants and invertebrates.
 - Planting native species and wildflowers along verges to boost pollinator habitats.
 - Installing interpretive signage to explain the importance of wildlife corridors and the risks of fragmentation.

These enhancements will be developed collaboratively with Thornbury Town Council (TTC) and other stakeholders to ensure they provide the greatest benefit to residents and wildlife.

Maintenance

Ongoing management **may** include vegetation maintenance to balance accessibility and habitat integrity, and biodiversity monitoring in collaboration with TTC. However, conversations are continuing about ongoing maintenance regarding the area. This may not differ too much from the current maintenance expectation, but it will be dependent on what we decide.

Funding

Funding is expected through the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), pending approval of a Full Business Case.

Timetable

Should the proposal be supported by TTC, design development will take place throughout early 2026. Designs will be agreed in early 2026 and support the Full Business Case application. Works will need to be completed by March 2027.

Recommendation

- Proposals to enhance Streamside Walk for climate and nature benefits are supported by TTC.
- Members of TTC collaborate on biodiversity planting, signage, and community engagement.



Proposed Key Features



Main Play, Toddlers/Children location



Natural Play/Trim trail equipment location

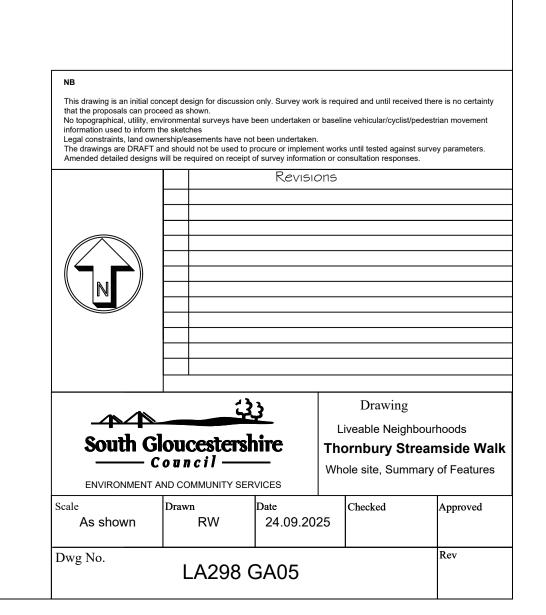


New/enhanced seating location

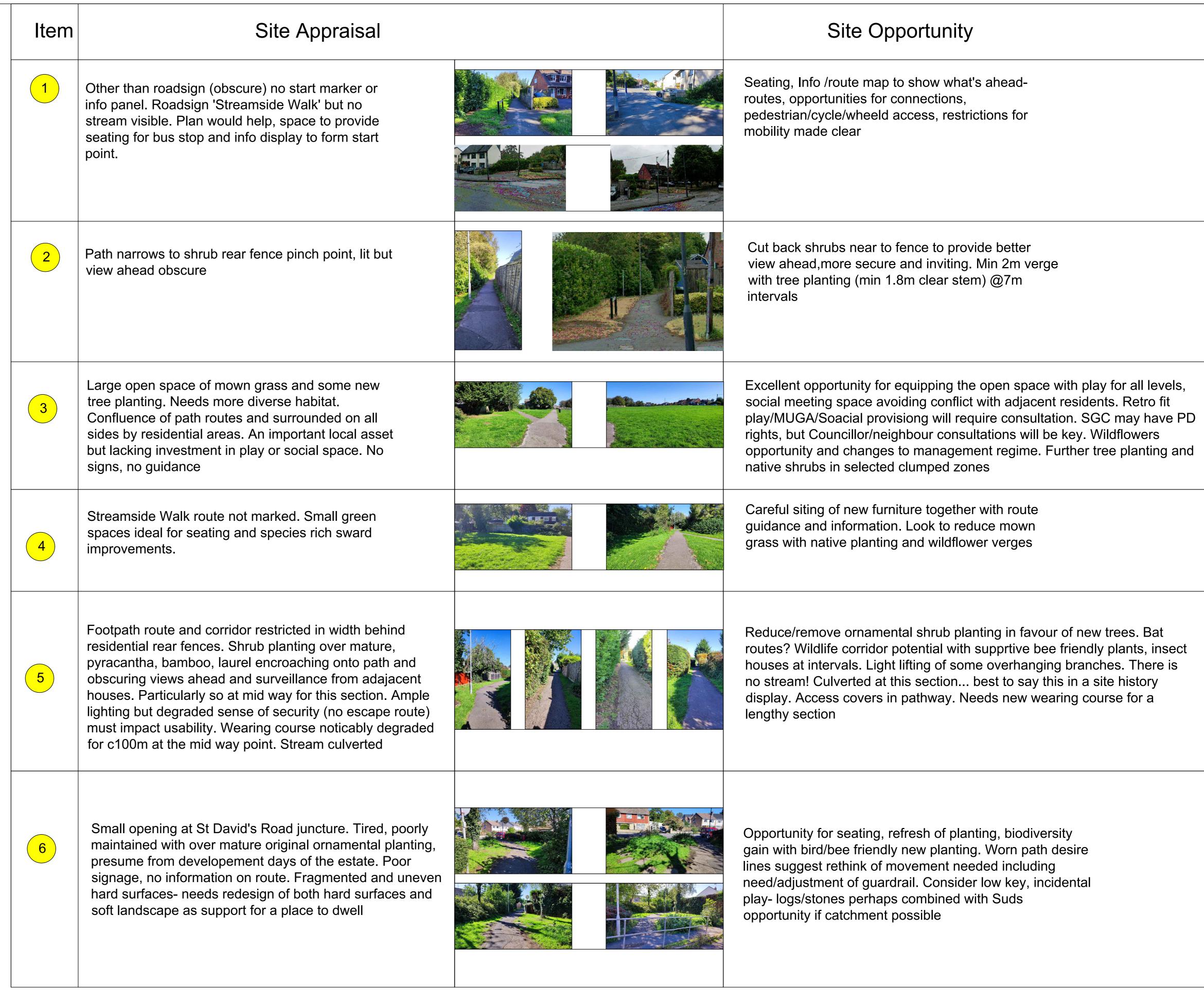


New bridge location

NB Refer to GA01-04 for detail route analysis and recommendations









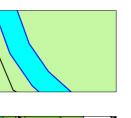
Existing Trees/Woodlands/Scrub



Adjacent built are



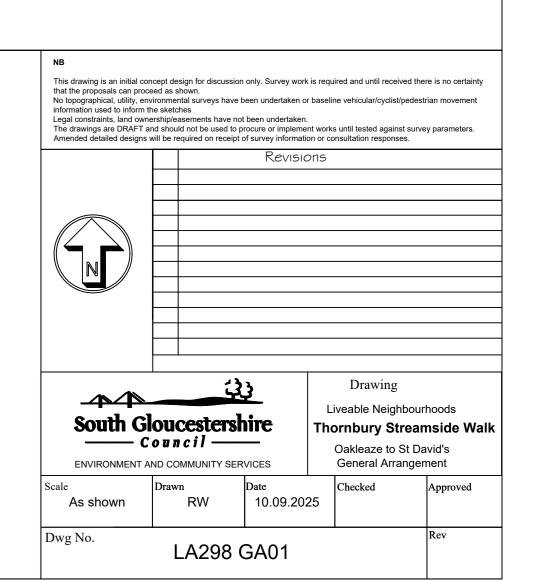
Streamside Walk Route (relation)



Existing Watercourses



Existing footpaths









Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Tiny Forest Initial Feasibility Study

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 16.12.2025

Status: For Action



1. Detail

At the Climate and Nature Committee on 2 September, it was resolved that 6 sites in and around Thornbury should be subject to an initial feasibility study to examine their suitability for the establishment of a Tiny Forest (minute number CN2526.06).

The shortlisted sites were:

- Land adjacent to Castle Court Car Park
- Tarmac area off Easton Hill Road
- Land behind the Severn View Family Practice, Eastland Road
- Land behind Paula's Salon, off Severn View Road
- Playing field on the Barley Fields estate, behind Castle School
- Country Park adjacent to the Badger Road estate

I looked at the following aspects for each site:

- Is the site large enough to accommodate a Tiny Forest (i.e., is it at least the size of a standard tennis court, roughly 24m x 11m)?
- Is there existing pedestrian access?
- Is there existing vehicle access?
- Are there nearby schools (i.e., under a 15-minute walk away)?
- How close is the site to nearby houses?
- Does the site have any current biodiversity value?
- Who owns the site at present and are contact details available?
- Are there proposed/existing alternative uses for the site?
- Is there anything about the site that would make conversion to a Tiny Forest particularly difficult or expensive?
- What potential is there for adding amenity, community and nature value to the site?

For each of these aspects, I allocated a score, to allow a quick and easy comparison between sites. Scoring works as follows:

- Aspects which may make the site particularly good = 3
- Aspects which may make the site suitable/O.K. = 2
- Aspects which may mean the site is not ideal = 1
- Aspects which may make the site unsuitable = 0

The results are not weighted to favour any particular area of the assessment which the Committee should bear in mind if it feels that some elements are more important than others. The scorings can be seen below. A written assessment of each site is also given.

Name of Site	Size	Level Pedestrian Access	Vehicle Access	Proximity to schools	Proximity to neighbours	Potential for biodiversity gain	Current ownership	Contact details for owner known?	Alternative uses for site?	Potential for amenity gain	Other factors that may impact suitability	Details of other factors	Overall Score High = high suitability Low = low suitability
Barley													
Fields	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2		24
Castle Court Car													
Park	3	2	0	2	3	0	3	2	2	1	2		20
Tarmac off Easton Hill Road	2	2	0	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	0	Site would need extensive ground works to clear it	19
Paula's		•								4	0		40
Salon	1	3	3	3	0	1	2	2	1	1	2		19
Badger Road	3	3	2	0	2	0	2	2	1	1	2		18
Severn View Family Practice	თ	0	0	ω	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	Site is part of Thornbury Hospital which is earmarked for re- development	17

1. Football Pitch and Field, Barley Fields Estate

Score: 24

The Barley Fields estate was built in the late 2010s. It has some green spaces and amenities on site, including allotments, play equipment, and a football pitch that are looked after on the residents' behalf by a management company. The football pitch was suggested as a possible site for a Tiny Forest. The pitch is not currently used regularly by a team, although local children do occasionally use it. It has been intensively managed to improve its grassland and now comprises lush grasses, which are occasionally mown. Adjacent to the site is another field that is not as intensively managed as the pitch area, being more scrubby and less manicured. This area is primarily used by dog walkers.

The site has good, level pedestrian access and a road adjoining allowing vehicle access. It has good proximity to 2 schools (Castle School – 13 minutes and Manorbrook Primary – 12 minutes). There are no neighbours who are particularly near to the football pitch or adjoining field. The land is owned by BDW Trading, which is the parent company of Barratt Homes. There is good potential to add amenity and biodiversity value to the site, and it represents a new and growing area of the Town where the Council has little obvious presence.





Summary:

Pros = size; ability to add value; proximity to schools; good pedestrian and vehicle access; would expand TTC presence to a new area

Cons = owned by a developer who may not support change of use; has an existing use; somewhat out of town

2. Land Adjacent to Castle Court Car Park

Score = 20

There is an extensive area of wildflower/scrub/woodland adjacent to the Castle Court car park which has more than enough space for a Tiny Forest. There is pedestrian access to the site via 2 kissing gates, one directly from the car park and the other joining with Castle Street. There is no current vehicle access to the site that I could find, although some may be possible from Kington Lane. There are 2 primary schools less than 15-minute walk from the site (Gillingstool and St Mary's – both 11 minutes) and it has good access from the Town Centre. The site is owned by South Gloucestershire Council. There is already relatively good biodiversity on the site and as such it acts as a connecting corridor between Mundy Playing Fields and the Cemetery. Given its position between two sites already managed by TTC, it may be considered a logical extension to the Council's landholdings. This could also, however, be considered a disadvantage as it does not expand TTC's landholdings into the wider town.





In summary:

Pros = size; position; proximity to schools; logical extension of ownership/potentially amenable current owner

Cons = limited ability to add biodiversity value; no vehicle access; pedestrian access not fully accessible

3. Tarmac off Easton Hill Road

Score: 19

There is an area of tarmac off Easton Hill Road between the housing estate that has tarmacked pedestrian access but no obvious current use. There is an assumption that the area was used by builders during the construction of the estate for the storage of machinery. It is of sufficient size for a Tiny Forest and has excellent proximity to local schools (Christ the King – 2 minutes, Crossways – 5 minutes, New Siblands Secondary – 5 minutes). There is some pedestrian access, although the access from Easton Hill Road is stepped. There is no current vehicle access to the site. There are neighbours within relatively close proximity.

Although there are already some mature trees present, the site is predominantly tarmacked meaning there is a lot of potential to add biodiversity and amenity value. The tarmacked nature of the site would, however, add significant additional costs to any Tiny Forest project, requiring extensive clearance, which would probably necessitate new temporary vehicle access for heavy machinery. The site's amenity potential has already been considered by the Council, and a consultation with local residents to see what they would like on the site has been held. A play area was preferred, albeit with some concerns raised about possible anti-social behaviour. Council officers have already attempted to contact the current site owner, Crest Nicolson, but have not yet received a response.





Summary:

Pros: Potential to add amenity and biodiversity value to site; excellent proximity to schools

Cons: Potential cost of clearing the site; no current vehicle access

4. Land behind Paula's Salon

Score = 19

Behind Paula's Salon, between Eastland Avenue, Severn View Road and North Road there is a small area of green space which is surrounded by housing. There is very good pedestrian and vehicle access to the site, which accounts for its relatively high score in this assessment. There are houses closely overlooking the site. It is the smallest of the sites shortlisted, being just about the size of a tennis court. It is mainly comprised of grass, with some mature trees surrounding. It has good proximity to 3 schools (Christ the King – 6 minutes, Crossways – 11 minutes, New Siblands Secondary – 10 minutes). It is owned (and presumably managed) by Merlin Housing Society Limited, which is part of the Bromford Group. There is some potential to add biodiversity and amenity value, although it is not known what use is made of the site at present. A Tiny Forest would entirely fill the site, precluding any other uses residents may currently make of it.





Summary:

Pros = Excellent vehicle access; level pedestrian access; good proximity to schools Cons = Small; very overlooked; change of use may disrupt existing uses

5. Badger Road Country Park

Score: 18

The Badger Road estate was built in the mid-2010s by the developer Bloor Homes. As part of the development, a relatively large area of land adjacent to the estate was set aside for the establishment of a shared green space. This space is managed on behalf of residents by a management company and comprises wildflower areas, pathways, a stream, ponds, and hedgerows. There are also allotment plots, although take-up of these has been limited. The suggestion for a Tiny Forest on this site did not specify exactly where, but there are several possibilities. For example, adjacent to the football pitch there is an area of the correct size that is currently hardcore and scrub, although there have been discussions about developing this site for the community, perhaps by the addition of changing rooms or other similar facilities (see marked area in picture below). There are also possibilities for a Tiny Forest at other areas on the site.

There is pedestrian access throughout and vehicle access is possible in some places. The area is already managed predominantly for biodiversity and provides good connectivity with other biodiversity 'hotspots', for example the Community Orchard. There are no TTC-managed sites in

this part of the Town, meaning a site here would expand the Council's presence. However, there are no schools within a 15-minute walk of the site (the closest is Christ the King, which is 16 minutes away).





Summary:

Pros: Site size; good pedestrian and vehicle access

Cons: Site is already predominantly managed for biodiversity; there are no schools nearby

6. Land Behind Severn View Family Practice, Eastland Road

Score: 17

Behind the Severn View Family Practice there is an area of green space that does not presently have any obvious purpose. It is made up of grass and scrub with some mature trees surrounding it. There is no official access to the site, either for pedestrians or vehicles. It is fenced off at present, although there was evidence that people have been accessing the site unofficially.

There are houses and flats close by, overlooking the site. It has some biodiversity value but will likely revert to more scrub and eventually weed trees if left to degrade further. As it is fenced off it currently has no amenity value. It has good proximity to local schools (Christ the King – 7 minutes, Crossways – 12 minutes, New Siblands Secondary – 10 minutes). The relatively low score for this site is due to the absence of pedestrian or vehicle access, although it may be possible to rectify these issues, and both could likely be achieved relatively easily from a practice perspective.

The site is part of the former Thornbury Hospital, which is owned at present by South Gloucestershire Council. The site is subject to an active planning application for a new health centre, car parking, and landscaping. I cannot see from the plans that there is any clear intention for this part of the site, but that would need to be confirmed if we wanted to pursue this option.





Summary:

Pros = Site size; potential for added amenity value Cons = no current pedestrian or vehicle access; subject to active planning application

Next Steps

Following on from this initial feasibility study, the next steps for the project involve:

• Further refining the number of shortlisted sites to one or two to take forward to the next stage.

Once the final one or two sites have been chosen, the next stages of the Tiny Forest project involve:

- Contacting landowner(s) to gauge their receptiveness to a Tiny Forest on their land.
- There is no allocation in the Council's 2026-27 budget for this project. Therefore, it will be necessary to reexamine possible funding sources and further define costs. (Note: the latter may be influenced by the former, i.e., whether a landowner would be prepared to assist with the costs involved in delivering the project).
- Contacting schools in proximity of the final sites to gauge their interest in participating in a Tiny Forest project.

Implications

Financial:

Officer time is the only cost at for this stage, which may be used to no avail if a suitable site and/or funding cannot be found.

Environmental:

The Tiny Forest concept is designed to maximise environmental benefit in a small space. Therefore, the successful delivery of this project would have a positive overall environmental impact. The extent of that impact does, however, depend on the site chosen and its existing environmental value.

Recommendations

Given the details outlined above, I recommend that the site at Barley Fields and the land adjacent to Castle Court car park are particularly considered for progression to the next stage.

The land in the grounds of the former Thornbury Hospital is the subject of active development and has no access. However, if the Committee is not satisfied with the two recommended sites, or wished to take a third option forward, I would recommend this site be considered.

I would not recommend the following sites for a Tiny Forest:

- The tarmacked area off Easton Hill Road would be challenging logistically and financially and already has another potential use which has been socialised with residents.
- The land behind Paula's Salon is too small to be a practical option and is very close to neighbouring properties.
- Badger Country Park is already well managed (relatively) for biodiversity and there is poor proximity to schools.

The Committee is asked to consider:

- Which of the shortlisted sites (if any) should be further examined.
- Whether/what possible sources of funding should be further investigated
- What contingency measures should be put in place if funding applications/funding sources are not secured.
- Whether additional potential sites should be sought if those selected are not available for a Tiny Forest.

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Decarbonisation Road Map and Comms Plan

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 16.12.2025

Status: For Action



1. Detail

As outlined in a paper considered at the October meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee (Minute No. CN202526.19), while Thornbury Town Council have declared a climate emergency, convened a Climate and Nature Committee, and are enacting their Climate and Nature Action Plan, there is, at present, no comprehensive document that details the plans to decarbonise TTC operations, or communicate these activities to the wider town.

At the Thriving Nature Working Group in November, members considered the options for a decarbonisation road map and discussed the need to engage more effectively on the matter with the wider town, in order to share best practice and encourage wider decarbonisation efforts.

This paper suggests an approach to planning TTC's decarbonisation journey, along with a strategy for communication of decarbonisation efforts at TTC.

There are several areas that need to be clarified before a decarbonisation road map can be devised:

- 1. What are the baseline carbon outputs that we are trying to reduce or eliminate?
- 2. What is our aim/ambition for decarbonisation?
- 3. What should our approach be? For example, should it be site or time specific, carbon emitting prioritised, what is the required balance between elimination, reduction and offsetting?
- 4. What is the scope of the document? For example, which types of emissions are in scope (direct/indirect), which sites/buildings/activities, what is the geographical scope?
- 5. Who should be involved in putting the roadmap together?
- 6. How will the necessary works be funded?
- 7. How will success be measured?
- 8. How/in what formats and with what frequency should our decarbonisation journey be shared?

Below are suggestions for answering some of these questions:

- 1. We started to measure our baseline carbon emissions for 2022-23, which was the first year we had reliable data after the Council declared its climate emergency. Therefore, it is suggested that 2022-23 is used as our emissions baseline measure.
- 2. We need to clearly state our ambitions, for example, that TTC will reduce operational emissions by at least x% by 2027 and x% by 2029 compared to the 2022-23 baseline, before offsetting any residual emissions that are not technically or financially feasible to eliminate. We need to determine and agree what these percentages should be and what our ambitions regarding dates are.

- 3. As TTC manages several sites with different needs and challenges, it is suggested that the decarbonisation plan is site and/or activity specific. This will allow tangible and realistic plans to be drawn up, costed and measured. I have devised a potential framework to support this approach (see Appendix 1)
- 4. In the first instance, it is suggested that the following are included in scope of TTC decarbonisation road mapping. For further explanation regarding emission scopes, see the diagram in Appendix 2.
 - a. Heating (Scope 1)
 - b. Council vehicles (Scope 1)
 - c. Electricity (Scope 2)
 - d. Water consumption (Scope 3)
 - e. Waste generated from own operations (Scope 3)

It is suggested that the following be excluded from the initial decarbonisation plan:

a) Materials use i.e., emissions created in the supply chain (Scope 3)

The recommendation to exclude supply chain emissions is primarily due the difficulties in measuring and controlling them. However, opportunities to limit our indirect emissions should be sought and prioritised. This aspect will be addressed via a sustainable purchasing guide that will be brought to the February committee. In general, actions should be prioritised according to their relative impact on reducing emissions, bearing in mind the sustainable purchasing guidelines and the overarching Council principle of delivering best value.

- 5. In the first instance, officers and Climate and Nature Committee members should be involved in the composition of the decarbonisation roadmap. There is also an opportunity for brokers with specialist knowledge to assist. The Climate and Nature Committee will need to recommend aspects of the decarbonisation plan to the wider council at the appropriate committees. Socialisation with the wider public is addressed below in section 8.
- 6. Options for funding the works should be intrinsic to the planning process. This will be included in the roadmap and will need to be discussed with the appropriate committees in the wider council.
- 7. TTC has been measuring its carbon emissions for 2 years. The same methodology should be continued, with some refinement to reflect the scope and approach recommended above. Additionally, measures and outcomes should be linked to individual plan actions.
- 8. While progress has been made in the delivery of decarbonisation, there has not, to date, been an official communication of this progress to the general public. Alongside developing the decarbonisation roadmap, a communications strategy and plan should be developed. This will define who we wish to communicate with, our objectives in doing so, when we will communicate, in what format, and regarding which subjects.

2. Implications

Financial Considerations

Officer time (with the support of members) is the only initial cost of devising the plan. As the plan develops and is implemented, there will, however, be costs involved in carrying out decarbonisation actions. Broker costs, should a broker be contracted, will be covered in the cost of works carried out. The business case for each proposed action will need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, considering the financial costs of works, the expected return on investment, and the risks (financial and otherwise) of not decarbonising.

Environmental Considerations

Efforts to decarbonise TTC operations should be viewed as having a positive environmental impact. Business cases should, however, also consider the environmental costs of replacing equipment and sourcing new materials to ensure a positive environmental impact.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

Consider the above approach and resolve to adopt it in the first instance. Such a
resolution should be made on the basis that the approach outlined above may require
alteration as the detail of the roadmap and comms plans are devised. Any alterations
will be referred to the Committee, after discussion at the Thriving Nature Working Group.

4. Appendix 1 - Decarbonisation Road Mapping Framework

Decarbonisation Road Mapping Framework





Town Hall

Bakery Annex/67 High Street

Cemetery

Mundy Playing Fields

 Document references sustainable purchasing guidelines (which support decarbonisation ambitions) and capital strategy plans

 Relevant sections in plan document according to site. Supported by database inventory. Works planned holistically.

Buildings (incl. fixtures and fittings)

tings)

Equipment and Vehicles

Activities (e.g., mowing, maintenance)

Road Map Contents:

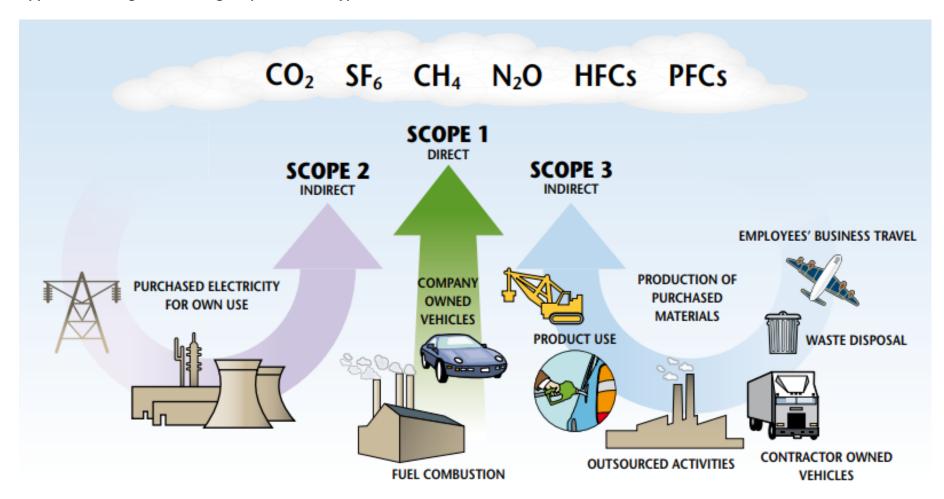
- Scope and Intent
- Approach
- Benefits
- Funding Options
- Milestones/Targets
- Activity Plan (by site/scope)
- · Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting
- Communications Plan

Heating (Scope 1 Emissions)

Fuel (Scope 1 Emissions) Electricity (Scope 2 Emissions)

Water (Scope 3 Emissions) Waste (Scope 3 Emissions)

Appendix 2 - Diagram outlining scope emission types



Source: University of Michigan

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Watermark Town Initiative

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 16.12.2025

Status: For Action



1. Detail

Thornbury Town Council was approached regarding participation in the Wessex Water sponsored Watermark Towns scheme. The scheme encourages towns to work with their communities to save water, manage rainwater, reduce run off, and improve the local environment.

Participation involves holding an initial community meeting to kick start the scheme, where a programme of activities and engagements for the year is discussed and proposed. Council officers are expected to organise and run this session, with the support of the scheme's administrators. Agreed engagements need to be a mixture of awareness-raising and practical activities.

Support from the scheme's administrators includes social media and comms information, a map of the town's watercourses for use in engagements, local area information regarding water consumption, networks and assets, and up to £2000 of financial assistance to deliver projects and practical activities.

Participation is assessed at the end of the year, at which point Councils are expected to make an ongoing commitment to raising awareness of water-related issues. If participation has been sufficiently active and community-engaging, the town can be awarded Watermark Town status.

The deadline for Councils to register their interest in taking part in the scheme is 15 December. In order not to miss out on the opportunity to take part, an expression of interest has been submitted, as discussed in the Thriving Nature Working Group on 26 November.

2. Implications

Financial Considerations

While there is no direct financial cost to participation in the scheme, councils are expected to commit officer time to participation. This would include officer attendance at kick-off meetings, organising public engagements, record keeping of events and activities, and liaison with scheme organisers. However, town-wide water saving initiatives are already included in the Local Climate and Nature Action Plan for 2026, so officer time has already been factored in for this. We have already allocated £1000 of the 2026-27 budget to support water saving initiatives.

Environmental Considerations

Reducing water consumption, improving flood resilience, and engaging with the public on water-related matters are supportive of improved environmental conditions for Thornbury and the wider area. Participation in the scheme can therefore be viewed as having a positive environmental impact.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

 Ratify the discussions that took place at the Thriving Nature Working Group to proceed with submitting an expression of interest.

Should we be successful in being offered a place on the 2026 scheme, the Committee is asked to:

• Resolve that we should work towards gaining Watermark Town status.

4. Appendix

Watermark Town scheme website:

https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/become-a-watermark-town

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Events Update: January to April 2026

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 16.12.2025

Status: For Noting



1. Detail

The Local Climate and Nature Action Plan includes a section on engaging residents, community groups, local schools, etc. with plan ambitions and objectives via a series of communications and events. The plan for communications and events was noted at the September meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee. This paper provides further details of in person events that are planned for the first 4 months of 2026.

January/February

- We are helping local primary schools to take part in the Great Big School Birdwatch. We have offered schools a chance to take part in guided activities with an experienced environmental educator who will talk to the pupils about supporting wild birds. We will provide the schools with a bird feeder starter kit and lead a group on a guided bird spot. This latter activity will be designed so that schools can roll it out to other classes if they wish. All primary schools in the Town have been contacted to offer them this opportunity. At present we have confirmed dates with New Siblands (Primary and Secondary), Gillingstools and Christ the King.
- We will promote the **Big Garden Bird Watch**, including having spotting sheets available at reception in the Town Hall along with small packets of bird seed to take away.

February

• We are running two nest box building workshops to tie in with National Nest Box Week. On Saturday 14 February, we will offer 2 workshops at the Town Hall for those aged 11 and over. Nest box kits will be purchased to be constructed and taken home by participants. On the first Monday of half term (16th) we will offer a simpler version of the same event for younger participants (aged 5-11). These will be free events, but places are limited so must be booked. Volunteer(s) from the Committee to assist with one or both events on Saturday the 14th would be appreciated.

March

At the end of March, we will take part in the Great British Spring Clean by organising
activities to reduce waste and litter in the town. Those taking part will be able to claim a
free Community Nature Reserve/TTC water bottle, coffee cup or shopping bag. We will
report on all activities and use this as the basis for promoting waste reduction.

April

• The theme for 2026's **Earth Day** has not yet been announced. However, we will run activities in Mundy Playing Fields to tie in with the theme and the wider Climate and Nature work of TTC. In previous years I have run Earth Day activities to decorate and plant self-watering herb planters made of upcycled plastic containers (Planet Against Plastic theme) and to plant giant sunflowers (Our Planet Our Power theme). This event will take place during the Easter school holidays.

• City Nature Challenge: Whilst 'official' participation in this international initiative is probably not feasible (due to the amount of time needed to participate and the restrictions placed on data collected) we could run our own spring 'bioblitz' survey. We could offer a self-guided nature walk around TTC's green spaces (can the Wayfinders help with this?). This might include spotting sheets to record species observed whilst on walks. Spotting sheets can be returned to the Town Hall for collation, or spots can be recorded in real time via the iNaturalist app. The walk and spotting sheets will be released in time for Earth Day and the Easter school holidays.

If Committee members have any other events or activities they would like to be included in plans for the first half of 2026, please send these to SG as soon as possible.

If Committee members are interested in taking part in or assisting with any of the above events, please get in touch.