

21 October 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 21 October 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.

*SJ Gardham*

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 2 September 2025 (paper attached)
5. To consider the future of the EcoThornbury Guardians scheme (paper attached)
6. To consider plans for a Road Map to Net Zero (paper attached)
7. To consider a proposal to refresh ecological surveys and biodiversity management plans (paper attached)
8. To consider options for a TTC administered recycling scheme (paper attached)
9. To consider options for remaining 2025-26 budget spending and suggested budget for 2026-27 (paper attached)
10. To note dates for the Thriving Nature Working Group meetings (paper attached)
11. To consider Thornbury Castle Tree Planting Plans (Cllr. Kath Greenman)
12. To note that the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 2 December 2025
13. Date of next meeting - 7.30pm on Tuesday 16 December 2025



## THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 7:30pm at Council Chamber, Town Hall

Members present:	Councillors	Danny Bonnett (Chair) Chris Bloor Chris Rowe Christine Carter
In attendance:		Sharon Gardham (Climate and Nature Officer) Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Members absent:	Councillors	Kath Greenman Maggie Tyrell
	Non-Councillors	Ella Wiggins (Sustainable Thornbury) Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury) Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers) Fran Sparrow (Thornbury in Bloom) Jean Owen (Thornbury in Bloom)

#### **CN2526.01 To note any apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were noted from Kath Greenward, Ella Wiggins (Sustainable Thornbury), Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers) and Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury).

#### **CN2526.02 To elect a Committee Vice Chair.**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Chris Bloor as Committee Vice Chair for 2025-26.

#### **CN2526.03 To receive any members' declaration of interest.**

No declarations of interest were made by members.

#### **CN2526.04 To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda.**

There were no representations from the public.

#### **CN2526.05 To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2025.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee held on 15 April 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings, and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

#### **CN2526.06 To consider locations and funding options for a Tiny Forest in Thornbury.**

It was **RESOLVED** to short-list the following sites for initial feasibility study for a Tiny Forest: Field adjacent to Castle Court Car Park (///dwelled.encloses.detonated); Tarmac off Easton Hill Road (///inversion.cars.explores); land adjacent to Badger Road

(///occur.shrimps.surprises); Land behind Severn View Family Practice, Eastland Road  
(///brands.replenish.gong); Land behind Paula's Salon, Off Severn View Road  
(///movements.best.crop); Barley Fields behind the Castle School  
(///records.civic.ownership).

**CN2526.07 To consider options for signage for St Mary's Churchyard to inform the public about the work carried out to enhance biodiversity.**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- Proceed with Option 1 (portable swinging sign with paper posters) for the signage at St Mary's Churchyard.
- The Committee authorised the necessary expenditure of £300.48.

**CN2526.08 To consider extensions to wildflower planting at Mundy Playing Fields.**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- Recommend Option 4 (extension of wildflower planting to include 'Hay Meadow' and slopes adjacent to playground) to the Open Spaces Committee.
- Authorise necessary expenditure of £2455.22 from the Climate and Nature budget.

**CN2526.08.01:** SG to investigate alternative parasitic plants to yellow rattle as a control to mitigate against non-germination. Alternative to be within budget authorised by the Committee.

**CN2526.09 To consider the terms of reference for the working group (name TBC).**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The Working Group's name should be 'Thriving Nature'.
- That the Committee recommends adoption of the Terms of Reference to the full council.

**CN2526.10 To consider ideas for further promoting the Community Nature Reserve.**

- SG shared that the Community Nature Reserve will be included in the Town Council newsletter that is distributed to every household in the Town. Additionally, the CNR will be promoted at town-wide events and via online publicity. The intention is for the new TTC website to accommodate more dynamic CNR content.
- The Committee requested that SG contact South Gloucestershire Council to see if the Streamside Walk could be added to the CNR map.

**CN2526.11 To note the climate and nature events and communications plan.**

The Climate and Nature events and communications plan was noted.

**CN2526.12 To note the local climate and nature action plan progress and impact report.**

The local climate and nature action plan progress and impact report was noted. It was suggested that future reports should record exact amounts of carbon emissions

for gas and electricity in tonnes. It was also suggested that tree attrition rates be included alongside planting volumes.

**CN2526.13 To note the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 7 October 2025.**

The deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda was noted to be Tuesday 7 October 2025.

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## Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

**Report Title:** EcoThornbury Guardians Points Scheme

**Prepared By:** Sharon Gardham

**Meeting Date:** 21 October 2025

**Status:** For Action



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### 1. Detail

The Local Climate and Nature plan included an ambition to launch a points-based award scheme; EcoThornbury Guardians. The scheme was intended to offer the public an opportunity to carry out environmentally friendly actions that would gain them points. In turn, points would be associated with different levels of awards (EcoThornbury Buddy; Tribe; Comrade) that would be recognised at an annual awards ceremony and with vouchers that could be redeemed in local shops. The original intention of the scheme was in part to encourage volunteering with TTC to support climate and nature projects and activities.

This scheme is currently detailed on the TTC website:

<https://thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk/page/volunteer-opportunities>

However, there are no active members, and the scheme does not currently have a clear process associated with it to record or act on the accumulation of points. Additionally, there are no regular TTC-led volunteering activities for the public to participate in or known agreements in place with local shops for point redemption.

At present, the scheme is advertised on our website, but it is not actively promoted. There are several options for the scheme at this stage:

1. That the scheme is **revived** and a plan and process are put in place to actively recruit participants, record and collate points, liaise with local shops regarding reward vouchers and schedule annual awards. Consideration would need to be given to how volunteering might be organised and run. This would require the composition and funding of a schedule of works, volunteer recruitment, management and coordination. This option would most closely fulfil the original intentions of the Local Climate and Nature Action Plan, but it would be time-consuming and may not be achievable with current resource structures. Participation is anticipated to be low given the lack of enquiries received about the scheme.
2. That the scheme is **suspended temporarily** while its future is considered. This would involve its removal from the website whilst the feasibility/desirability of implementing option 1 is considered further. This has the advantage of keeping the intention of the original Local Climate and Nature Action Plan (at least temporarily) while not advertising a scheme that does not have a process or infrastructure associated with it.
3. That the scheme is **cancelled**. This would involve removing it from our website. This option has the advantage of allowing us to focus our efforts and resources on existing, up and running initiatives such as the Community Nature Reserve and expanding existing outreach (for example, to schools, workplaces, different areas of the community, etc.)

and stopping advertising a scheme that does not have a process or infrastructure associated with it. It also frees up room on the Climate and Nature website pages for other information.

## 2. Implications

1. If the scheme is **fully revived** it will take an unknown amount of officer resource to get a process and system up and running and to recruit individuals to join the scheme. Additionally, consideration will need to be given to either setting up and running regular in-house conservation volunteering groups, or to facilitating volunteering with other, allied groups. Given that no enquiries regarding the scheme are outstanding (to officer knowledge), it may be that the scheme does not have good take-up, meaning officer time may be spent at the cost of more active, effective schemes of engagement (e.g. direct comms, events, school liaison).
2. **Suspending the scheme temporarily** would still involve a degree of officer time to carry out a feasibility study. If the outcome of the feasibility study is that there is no appetite for the scheme, or it is not practical, the scheme will need to be permanently removed (as per option 3). If it is considered feasible, then officer time would need to be spent as per option 1.
3. **Cancelling** the scheme would involve the least amount of time invested but would not fulfil the original plan item to set up and run the scheme. Furthermore, the opportunity to engage members of the public more directly in volunteering with TTC conservation efforts may not be maximised. This is not to say, however, that volunteering on a more casual basis (e.g. to carry out one-off tree planting, or bug hotel building) cannot continue. The advantages of this option are that officer time can be re-focussed on existing and newly proposed schemes, that we free up space on the website for other content, and that we do not advertise a scheme that we currently cannot run.

## 3. Recommendations

Given the potential complexity and officer time/resource required to carry out either option 1 or 2 and given the anticipated low take-up (based on enquiries to date), option 3 is recommended.

The committee is asked to consider which of the options above should be progressed.

## **Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee**

**Report Title:** Road Map to Net Zero

**Prepared By:** Sharon Gardham

**Meeting Date:** 21 October 2025

**Status:** For Action



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### **1. Detail**

In 2021 Thornbury Town Council declared a Climate and Nature (Ecological) emergency and in 2022 the Climate and Nature Committee was convened. The Council has been tracking its Greenhouse Gas emissions since 2022 and has made reductions in its carbon output since then.

This is in line with the Council's ambition to tackle the climate emergency by working with others in the area to help Thornbury become climate neutral by 2030. Work has already been done at TTC managed sites to reduce GHGs and further work is planned. The Local Climate and Nature Action Plan has a firm focus on reducing energy and water consumption and reducing waste.

However, there is no comprehensive 'road map' to TTC achieving net zero in its own operations. This can result in a slightly piecemeal approach to reducing emissions and waste. Further, actions taken are not measured directly against GHG reporting to gauge their effectiveness. Finally, while every property and green space that TTC cares for has its own challenges in terms of retrofitting for carbon reduction, the lack of a consistent or documented approach to reducing emissions makes it difficult to prioritise actions or understand their cost.

Writing, agreeing on and publishing a clear 'road map' to net zero would benefit TTC in several ways by:

- Allowing the size of the remaining net zero challenge to be more clearly understood
- Enabling a consistent, prioritised plan for emissions reduction across sites
- Giving a clearer picture of the time and money required to achieve net zero for TTC's operations
- Providing a way of more clearly tracking progress and measuring the success of our actions
- Identifying any remaining emissions after all practicable actions have been taken so that mitigation can be considered

### **2. Implications**

Having no clear 'road map' to net zero could result in:

- The return on investment of carbon-cutting spending not being clearly understood
- The 'wrong' actions taken in the 'wrong' order, compromising their effectiveness
- A lack of consistency across sites
- Delays in reaching optimum reductions in carbon emissions
- A lack of clarity regarding how much TTC can reasonably reduce its own emissions

Having a 'road map' to net zero would provide a clearer picture of:

- The size of the remaining net zero challenge (in terms of time and cost)
- A clear, consistent direction and order for council officers when proposing and planning carbon cutting spend and activities
- The realistic likelihood of TTC achieving optimum emissions reduction and when this might be possible
- An easy to understand and communicate plan for reducing emissions in TTC's operations
- Where and when mitigation may become necessary

### **3. Recommendations**

The Climate and Nature Committee is asked to consider the recommendation that:

- A 'road map' to net zero is composed for TTC's operations
- That this document provides a clear order of priority and magnitude of work required to optimise carbon reduction activities

If the Committee agrees that producing a 'road map' to net zero is desirable, it may wish to defer detailed discussions regarding content to the Thriving Nature working group, with drafts and final versions to be reviewed and agreed by the Committee.

## **Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee**

**Report Title:** Refreshed Ecological Surveys and Management Plans

**Prepared By:** Sharon Gardham

**Meeting Date:** 21 October 2025

**Status:** For Action



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### **1. Detail**

In the summer of 2022, ecological surveys were conducted on seven green spaces cared for by Thornbury Town Council. The survey reports included recommendations for actions that would improve biodiversity at TTC-managed sites. A number of these recommendations were agreed and have been implemented, including a relaxed mowing regime in certain areas, native tree and hedge planting, wildflower seed sowing, and the installation of various wildlife homes. In autumn 2025 we are building on the good work already done by extending the wildflower areas at Mundy Playing Fields, carrying out hedge surveys and advising on hedge management and encouraging the public to garden in a wildlife-friendly way via outreach events and promotion of the Community Nature Reserve.

The Local Climate and Nature Action Plan (LCNAP) aimed to extend surveying to the remaining TTC sites (Eastland Avenue, Osprey Park, Skate Park, Streamleaze) and a refresh of management plans on the remaining sites.

As the biodiversity improvements already made are bedding in, and as it is more than three years since the original surveys were completed, a repeat of surveying of existing sites, consideration to an extension of surveying to the sites mentioned above, and commissioning of refreshed management plans are recommended. This would allow us to understand the impact of work already completed and build on it to best effect. Additionally, the Committee may wish to consider taking advice about how TTC might best work with the wider community to improve biodiversity connectivity in the Town.

### **2. Implications**

Commissioning repeat and extended surveys and refreshed management regimes will require a significant proportion of the Climate and Nature budget for 2026-27. This will limit the ability of the Committee to commission other initiatives.

However, repeated surveys would give us a clear focus for our future efforts and spending, would ensure that the work done to date is maximised, and would provide a clearer direction for our efforts to improve biodiversity connectivity in the Town.

### **3. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to approve the inclusion of repeated and/or extended surveys and refreshed management plans in the Climate and Nature budget for 2026-27, with a view to them being commissioned and taking place in the summer of 2026.

## **Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee**

**Report Title:** TTC Administered Recycling Scheme Options

**Prepared By:** Sharon Gardham

**Meeting Date:** 21 October 2025

**Status:** For Action



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### **1. Detail**

In line with the Climate and Nature Action Plan ambition to support Town-wide waste reduction initiatives, early in 2025 TTC trailed offering the public an opportunity to recycle empty medicine blister packs at the Town Hall. The scheme was very successful; to the extent that the trail had to be suspended due to the unexpectedly high volume of packs received.

Subsequent to the trial ending, the Climate and Nature Committee investigated alternative avenues for a longer-term blister pack recycling offer for Thornbury. This included contacting retailers and manufacturers, contacting the Thornbury MP Claire Young, and applying for a National Lottery 'Awards for All' grant to continue the scheme. Unfortunately, the response from manufacturers and retailers was not positive and the 'Awards for All' grant application was not successful. Whilst there was a supportive response from Claire Young, a local solution to blister pack recycling is not anticipated in the short term. Due to the potential volume, a lack of obvious funding avenues, and the negative response from manufacturers and retailers, offering blister pack recycling in the short term in Thornbury is not considered viable.

Terracycle (the medicine blister pack recycling provider) do offer several other recycling schemes that are sponsored by manufacturers and therefore do not incur a charge. Each of these has been examined to see if there are any other recycling schemes that we may wish to offer at TTC. The investigation found that the majority of schemes offered are either very restrictive (i.e., they only recycle a particular brand; e.g., Pringle Tubes), are not open to new applicants (e.g., cosmetics recycling via Bert's Bees), or are offering soft plastic recycling that can currently be done at local supermarkets and which may be included in South Glos Council kerbside collections from 2026 (e.g. cheese or bread packaging).

There are other providers (for example, [Recycling for Good Causes](#) – see appendix) who collect some small electrical items, jewellery, cameras, watches, stamps, currency, and mobile phones in exchange for a donation to charity. Options for collecting ink cartridges are also available, but there are already several collection points in Thornbury.

### **2. Implications**

The issues outlined above directly challenge the viability of either restarting a blister pack recycling trial or developing a long-term scheme. Furthermore, the 'polluter pays' principle suggests that, given the scale of use, responsibility for blister pack recycling would best sit with manufacturers and retailers, who may be more minded to offer blister pack alternatives if they were made responsible for the financial and environmental costs of their production and use.

Alternative schemes for other materials are available, but the value in providing these is limited where options for recycling exist elsewhere (e.g., soft plastics). However, where options do not readily exist elsewhere, where those options are not widely known, or where collection may

have the additional benefit of supporting charitable causes, the Climate and Nature Committee may wish to pursue these further.

### **3. Recommendations**

The committee is asked to:

- Agree that blister pack recycling be shelved from the C&N Committee agenda for the time being. The Committee may wish to consider following up on initial contact with Clare Young, either as an entity or as individuals, to see if any progress has been made on a longer-term solution.
- Consider whether we should dedicate space on its website pages to signpost residents to local recycling facilities (e.g., ink cartridge recycling). Sustainable Thornbury already has some information on their website, but it isn't currently up to date. This information would need to be reviewed and maintained by the Climate and Nature officer.
- Consider whether to recommend that TTC joins the Recycling for Good Causes scheme. If TTC do join the scheme, the Committee may wish to consider which charitable cause collections could support.



**Recycling**  
FOR GOOD CAUSES

call 0800 633 5323  
email [info@recyclingforgoodcauses.org](mailto:info@recyclingforgoodcauses.org)  
visit [www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org](http://www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org)

## Jewellery

**Drop off point representative: Call Recycling For Good Causes on 0800 633 5323 (freephone) when your sack is full or weighs over 10kg for your free collection.**

## **Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee**

**Report Title:** 2025-26 & 2026-27 Budget

**Prepared By:** Sharon Gardham

**Meeting Date:** 21 October 2025

**Status:** For Action



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### **1. Detail**

#### 2025-26 Budget

The Climate and Nature Committee have a budget of £7500 for 2025-26 to support the objectives of the Local Climate and Nature Action Plan (LCNAP). As of October 2025, there is £4731.00 remaining in the budget with no immediate plans for its use. There is also a requirement to set the budget for the 2026-27 financial year.

These budgets do not include larger Green Projects, tree or hedge planting, or the Tiny Forest.

The following actions are outstanding from the LCNAP for 2025-26, suggesting appropriate areas of spending for the current budget may be to:

- Support energy saving across Thornbury
- Support waste reduction across Thornbury
- Support water saving across Thornbury
- Reduce water consumption across TTC sites
- Reduce energy consumption across TTC sites
- Widen engagement to include schools, businesses, and landowners
- Build on relationships with community groups

The table below outlines details of proposed expenditure in the next six months on actions that support the objectives of the LCNAP.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Category</b>
Bird Box components for 2 x bird box building events	£320.00	Comms and Events
Hedgehog Home Starter Kits for 5 Primary Schools	£435.00	Comms and Events
Eco Cups, Water Bottles, Food Savers, Shopping Bag Giveaways at events*	£750.00	Town-wide Waste Reduction Initiatives
General Events Expenditure	£300.00	Comms and Events
2 x 300l Water Butts for MPF	£327.00	Water Management
Magnetic Secondary Double Glazing at the Town Hall#	£2400.00	Reducing Energy Consumption at TTC Sites
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>£4532.00</b>	

\* If the Committee would like to consider give aways of bigger ticket items (e.g. water butts, composting bins) a procedure would need to be established for their distribution.

# Magnetic secondary double glazing is not as efficient as replacement windows or fully fitted secondary glazing. However, it is a relatively cheap and very easily installed option that should

improve the efficiency of our single-glazed windows by two-thirds, is [compliant with listed-building planning regulations](https://magneglaze.co.uk/) and can be put in place for this winter. More details of the product can be found here: <https://magneglaze.co.uk/>

## 2026-27 Budget

The following items are aligned with the requirements of the LCNAP for 2026-27. In addition to the items mentioned as outstanding above, there is also a requirement to conduct further ecological surveys and review biodiversity management plans for TTC green spaces.

Description	Amount	Plan Category
Ecological Survey Refresh/Biodiversity Management Plans (see agenda item 7)	£3000.00	Nature
Wildflower Reseeding/Patching/Supporting improved biodiversity	£1,000.00	Nature
Events Expenses	£750.00	Comms and Engagement
Energy Saving Initiatives	£1000.00	Energy
Water Saving Initiatives	£1000.00	Water
Waste Reduction Initiatives	£750.00	Waste
Events Expertise (e.g., hedge laying, composting, willow planting)	£1000.00	Comms and Engagement
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8500.00</b>	

## **2. Implications**

Failure to use the allocated budget for 2025-26 would miss an opportunity to support climate and nature initiatives in support of the LCNAP and Thriving Nature in Thornbury.

The proposed expenditure outlined above for 2025-26 would allow the LCNAP to begin expanding its efforts into the wider town, quickly improve the energy efficiency of the Town Hall and support the successful implementation of the previously noted Communication and Events plan.

The proposed spending for 2026-27 aligns with the objectives of the LCNAP for Year 3/4.

## **3. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the suggested spending items for 2025-26 and authorise expenditure.
- Consider and approve the proposed budget for 2026-27

## **Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee**

**Report Title:** Thriving Nature Working Group Dates

**Prepared By:** Sharon Gardham

**Meeting Date:** 21 October 2025

**Status:** For Noting



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### **1. Detail**

The terms of reference for the newly formalised Thriving Nature Working Group were agreed at the Full Council meeting in September.

The Group will meet on the month in between Climate and Nature Committee meetings.

The Climate and Nature Committee members are asked to note the dates for the Thriving Nature Working Group for the remainder of this council year as follows:

- Tuesday 25 November 2025 - 7pm to 8.30pm
- Tuesday 27 January 2026 - 7pm to 8.30pm
- Tuesday 24 March 2026 – 7pm to 8.30pm
- Tuesday 26 May 2026 – 7pm to 8.30pm

Meetings are open to all current members of the Climate and Nature Committee, plus other interested councillors who may wish to attend and contribute.

### **2. Appendix**

[Thriving Nature Working Group Terms of Reference](#)