

Addington Parish Council Climate Change Policy

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Addington Parish Council Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030

Addington Parish Council has declared a Climate Change Emergency and supports Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council declaration of Climate Change Emergency made in 2019.

Government and scientists recognise that climate change is the most important environmental challenge that we face and we are all increasingly aware of the impact of climate change in our own lives. Scientists have said that we need to stop the carbon emissions in our atmosphere if we want to avoid the planet warming by more than an average of 1.5°. That's the temperature that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned will be a major point of no return for the climate crisis. The IPCC's most recent report (<https://www.wri.org/insights/ipcc-report-2022-climate-impacts-adaptation-vulnerability>) emphasises the speed with which we should all be addressing the issue.

In July 2019 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council agreed that the Borough would aim to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and produced a Climate Change Strategy for 2020 – 2030.

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-1>

Their strategy sets out the Borough's commitment to local action on climate change, biodiversity protection and enhancement and their approach to partnership working.

Addington Parish Council agreed that to respond to the climate change emergency it would set out a strategy and vision for both the Parish Council and the whole Parish which would indicate the steps the Parish needed to contribute to meeting the carbon neutral target of 2030.

Addington Parish Council through its leadership and community links are committed to encouraging responsible environment and climate impact behaviours from our residents and to demonstrate by example the cultural changes necessary to influence Climate Change mitigation.

Addington Parish Council has a history and reputation for adopting and managing green space strategies and alignment with Climate Change mitigation. As part of this strategy Addington Parish Council has looked at the carbon footprint of the emissions that it has control over and has set out actions that can help reduce that footprint. The Parish Council will continue to investigate what it can do on an annual basis to offset any emissions that it cannot reduce.

This strategy also looks at the carbon footprint of the whole Parish, estimated by the 'IMPACT' Carbon Calculator¹. This identifies the most important issues that need to be targeted to help reduce the footprint and what actions Addington Parish Council is able to take to help others reduce their personal and organisational footprints.

This strategy investigates the capacity Addington Parish Council and our community may have to help meet the challenges of adapting to and mitigating the impacts of increased temperatures, drought, flash flooding, more extreme weather conditions and changes in biodiversity and habitats, by making small changes and making a contribution to the use of renewable energy, carbon offsetting and sequestration through natural climate solutions. It is easy to get bogged down by what seems to be an enormous task, but we can all make a contribution by making both small and larger changes and acting where we can as a community to influence the changes we need in our Parish to meet the challenge. We hope this strategy will be welcomed as a positive step to meeting the challenges ahead for us all. We call for your support to help our small parish achieve the ambition of carbon neutrality by 2030. We look forward to receiving your comments, ideas and support that will contribute to achieving these carbon reduction targets.

What does carbon neutrality by 2030 mean?

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) aim to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and Addington Parish Council support this objective. Carbon neutrality is however not the same as zero carbon. Carbon neutral includes an element of carbon offsetting to reach a certain target and TMBC have indicated that this target can only be achieved by an element of offsetting. Offsetting is an inexact science, for instance the full impact of tree planting as a means of offsetting air travel can only be achieved once the tree has reached a certain maturity. It is universally recognised that zero carbon for a community is an unattainable goal. The aim should be to reduce our carbon footprint as much as we can and offset as much as we can, by whatever means are available to us, to reach stated targets.

Why work out a carbon footprint?

Working out our carbon footprint will help us as a Parish work out where best to target our efforts, both as individuals and as a community. As a Parish Council we have worked out our current footprint which has shown areas where we can reduce our impact. We have used the 'Impact tool' 2 to work out those areas where we could make an impact as a community either through individual actions or where we can work together within the Parish, with our neighbouring Parishes, the Local Authority, utility providers and others to help reduce our footprint and contribute to carbon reduction. Without having an idea of our carbon footprint it is impossible to know what is needed to reach carbon reduction targets.

Addington Parish Council: Carbon Footprint

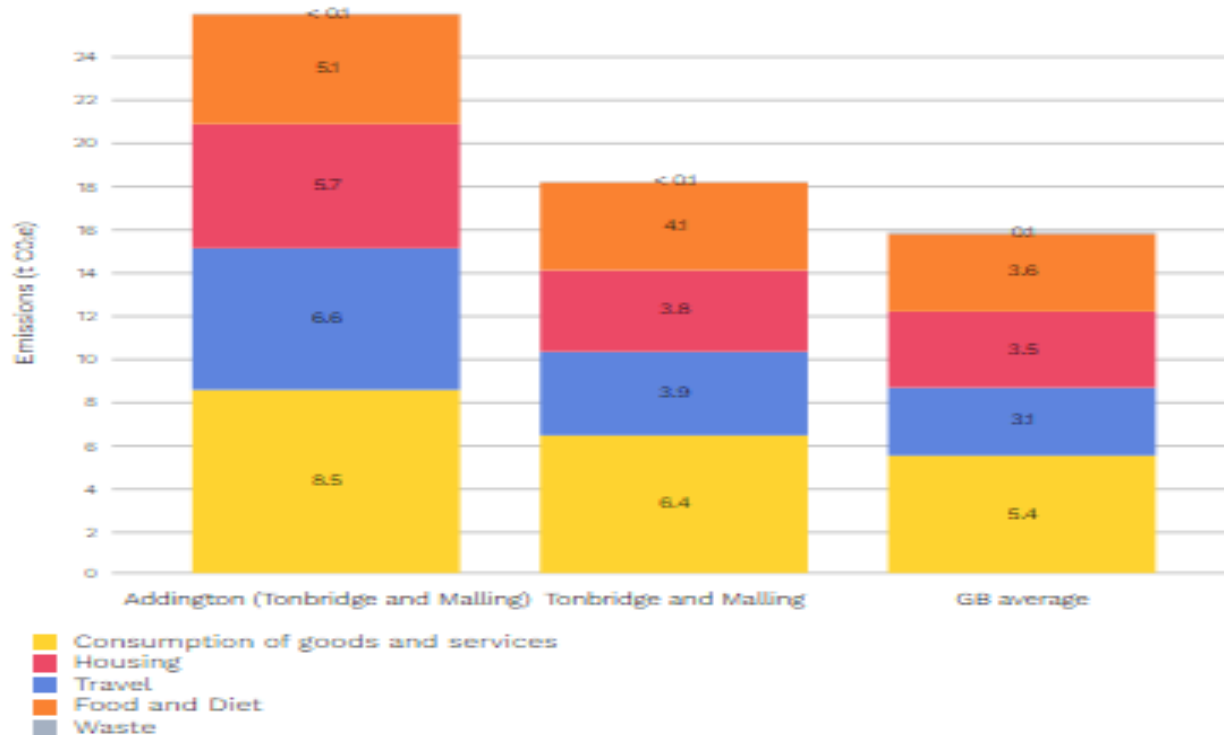
Activities Addington Parish Council

- Attendance at Parish, Borough, other meetings and site visits: For some journeys this involves use of a car by the Clerk and councillors. These are kept to a minimum and some have hybrid or electric cars. Recently Teams and Zoom meetings are used unless statutorily in person meetings are required.
- Administrative activities require use of laptops, printers, toners, some paper, mobile and landline phones and broadband.
- Heating and lighting of the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings.
- Land ownership: Addington Parish Council own a number of parcels of land. The carbon footprint of management of these areas could be reduced and the biodiversity improved. Reducing the mowing regime and managing the hedges and woodland areas sensitively would reduce the use of fossil fuel, and increase the biodiversity. We have been proactive in planting areas of wildflower. The more diverse the habitat the more robust it will be to cope with changing climate conditions.

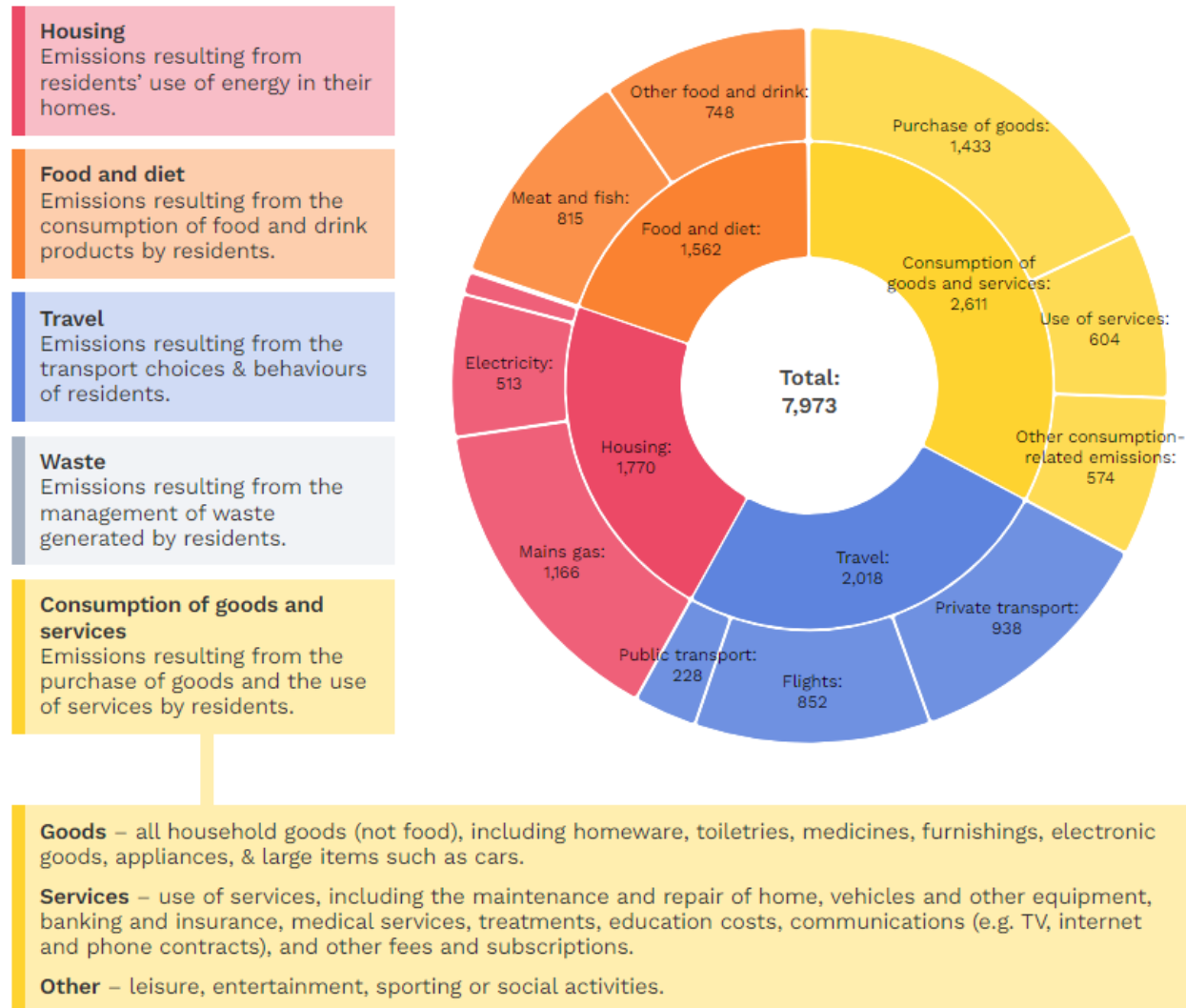
The Parish of Addington: Carbon Footprint

The Impact report: The Impact report tells us about Addington Parish's carbon footprint – both the scale of emissions and the main activities responsible for the emissions. This information is obtained from 'Impact' – an online region-level carbon emissions estimator: Impact | Community carbon calculator (impact-tool.org.uk). The tool was developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and the University of Exeter, initially to make carbon footprinting at parish level possible. The full report shows both 'consumption based' and 'territorial' emissions, and also shows how our footprint compares with the district average and the national average. The Impact reports are a useful tool that are updated regularly on their webpage.

Consumption Based Emissions in the parish of Addington



This figure shows the annual carbon emissions (measured in tonnes CO₂e^c) emitted as a result of the different activities that residents within your parish's boundary engage in – from heating to eating.

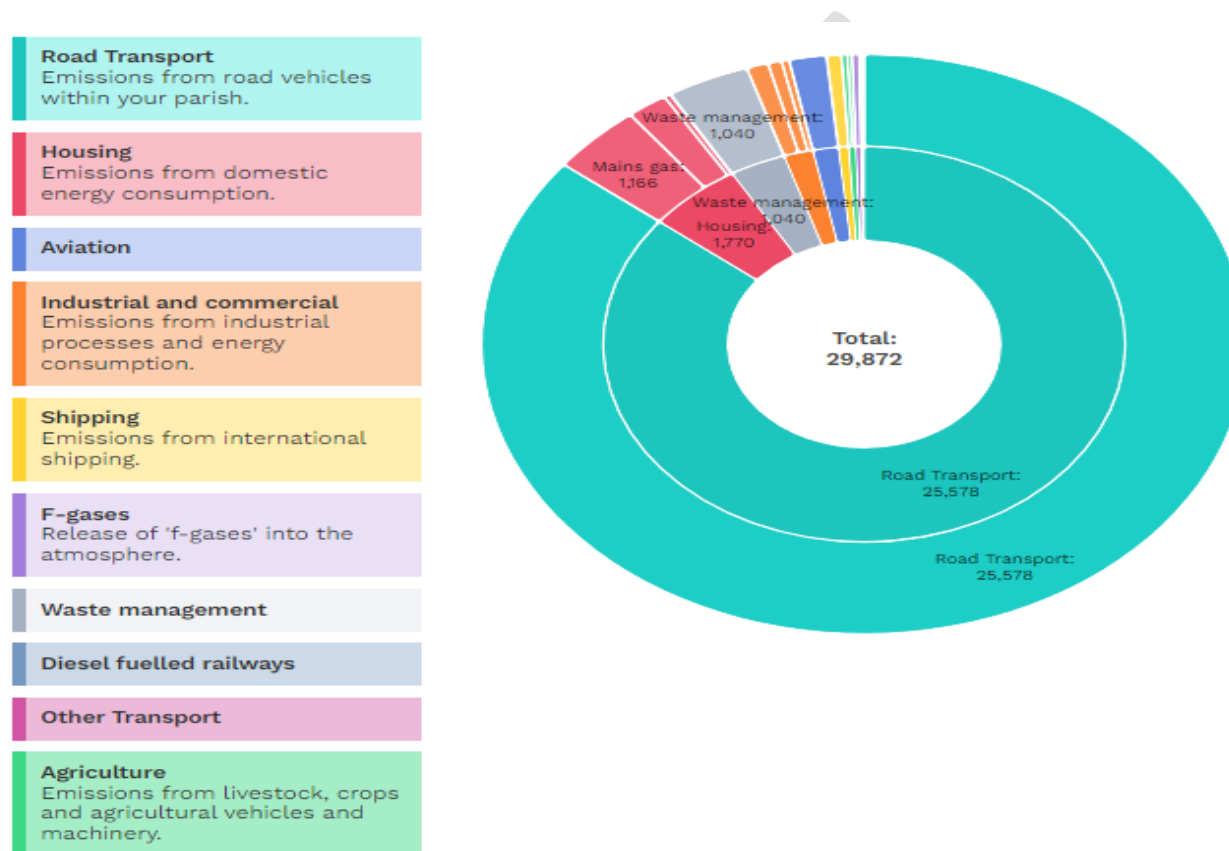


Breakdown of the numbers

The table below shows our area's consumption footprint – total estimated emissions and per-household averages – so that you can see a breakdown of the numbers.

	Total emissions (t CO ₂ e)	Per-household emissions (t CO ₂ e)	%
Total emissions	7,973	26	100
Consumption of goods and services	2,611	8.5	33
Travel	2,018	6.6	25
Housing	1,770	5.7	22
Food and diet	1,562	5.1	20
Waste	11	< 0.1	< 1

Territorial Emissions in the parish of Addington



The territorial figures in the graph are 'skewed' by the major A road going through the parish since figures for road usage emanating outside the parish but experienced on that part of the A20 within Addington are calculated as being part of the Addington footprint. Also, the industrial and commercial figures are based on figures for the whole Borough not individually for Addington. The 2 methods of calculation do however give a clear steer as to where the emphasis for action in the Parish could be.

The Footprint

The Impact report shows that the Parish of Addington emits about 50% more CO₂e than the average for Great Britain and it confirms that our biggest footprint is through use of fossil fuels in our households, followed closely by transport.

Households: Addington residents' use of energy in their homes results in annual carbon emissions per household of 5.7 t CO₂e. This compares with 3.8 t CO₂e at the district level and 3.5 t CO₂e at the national level.

Transport: Car use: Residents' car use results in annual carbon emissions per household of 3 t CO₂e. This compares with 1.9 t CO₂e at the district level and 1.6 t CO₂e at the national level. **Air travel:** Residents' air travel results in annual carbon emissions per household of 2.8 t CO₂e. This compares with 1.4 t CO₂e at the district level and 1.1 t CO₂e at the national level.

Food and Diet

Residents' consumption of meat and fish results in annual carbon emissions per household of 2.6 t CO₂e. This compares with 2.2 t CO₂e at the district level and 2 t CO₂e at the national level.

Other food and drink items: Residents' consumption of other food and drink items results in annual carbon emissions per household of 2.4 t CO₂e. This compares with 1.9 t CO₂e at the district level and 1.6 t CO₂e at the national level.

Research shows us that changing *what* we eat will have a greater impact on carbon emissions than changing *where* our food has travelled from – although, of course, eating locally-produced food brings multiple other benefits such as supporting local economies, having more control over mandating more ethical and environmentally-beneficial growing practices, and creating opportunities for people to better understand where the food they eat comes from and how it's grown or made.

Whilst the emissions from a food item can really vary depending on how it is grown or reared, it is clear that animal products, and most significantly beef and lamb, account for the largest proportion of food-related emissions.

Goods & services:

Residents' consumption of goods and use of services results in annual carbon emissions per household of 8.5 t CO₂e. This compares with 6.4 t CO₂e at the district level and 5.4 t CO₂e at the national level. All goods that we buy will have had carbon emitted in their making (including the sourcing of raw materials), packaging, shipping and sale. Without clear carbon labelling, it is difficult to know the scale of emissions resulting from each item, but it is clear that with every new product made, more carbon is emitted. Reducing how many *new* goods we buy in the first place is the best place to start in terms of reducing goods-related emissions; and then of course re-using and repairing items where goods are needed. Carbon emissions from the services we use will relate to the energy used by that service provider.

So what can we do?

Addington Parish Council through its leadership and community links are committed to encouraging responsible environment and climate impact behaviors from our residents and to demonstrate by example the cultural changes necessary to influence Climate Change mitigation.

Addington Parish Council has a history and reputation for adopting and managing green space strategies and alignment with Climate Change mitigation. The Climate Change agenda, changing culture and behaviours continues to be the most important environmental issue and challenge this community has to manage.

We are all increasingly aware of the impact of poorly controlled emissions and ineffective decision making which fails to address what lies ahead. We will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and strive continuously to use waste and pollution prevention and environmental best practice in all our decisions management.

The Parish Council is fully aware of the predicted outcomes and trends unless radical changes are implemented. Our community assets are demonstrably advanced on the road map travelling towards net zero – trees, hedges, grassland management, planting rainwater harvesting, solar.

Our Commitments

- Prevent pollution of land, air and water from all its decisions and activities.
- Identify and manage key risks and ensure that arrangements are in place to respond to foreseeable environmental incidents and emergencies.
- Review the actual and potential environmental impacts of all decisions and activities, particularly those affecting our community.
- Minimise energy and utility consumption by improving energy efficiency and usage in line with available resources by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources wherever possible and monitor compliance.
- Promote waste minimisation, re-use and recycling and monitoring waste transfer arrangements to ensure safe disposal.
- Develop and publish environmentally friendly guidelines in our community.
- Continually look for ways to encourage the reduction of energy and utility use in the community.
- Promote a culture of environmental awareness in the community where we can influence and encourage.
- Align our practices and behaviors with all our suppliers of goods and services in adopting best environmental initiatives and practices in procurement including by sourcing from sustainable origins.
- Demonstrate our responsibilities by actively supporting environmental initiatives in both the local and wider communities including taking a lead where our experience and knowledge can make a difference.

Climate Change Survey

We compiled and issued a survey to our residents in July 2023 to gain an understanding of their thoughts on climate change. Although the response rate was quite low the feedback we received was in line with our thinking.

Topline results:

- Just 14% of respondents were aware that T&MBC has announced a climate emergency.
- All the respondents said they would be prepared to introduce simple, easy to adopt changes into everyday life if they were able to quantify and realise the positive environmental impact of your actions.
- Understanding the benefits and having clear information would encourage respondents to consider the effect of their actions on the climate.
- 86% of respondents said they had changed the way they used resources in the past year. Installing low energy lighting, purchase of an electric car, stopped using tumble drier, reduce time in shower, take less journeys, buy local products were all given as positive changes.

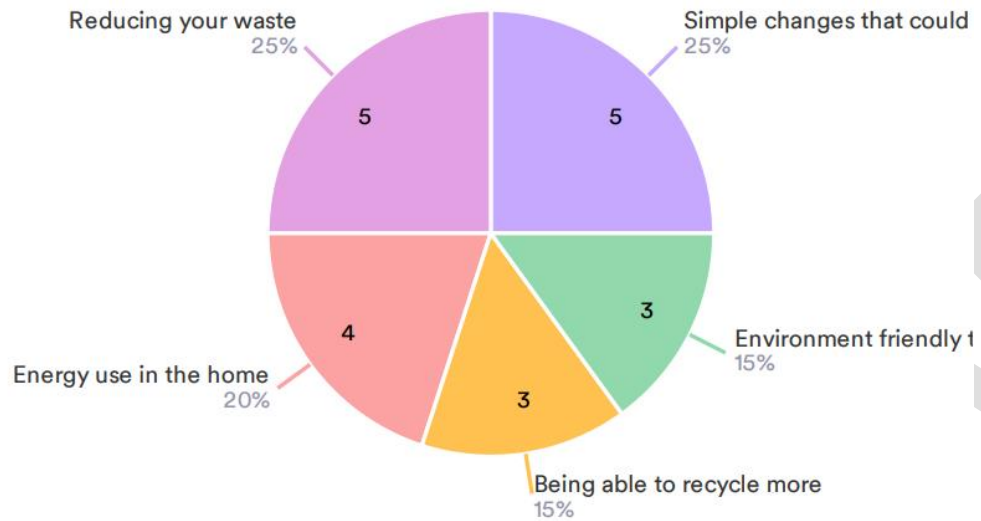
The following were considered to be carbon reducing initiatives that the Parish Council should work on:

- Planting of trees and shrubs.
- Planting of wildflower meadows.
- Support residents to recycle.
- Apply for grants for energy saving projects.
- Share initiatives with residents.

Most agreed that they would like to receive regular newsletters on what the Parish Council is doing to tackle climate change and on other climate change initiatives. Email was the preferred way to receive this information.

86% of respondents supported a proposal that the Parish Council develops a Climate Change Action Plan.

The pie chart demonstrates which areas respondents would like to learn more about



- Simple changes that could make a difference such as eating seasonally, grants for so...
- Reducing your waste
- Energy use in the home
- Being able to recycle more
- Environment friendly travel

A Climate Change Action Plan for Addington

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Action	Who responsible?	Achieved so far	Next steps	How APC could support	Timing
Reduce carbon footprint of Village Greens	Parish Council	Wildflower planting Planting of saplings/hedges Land management programme for East Street North village green	Reduce times mowed Plant and maintain wildflower areas on our managed green spaces Tree Warden help with inspecting health of trees. Annual Walkabout to check on welfare of trees	See Next Steps	Ongoing
Sports Pavilion and Recreation Ground energy performance	Addington Recreation Ground Committee	Rainwater harvesting Significant tree and hedge planting over 50+ years Low energy lighting in pavilion. Installation of SMART meters Carbon neutral maintenance of pitches.	To maintain and improve the natural turf playing surfaces to benefit the maximization of carbon sequestration and oxygen generation. Install solar panels to roof of sports pavilion. Sapling planting Seek grant funding to install solar panels. Replace equipment with battery operated. Increase number of local volunteers.	Support the Recreation Ground charity with gaining volunteers. Source and assist with grant funding. Source free supplies and equipment. Match fund where possible.	Install Solar Panels:2024 Ongoing
Assist Addington Village Hall Committee reduce carbon footprint	Addington Village Hall Committee	Installation of solar panels to provide electricity. Installed carbon reducing low energy lighting.		Support the village hall committee with gaining volunteers. Source and assist with grant funding.	

Action	Who responsible?	Achieved so far	Next steps	How APC could support	Timing
Land management	Owners and Landowners		Increase biodiversity and climate change resilience. Reduce water consumption carbon sequestration through good soil husbandry to reduce carbon footprint	Support actions that increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Use website to encourage blogs from gardeners etc. to share knowledge and experience. Engage with local land owners on land management practices. Support local farming diversification, use of government schemes and subsidies and new ideas that support a thriving agricultural and rural economy.	Ongoing
To make considered choices in consumption: e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buy local • reduce use of non-recyclable materials, • recycle waste. • buy products with lowest carbon footprint 	Individuals	Difficulties in knowing the difference between products that have a lower or higher carbon footprint. Knowing whether something uses recycled materials in construction and delivery, and /or whether in doing so it involves using more energy. Possibly more expensive. Needs government legislation to get products labelled.	Support government initiatives for labelling and taxing products with highest carbon footprints.	Lobby Borough Council and Governments	Ongoing
Provide information and enable sharing of experience	Everyone	New initiative		Improve website. Provide Climate Change webpage. Produce newsletters Initiate a Climate Change Community Action Group	2024

Action	Who responsible?	Achieved so far	Next steps	How APC could support	Timing
Building projects – extension, new build, renovations etc.	Individual owners and developers.	Include comments on climate change initiatives in responses to planning proposals where appropriate	Reduced carbon footprint. Better air quality. Long term cheaper fuel source. High EPC rating	Within the planning constraints of the Green Belt, AONB, Conservation Areas character and heritage constraints and other constraints, support planning applications that recognise embodied energy, reuse materials, and seek zero carbon construction and renewable heat and power sources	Ongoing
Reduce speed limit on A20 and all roads	KCC	Speed limit reduced to 40mph on Trottiscliffe Road Gateways installed	Reduced carbon footprint. Better air quality.	Continue to lobby KCC for reductions in speed limits	2024
Lower the use of journeys by car/private transport	Individuals Bus service providers and funders. Local Authority	Formed a Parish Alliance to offer a one day a week 'shopper' bus service	Lower emissions Roads safe for cyclists	Support improvement in local bus service. Support local initiatives for car sharing, community bus schemes etc. Support initiatives that support working from home. EG: broadband connectivity, mobile coverage, initiatives for shared use of facilities and networking. Support initiatives to make local roads safer for cyclists	Ongoing
Reduction in meat and dairy eating	Individual Choice		Education. Encourage Farmers Markets	Support education about relationship of food choices with carbon footprint. Support education about nutrition that supports a lower meat and dairy diet. Support local farming diversification, use of government schemes and subsidies and new ideas that support a thriving agricultural and rural economy. Provide Allotments	Ongoing 2024
Support healthy lifestyles	Individuals	Active cricket club Exercise classes in hall	Promote the benefits of exercise. Outside Gym Outside Table Tennis	To obtain grant funding to install outdoor gym equipment and table tennis table on the recreation ground. Encourage community classes.	2024 Ongoing

APPENDICES

Recreation Ground Environmental Policy

ADDINGTON RECREATION GROUND

(Charity 302668)

(including Addington Village Cricket Club)

Environmental Policy Statement



Addington Recreation Ground are committed to minimising any adverse impact on the environment from our activities and to manage a strategy which establishes a character, reputation and behaviours for responsible custodianship of the community facility. The organisation will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practice in all we do.

We are already registered with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body (518927) and have now been accredited with the STEM Level 1 by the South East Business Carbon Hub and Kent County Council. This is the first steps towards BS8555 and ISO 14001 accreditation.

We recognise that one of the key attributes and characteristics to be a sustainable organisation is to recognise our responsibilities in the community and provide leadership.

Our commitment is to:

- Prevent pollution of land, air and water from the facility and from all its activities
- Identify and manage key impacts from foreseeable environmental incidents and emergencies by undertaking risk assessments for our activities and ensuring that mitigation measures and procedures are in place to minimise this.
- Review the actual and potential environmental impacts of all the club's activities, including those affecting the local community
- Minimise energy consumption by improving energy efficiency in line with available resources by implementing the use of renewable energy sources wherever possible
- Promote waste minimisation, re-use and recycling of waste and monitoring waste transfer arrangements to ensure safe disposal
- Continually look for ways to reduce utility consumption
- Promote a culture of environmental awareness through our community network and by being an example of best practice including the opportunity for encouraging training our volunteers to attend relevant competence, awareness and developmental training .
- Encourage suppliers of goods and services to adopt best environmental practices and procure goods from sustainable sources wherever possible
- Act to create community alignment to waste minimisation campaigns and initiative like "Love Where You Live" and demonstrate our responsibility as a good neighbour by actively supporting these environmental initiatives in the local community.

- Create an alignment of motivation with our Stakeholders and Partners, our Parish Council, the Local Authority and all in our Community

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