



DECLARATION OF AN ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

This committee resolves that the Town Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency will be amended to include recognition of an Ecological Emergency, noting that the two issues are intrinsically linked and must be dealt with together for actions to be effective.

To support this joint Declaration, the committee further resolves that:

- *A review will be undertaken of all Town Council projects and procurement, with support from the Centre for Sustainable Energy (cost TBC), to ensure that all consumables are sustainably sourced, that the carbon and ecological footprint of the Town Council is firmly established;*
- *To mandate that Town Council procurement and other management practices are consistent with the joint Declarations, and that instructions to suppliers and contractors are drafted and issued to that effect by the end of July;*
- *The Town Council will host a Climate Action Day, underwriting the cost (£2,565) to be re-charged to delegates in whole or in part, with attendance open to all Parish and Town Councils in the surrounding area.*

The actions of the Town Council in recent months have directly addressed issues both of Climate Change and Ecology;

- The deployment of Solar Panels on St. Margaret's Hall;
- The purchase of Becky Addy Wood, and adoption of Arnold's Wood;
- The Biodiversity Resolution, including the commissioning of a biodiversity survey;
- The allocation of funds to improve education and engagement on biodiversity and related matters;
- Events covering matter pertinent to both issues

WHY DECLARE AN ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY?

This resolution will enable us to bring together two issues that are, in practice, inextricably linked – climate change and ecological damage/loss.

It will allow us to respond effectively not just to the damage inflicted by carbon emissions, but by other human activity which risks destroying habitat, reduces biodiversity and has a huge impact both on wildlife and on pollinators.

Larger Public Authorities, including Bristol City Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council have now declared Ecological Emergencies alongside Climate Emergencies, in line with scientific evidence and subsequent calls from experts and campaigners to acknowledge the catastrophic impact humans are having on biodiversity as clearly outlined in the 2019 State of Nature Report¹.

Whilst our area of operation may be smaller, given the habitats currently under and soon to be transferred to the custodianship of the Town Council, we can play a significant part in helping to redress ecological damage; encouraging biodiversity, protecting and restoring habitats for wildlife.

¹ <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf>
BOATC E&P EcoEmergency 8 Jul 2020

This is beneficial for the health and wellbeing of our community whilst also critical to future generations who will rely on the legacy we leave in terms of biodiversity and the food production supported by thriving ecosystems.

Action is needed at all levels, from local communities like ours through to national government and international organisations. We have the opportunity to do our part, inspire and educate our community, whilst also leading the way so that other councils may be encouraged to do the same.

