

Environment and Climate Crisis Working Party Report 2021-22

Members; Trudy Reynolds, Jackie Bull and Nigel Chatterjee - Parish Council and Pat Smith.

We have undergone a minor re-branding this year to include the environment within our title and to emphasise the seriousness of the situation we, along with many others, realise that climate change has become a climate crisis.

The working party has up-dated the St Austell Bay Parish Council's Climate Crisis Action Plan. It has also produced a Planning Checklist to assist parish councillors when discussing planning applications. The checklist, which works in conjunction with the approved Neighbourhood Plan, puts the environment and climate change policies as material considerations in our decision making.

We have also obtained a Carbon Footprint Report for the parish based on data provided by the University of Exeter and the Centre for Sustainable Energy based in Bristol. Our carbon footprint is disappointingly high in comparison to both the Cornwall average and the GB average. We are about to start work to find out why this is and what we can do to reduce it.

The group has also been producing monthly posters for the noticeboards and the parish website to highlight current topics such as recycling, saving energy, green spring cleaning etc. We are also hoping to circulate these on some of the parish's other social media channels.

Purchases made by the parish are locally sourced wherever possible. Suppliers are checked for their environmental credentials. Single use plastics are avoided.

We have set up a Diggers and Doers group to improve the environment of the parish by tree planting, bulb planting, creating wildflower areas and general tidying of hedgerows and footpaths. There are ongoing projects at The Battery, the Regatta Field and Carrickowel Point. We have a small core of volunteers which I would like to sincerely thank for their efforts, with particular mention to the two keenest members from Carlyon Parish. If you can spare the odd hour or two please come and join us. Details are on the website. You will be more than welcome and will help our parish and our planet!