

# Environment Strategy Update

Full Council  
15 April 2021



# Energy Retrofit and Supply

- Audit report from Engie on highest use SSSC buildings provided road map to decarbonise.
- Successful bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant Scheme securing £3,993,846.
- Main works will involve decarbonising heating to ground or air source heat pumps, solar PV installation, LED lighting and some insulation work.
- Scrutiny Task and Finish group working on a project to assess the available options for switching to a renewable energy supplier



# Community Climate Activity

- Support our community to become more carbon neutral.
- Successfully applied for Local Authority Delivery Green Homes Grant. Awarded a grant of £803K.
- We will deliver retrofit insulation to hard to treat park homes across the district.
- Work started on a planning validation checklist to help assess climate impacts for new developments



# Green Transport

- EV charging project with Devon Low carbon Energy and Transport Technology Innovator (DELETTI) ongoing.
- DfT e-scooter trial in Yeovil. 330 users having taken 8,452 journeys across the town.
- Second phase now started in Crewkerne and Chard.
- Online survey to gauge public interest on establishing a community-led electric car club for South Somerset.



Survey launched to establish interest in a community led electric car club for Sou... See more



8 5 comments 28 shares

Like Comment Share

6,807 people reached >

Boost post



# Community Engagement and Communications

- Themed messaging across social media and in press releases.
- Increased online countryside events and engagement opportunities during lockdowns



# Community Engagement and Communications

## SSDC Community Grants

- In the last year £29,434 has been awarded to help towards the realisation of 7 local community environment projects.

## Parish Environment Champions

- Engaging with the growing network of Environment Champions.
- Zoom networking events - Nature Recovery and Community Energy, and next week Recycle More with Somerset Waste Partnership.
- Spring resource pack



**Don't Miss It!**  
**PARISH ENVIRONMENT CHAMPS**  
**RECYCLE MORE WORKSHOP**  
**21 APRIL 2021**  
**With guest speakers from SWP**



# Get SuSSed

- Monthly e-newsletter continues now includes case studies from our own parishes and feedback remains overwhelmingly positive.
- Sent to 773 recipients including members, staff and parishes. Shared by parishes on their own platforms .
- Average open rate (over last 6 months) is 34%. Industry average for local authority newsletter is 21.84%.
- The past 6 months most popular articles have been the Department for Transport e-scooter launches, the big clean energy switch, energy saving advice from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, County Climate Emergency Carbon Reduction Grants, Electric Vehicle Car Club survey and Spring Resource Pack.



## Website

- A new South Somerset Environment website has been constructed.



# Trees and Woodland

- **Our Great Parish Tree Giveaway** - 775 trees to local communities to plant in their parishes. A further 2,225 to other community projects.
- **SSDC annual tree planting** –570 trees were planted at Wyndham Hill in Yeovil and 100 at Pit Wood as part of the tree for every reception child Country File scheme. Further plantings completed across the SSDC estate by Environment Services.
- **Urban Tree Challenge Fund** – 900 trees planted in Martock & Chard.
- **In total** - 2,270 trees on SSDC sites and 3,300 on community land this winter. Since adoption of the strategy totals of 7,266 on SSDC sites and 6,360 community plantings.





# Joint Working

- Local Nature Partnership continues to lead on Nature Recovery Networks and we are actively engaged and supporting that work.
- We have led the coordination and submission of a grant application to the Green Recovery Fund in partnership with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, seeking £250,000 to install nature based solutions across the district.
- Actively working with other local community groups like Reimagining the Levels and organisations like Centre for Sustainable Energy.

