

## **CK Futures – connecting people, climate, and the environment**

### **CK Futures Climate Change Strategy**

#### **Agreed at Full Council Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (Minute 63/20/21)**

##### **Our Vision**

We published our *Vision for Charlton Kings* in 2019 and it has galvanised our interest in taking affirmative action for the environment. Unless, like thousands of small communities across the world, our community takes action that sets an example, we have no moral authority to suggest to others that they should take action to protect the environment that our children must inherit from our generation.

The first achievement was to establish an environment working party that has drawn together Parish and Borough Councillors with knowledgeable and experienced volunteers from within our own community. It is this group that has been charged with delivering the Parish Council's strategy for the environment. This strategy will be approved and owned by the Parish Council, but written and delivered by a new organisation, **CK Futures**.

##### **CK Futures - connecting people, climate, and the environment**

CK Futures aims to establish a firm connection between the people of our parish, the climate, and our environment. The future of all three are intimately related. It is important to acknowledge the impact (health, economic, social) of the pandemic and other events on the way of life not just in Charlton Kings but globally. Our response to climate change will be shaped by the changes currently underway to recover from this crisis and it will be necessary for us to engage empathetically with people to achieve the objectives outlined.

We can't change the world in Charlton Kings, but like everyone on the planet, we need to make our contribution to achieving the IPCC's target to limit global temperature rise to well under 2.0° C. We share Cheltenham Borough Council's commitment to a carbon-neutral Cheltenham by 2030, as a contribution toward helping the UK meet its 2050 carbon neutrality target. We will align our Vision for 2030 with the wider Cheltenham goal.

We will set realistic interim goals that are linked to the 4-year council election timetable:

- By March 2022 we will aim to achieve our first set of goals, with a review in November 2021 to assess progress and to draft new goals to align with the next four-year planning cycle under a newly elected council in May 2022
- The new Council will decide its priorities for its term between 2022-2026
- The next 4 years to 2030 will be under a third Parish Council.

This first iteration of an environment strategy for Charlton Kings will

- ✓ say what we will do to limit carbon emissions across our parish and the goals we will set for the Parish Council itself
- ✓ how we will deliver these goals and the individuals and partner organisations we will seek to work with
- ✓ what we will do to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on both our built and natural environments, and the people and wildlife that will be affected.

## **CK Futures – Our Approach and Themes**

It is recognised that everyone lives a different life, and some activities and changes will be easier to embrace than others. Reducing our carbon footprint will be achieved in many ways and each individual, family, and business will make their own decisions based on their circumstances as to the approach and action they take. Our aim will be to inform, guide, support, introduce and where possible help people to take an active role in carbon reduction in Charlton Kings and to demonstrate what can be achieved both locally and further afield.

CK Futures will focus on 6 themes: Localness, People, Buildings & Energy, Transport, Less Waste, and our Natural & Built Environment. These themes bring together the needs of our community with solutions that reduce carbon emissions, and with actions that mitigate the consequences of climate change.

It should be noted that CK Futures has decided to set theme-related targets ahead of carrying out the work required to establish a baseline. The reason for this is to convey the scale of the ambition. These targets will be reviewed in November 2021, when the 'current' baseline will be better understood.

### **Localness**

Living, working, shopping, and recreating close to home is good for the environment and good for our community. We want people to think that Charlton Kings is a good place to just 'be', to happily spend more leisure time in the parish, in Cheltenham and around the Cotswolds. Supporting local business, and buying locally made products and services strengthens our community and can be better for the environment

### **Goals**

- To recognise community-spiritedness: By March 2022, 40% of residents have a good understanding of the work carried out by volunteers and members of the community in unpaid positions
- To increase knowledge: By March 2022, 40% of residents say they have a good understanding of the services, activities, clubs, and other interest/leisure activities available within our community e.g. CK Health Connect Directory
- To fill gaps in local delivery: Survey residents to identify gaps in leisure and consumption needs and assist in establishing new clubs or other ventures
- To Increase use of our local countryside resources like footpaths and bridleways, local nature reserves, and special landscape areas
- To understand the Charlton Kings business community and promote efficient and effective ways of working including homeworking, networks, sale of goods and services.
- To install Superfast Broadband – an essential if we are to successfully promote effective home working and reduce travel. We will work with suppliers to ensure as far as possible that the parish is covered by March 2022.
- To reduce travel: By March 2022, 30% of residents say that they are now inclined to spend more time within the locality.

### **People - knowledge, attitude, and actions**

If the wider Cheltenham carbon-neutral vision is to be achieved by 2030, a significant part of our population will say that their actions are highly influenced by the climate emergency and their personal concern to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Actively managing-down our personal carbon footprint must become second nature for most of us, with an understanding of the changes required to our homes, lifestyle, and travel arrangements. We will aim to support and help people adapt to both small and larger changes e.g. from planting for bees to becoming a vegan, from car sharing to reduction in air travel.

## Goals

- By March 2021, we will aim to share the realistic impact of the changing climate and some of the benefits change can bring e.g. jobs, lifestyle, health
- By June 2021 An Environmental Directory of best practice and guidance will be made widely available throughout the community
- By March 2022, 20% of households surveyed are both aware of the Environmental Directory and report that they find it useful.
- By March 2022, 60% of households surveyed know their carbon footprint and are taking action to reduce it, and 10% will have reduced it by 25% or more
- By March 2022 25 % of people will know where to go to find information, advice and best practice e.g. Environmental Hub within CKPC buildings; on the web

## Buildings and energy

The way in which humans create and use energy is the over-riding issue that has produced a changed climate and led to many negative impacts on the world's ecosystems and human populations. Heating and cooling our buildings represents the second biggest use of energy in the world. By adopting more 'renewable' energy, and by avoiding the many forms of energy waste, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

## Goals

- Charlton Kings Parish Council will aim to:
  - replace its gas boiler with an effective green energy source by March 2026
  - use 100% affordable renewable electricity in its buildings by March 2022
  - reduce its operational carbon footprint by 30% by March 2022
  - install energy positive technology in new buildings e.g. Kings Hall by March 2026
- Explore and review best practice through similar schemes; build a resource of community structural case studies within this discipline to consider revising target/remit when energy advisory team is established March 2021
- By March 2022, CK Futures will have developed an advisory capacity /team and be ready to promote advice on green energy sources, e.g. ground source heat pumps, solar/thermal panels, etc
- By March 2022, 5 requests/month for thermal imaging of properties are referred to Cheltenham Vision21

## Transport

Globally, moving around by car and flying are the most energy-intensive things we do, so looking for savings here will greatly help to reduce our carbon footprint. We will encourage, by a range of initiatives, the replacement of personal and public fossil fuel vehicles with electric ones and encourage the use of our muscle energy by walking and cycling.

## Goals

- By November 2021, we will assess
  - the number of short car journeys (less than 5 miles return)
  - the use, barriers to use and opportunities in relation to public transport, walking and cycling (includes both able bodied and those with disabilities)
  - the use, barriers to use and opportunities in relation to electric vehicles
- By March 2022, 20% of residents say they have reduced the number of short car journeys in favour of walking, cycling and public transport
- We will work with others to install at least two public EV charging points in Charlton Kings by March 2022
- By March 2022, a CK Futures transport team will have established a partnership with the Borough Council and Glos County Council to facilitate the implementation of Cheltenham transport plans (it is acknowledged these may be revised due to social distancing)

## **Less waste**

Zero Waste is a goal that some people have (almost) achieved. If we use, re-use, recycle and finally throw away just 1% of what we currently see as 'waste', or simply avoid buying it in the first place, we would save ourselves money, save our Councils millions of pounds, reduce the number of landfill sites we need and, most importantly, hugely reduce our energy use.

There already exists a wide range of options for re-use, recycling, and repair. We will work with the community to increase uptake of these options.

### **Goals**

- The Parish Council will actively seek to reduce its waste by a further 10% by March 2022
- By March 2021, we will have published advice on the benefits of a 'circular economy', that is to eliminate waste and keep resources e.g. wood, plastic, material, in the system for longer by re-use, repair, refurbishing, remanufacturing and recycling.
- By March 2022, 60% residents have knowledge of the main options available for reuse, recycle and repair
- By March 2022, 40% residents routinely utilise all the main options available for reuse, recycle and repair
- By March 2022, we will aim to fill gaps in local delivery: Work with residents to identify and provide further options for reuse, recycle and repair e.g. establish a repair function
- We will engage with and support the aim of Plastic Free Cheltenham to eliminate single use plastic (where feasible).
- We will engage with our community to promote recycling and achieve a 20% reduction in our landfill waste by March 2022.

## **Our Natural and built environments**

Whatever actions we take now, our world will experience serious, negative, consequences from global temperature increases. Our Parish will be presented with many challenges, including more frequent, more intense rainfall events, as well as warmer and at times, intensely hot weather. Our community will need to better understand how to manage our changing environment and can play an active part in managing personal spaces and the natural world around us.

### **Goals**

- Guided by the Gloucestershire biodiversity action plan, we will carry out the restorative management of wildlife habitats and increase the 'naturalness' of public greenspaces. We will monitor key wildlife species, e.g. butterflies show sustainable increases in species living in the new 'climate space'
- We will work with Natural England's advisors to promote the concept of 'ecosystem services', especially on agricultural land.
- As part of an ecosystem services approach to land management, we will research and introduce Natural Flood Management techniques to alleviate the flooding effects of extreme rainfall events. We will seek to reduce flooding in urban Charlton Kings and Cheltenham
- We will identify and promote appropriate elements of the 'Building Better, Building Beautiful' Commission's report on urban design, such as sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS).
- Charlton Kings has a significant tree cover, but we need to green the urban landscape, adopting a 'right tree right place' approach. In so doing, we will seek to alleviate extreme street temperatures in summer
- We will proactively invite residents to be part of environmental initiatives and seek to support local environmental initiatives instigated by others.

## **Management arrangements**

CK Futures will be an arm's-length, non-executive, subcommittee of the Parish Council's Community Development Committee. The full scope of the management arrangements is outlined in the appendix

## **Our Partners**

An enterprise of this magnitude will need to bring in as many contributions from individuals and organisations as can be managed. We identify the following groupings as those with whom we will seek to have targeted engagements:

- The Local Authorities and their elected councillors: Gloucestershire County (GCC), Cheltenham Borough (CBC) and Charlton Kings Parish Council (CKPC). CBC is a key partner because this strategy is projected to mesh with the CBC's own report 'Carbon Neutral Cheltenham 2030 – Leadership through Stewardship'
- The public bodies that provide services in Charlton Kings
- Businesses and social enterprises that operate in Charlton Kings
- Vision 21
- Voluntary and community sector groups active in Charlton Kings e.g. FoCK – Friends of Charlton Kings
- The 12,500 residents of our large and diverse parish and above all, our young people who will inherit the world we have created.

## **Appendix**

### **Current Management Arrangements**

- CK Futures will be an arm's-length, non-executive, subcommittee of the Parish Council's Community Development Committee. It will not be supported by Parish Council staff but will arrange for its meetings and meetings of its working groups to be minuted by their own members.
- CK Futures is not authorised to act on behalf of Charlton Kings Parish Council. Its Chair reports to the Chair of Community Development Committee who will take all recommendations and requests to Council for its approval. CK Futures may not take executive decisions independently of Charlton Kings Parish Council.
- All requests to the Parish Council for financial or other support must be made by the Chair to the Chair of the Community Development Committee who is responsible for budgeting for the group's needs in annual budget rounds. It is critical to success that external funding sources are also secured.
- The subcommittee will be chaired by a Parish Councillor.
- The Chair will, in discussion with the Theme leaders, call such meetings of CK Futures as they deem necessary. A minute of each meeting will be written, circulated as a draft to members of the group and be published on the Parish Council's website.
- The group may recruit additional volunteers, but each volunteer must be required to complete and sign a CKPC Volunteer agreement before working with the group. Theme leads should seek to identify and recruit residents or others with specific skills and knowledge who can actively contribute to delivering the objectives of their group.
- CK Futures will, from time to time, review its management structures and make such changes as it considers appropriate. It will determine the number of themes and their roles, as it considers necessary to deliver its commission from Charlton Kings Parish Council – to deliver *The Vision*, and this strategy.
- Themes must make their own arrangements to record discussions of their meetings, decisions taken, any actions required and by who.