



**Pentewan Valley  
Parish Council  
Climate Change Action Plan**

## **Pentewan Valley Climate Action Plan**

### **Introduction**

Climate change is already having an impact across the world including extreme weather events; threats to land and wildlife; and the loss of food resources.

Pentewan Valley is a linear parish, starting at the southern edge of St Austell and ending on the coast at Pentewan. Being situated in a valley and on the coast it has experienced flooding and storms which have impacted on people's lives and businesses.

Pentewan Valley Parish Council will undertake measures to make the parish council more sustainable, to reduce the carbon footprint of residents and visitors and to provide the support to help others make things happen across the parish. We will look to provide funding for green initiatives as part of a grant scheme and award those who have created initiatives of their own.

By working together with projects across the parish, we can all help to make a real difference.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Pentewan Valley Parish Council resolved to draft a Climate Change Action Plan.

Immediately following, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Government declared a lockdown and the holding of meetings, such as the Parish Council's, was put into question. In the event, no meetings were held until June 2020 when the Parish Council resolved that Terms of Reference for the Action Plan should be drafted. These were adopted on the 15 July 2020 and a small working group of Councillors and Community members then started to prepare the Action Plan for consideration by the Parish Council.

It was recognised that a Parish Council has limited powers to bring about change outside its own activities, but could ensure that it acted responsibly in relation to climate change issues, introduce measures and projects directed towards climate change and help others to do the same. In addition it would use its position to lobby and influence change by third parties.

The focus of the Group was to set down approaches and actions that the Parish Council could implement in its day to day activities; promote positive actions to combat the effects of climate change; encourage and influence others to consider their actions and make changes in relation to climate change and to lobby for a legislative framework that supports climate change objectives. In addition it would support measures to protect the Parish against the effects of climate change.

## Ethos and Philosophy

- We will resist development that would impose a greater impact on the parish in terms of the potential for flooding and pollution.
- We will support the investigation of additional flood relief measures in the Pentewan Valley
- We will continue to support measures that mitigate the impacts of climate change and its effects on the parish
- We will value the trees we have already and look to increase the number in all appropriate spaces. This will complement the Forest for Cornwall project announced by Cornwall Council. We will seek to involve the community, particularly children, in this process.
- We will encourage the reduction of carbon by measures such as:-

Changing to a renewable energy supplier

Switching lights and appliances off

Changing to LED bulbs

Properly insulating your home (loft, walls, floors, windows, hot water tank)

Use heat only when needed, close curtains and avoid turning up the thermostat

The use of heat pumps instead of conventional fuels.

- While it is currently not possible for Parish Councils to require new buildings to be sustainably built and carbon neutral, objections based on insufficient consideration for climate impact can be noted on planning applications for new builds, as a means of highlighting to Cornwall Council and national government that suitable legislation is required.
- We will support the use of electric vehicles for public transport serving the valley.
- We will plan for the installation of charging points for electric vehicles to promote their use.
- We will be looking to encourage the use of car sharing by Councillors and the public in as many ways as we can.
- We will support the use of walking and cycling within the parish and ways of making it safe and accessible. We will look to expand the network where possible and to encourage the provision of walking and cycling networks within new development.
- We will support the reduction of single-use plastics and encourage the recycling of all plastics to protect the environment
- We will seek ways to encourage visitors to the valley to act in a sustainable way and to make positive choices during their stay.

Measure that can be promoted include:-

Supporting local suppliers and reducing plastic packaging.

Eating locally and reducing car journeys

Making use of the footpaths and coastal path

Considering energy and water usage

The use of litter bins for the disposal of rubbish or for the rubbish to be taken home if a convenient bin is not available  
Not leaving rubbish on the beach for the sea to deal with, as it presents a danger to people and wildlife.

- We will apply the ethos of our Climate Action Plan in all matters and will respond to planning and other consultations appropriately.
- We will align all our policies, plans and guidance with our climate, nature and green economy goals
- We will lobby Cornwall Council and the Government at all opportunities to bring about change to support climate actions.

## **Projects and Plans**

### **Current Projects**

Pentewan Valley Parish Council is supporting the installation of a tidal barrier at Pentewan, in partnership with Cornwall Council, the Environment Agency, Pentewan Sands Ltd and other community match funding. A dune structure is proposed which provides a flexible solution that does not restrict the future aspiration of reopening the harbour. It is also aesthetically more in keeping with the local environment.

A setback dune with a rock core will reduce the overtopping volume entering the basin which is the objective of this scheme.

### **Plans:**

#### **Short Term (1 - 2 years)**

##### **The Parish Council will**

1. explore low carbon electricity supply options, including at least one 100% renewable electricity supplier
2. where possible adopt a paper-free environment for its meetings, minutes and agendas.
3. publish a Developers' Checklist to indicate the areas the Parish Council would wish to see addressed in any planning application, to ensure that the most sustainable development is brought forward.
4. support the use of walking and cycling within the parish and ways of making it safe and accessible. It will look to expand the network where possible and to encourage the provision of walking and cycling networks within new development.
5. introduce ways to encourage visitors to the valley to act sustainably and to make positive choices during their stay by providing information and facilities to encourage more sustainable transport methods, less plastic use and greater recycling.
6. seek an alternative to the use of glyphosate for weed suppression.

7. promote the installation of more re-cycling facilities at Pentewan.
8. support Cornwall Council's plans for reduced verge cutting and encourage the re-wilding of verges and other green spaces.
9. develop the Emergency Plan to address extreme weather events and other emergencies.
10. examine the benefit of commissioning a carbon audit of the parish.
11. lobby for carbon neutral initiatives and legislation for new development.

### **Medium Term (3 - 6 years)**

#### **The Parish Council will**

1. support the installation of charging points for electric vehicles to promote their use.
2. produce a map and application for visitors to Pentewan Valley to help develop sustainable practices and guide visitors to have the least environmental impact on the Valley.
3. consider the creation of farmers' markets to promote local produce.
4. develop a reward scheme to encourage the maximum recycling within the Valley.
5. develop a grant scheme for green initiatives
6. develop a personal action plan for the community and visitors to encourage sustainable lifestyles.

### **Long Term (7 - 10 years)**

#### **The Parish Council will**

1. investigate, with its partners and landowners, the creation of a reed bed to assist the reduction of particulates in the river and reduce downstream flooding.
2. seek to provide an enhanced car parking facility at Menagwins car park, to make it a focus for cycling and walking within the Valley.

Adopted by Pentewan Valley Parish Council on 17 March 2021