

Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan



BLACKLANDS | CALNE | CALSTONE | DERRY HILL | HIGH PENN | LOWER COMPTON | MILE ELM | RATFORD | SANDY LANE | STOCKLEY | STUDLEY

Climate Change and Sustainability Chapter Summary

People who live and work in Calne are already putting a lot of work into planning and thinking about how to address the challenges of climate change already being felt. We want to make sure we can become more sustainable and resilient as a community as we look ahead.

The theme of sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation cuts across many aspects of what the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan can address. The updated Plan will also include a specific chapter on this topic.

There is much that is outside the scope of what we can do with our Plan, but including this topic is a step towards addressing these challenges, and helping to shape and plan for places that our children and grandchildren can live, work and thrive in.

The updating of our Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity to add new and updated planning policies that will help to achieve our local ambitions to be proactive in helping to protect and shape the future of our town, villages and landscapes by adding detail to the Wiltshire Local Plan.

The aim is to address the impacts of climate change with flexible policies that can keep up with changes in technology.

Key issues and priorities

To adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change at the local level over four key areas:

- Energy efficiency of new and existing buildings
- Low & zero carbon energy generation
- Sustainable transport
- Natural environment

To ensure meaningful benefits to the community through:

- Improved air quality
- Decreased fuel poverty
- Greener, cleaner places to thrive

Education, empowerment, and real community action to address the challenges and opportunities of climate change at the local level:

- New buildings and developments that achieve zero-carbon emissions where possible
- Support for retrofitting of existing buildings

The following 3 policies will be included in the Climate Change and Sustainability chapter of the revised plan:

Policy SCC1 - Principles of Development and Climate Change *NEW!*

This policy is to establish a range of principles that underpin sustainable development in our area.

These cover things like increased resilience to climate change; protecting irreplaceable habitats and strengthening nature recovery; air, noise, light and water pollution; the natural functioning of the water courses through the area; use of nature based solutions and sustainable transport.

Policy SCC2 - Sustainable Energy and Construction *NEW!*

This policy is designed to ensure new buildings are energy efficient by setting measurable requirements against the Net Zero carbon Toolkit. Priorities for how this can be achieved are described.

Ways to improve energy efficiency when existing building are changed are also addressed.

Policy 3: Standalone Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - *NEW!*

This policy explains how planning authorities will look favourably on the development of larger scale renewable energy projects, provided they fulfil the national requirements of land use in this area and do not negatively impact the environment in other ways. It also sets conditions for battery storage facilities to be built.

Net Zero: Put simply, net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. We reach net zero when the amount we add is no more than the amount taken away.

Local Action:

Wiltshire Council, Calne Town Council and the Parish Council have all declared a Climate Emergency and are actively looking at what can be done at the local level. Local Action Groups such as Sustainable Calne are also working to make a difference.

Nature Based Solutions: Nature-based solutions are inspired and supported by nature. They are cost-effective, simultaneously providing environmental, social and economic benefits.

It can include simple measures like green roofs, water butts and other ways to slow down the water run off from homes. It could also be about having hedges for garden boundaries, or hedgehog links through gardens, or having bat / swift boxes integrated into homes.

More effective and widespread incorporation of nature based solutions within building designs, developments and operations are needed as we face the challenge of climate change.