

Environment & Assets Committee

Report Title:	Green Living Plan Actions – Update
Meeting Date:	2 July 2024
Contact Officer:	Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the Council on action taken against Thame’s Green Living Plan since last report to Full Council meeting on November 2023 and the plans for the next quarter.

2. Background

- 2.1. Thame Town Council’s Environmental Project Officer (EPO) is employed to
- coordinate the implementation of the Green Living Plan (GLP),
 - support Thame Town Council on its own sustainability journey,
 - and work to engage all environmental groups through the delivery of an Environmental Forum.
- 2.2. This report focuses specifically on the first of these tasks - progress made against the Green Living Plan.

3. Current Status

- 3.1 Within the GLP 193 actions have been identified. The graph below shows progress against these as a whole. These range from small actions that individuals can take, to larger more substantial pieces of work that involve significant infrastructure change – and will therefore require proper consultation, finance, and support from external stakeholders to implement.
- 3.2 Since last report, only 1 additional action has been marked ‘complete’, but 32 additional projects have been ‘started’.



3.3 Within the plan there are 5 sections and below you can see action taken within each section:

	Biodiversity	Water	Air	Energy	Waste
Not started	27	10	23	24	20
In progress	51	4	5	20	1
Completed	2	0	0	6	0

3.4 Action completed since last report:

- Action 4.1: Establish a community energy company for Thame (by linking with established regional models or otherwise). This action has been completed by Thame Green Living in partnership with volunteers from other community groups across Haddenham, Long Crendon and other local villages. Their vision is that ‘Everyone in our communities has an energy efficient home and all organisations have energy efficient buildings, powered by full renewable resources’.

3.5 As outlined in the last report, although the GLP is written in 5 sections, the delivery methods to achieve the plan cut across these. The table below details each of the delivery strands that are currently active, and outlines progress since last report.

Delivery strand	Action taken since last report	GLP Actions	Next Steps
Communications: using TGL website as a partner website to share resources, signpost, educate & share progress against GLP	Scoping work showed that updating current website would be more beneficial and easier than starting from scratch. Work is well underway to complete this with expectation that it will be completed by end of July 2024	29 total, 7 in progress	Once work is completed content will be created to support those actions within the GLP that require ‘promotion’ or signposting to relevant resources. Work will also be completed to connect this to TTC main communications and to relevant Social Media Channels
Air Quality: securing funding to deliver an Air Quality Project to schools and within the town centre.	SODC Air Quality Team agreed proposed project could be eligible for Section 106 Funds earmarked for Thame. Section 106 bid drafted. Schools’ partnerships developed. Report of proposed project submitted to Full Council. Outcomes approved.	8 total, 2 in progress.	Quotes currently being sought to achieve project outcomes. Then Section 106 bid will be completed and submitted. Ambition for project to launch in September 2024
Biodiversity. Delivered by several groups including TGL, CBCV, 21stCT.	Projects progressed on TTC green spaces including Elms park, War Memorial Gardens, Rycote Meadow, The Triangle, Verges and more. Projects also delivered with Cuttle Brook. Supported fundraising initiatives of 21 st Century Thame to develop ‘Wild Gardens’ and ‘Grow Your Own’ projects to residents of Thame. Supported applications to secure over £11k funding towards these projects from Councillor Grant funding, TOE, and Business Sponsorship	24 total, 16 in progress, 2 complete.	Continuing to scope and deliver suitable projects on areas of land managed by TTC as well as supporting fundraising initiatives for future projects by other community groups. Deliver Rycote Meadow project by end of year. Start to scope new possible project on green land bordering Thame Park Estate, Wenman Rd.
Business	Secured £9,500 of funding to deliver Business focused workshops in partnership with Low Carbon Hub and 21 st Century Thame.	10 total, 3 in progress	Complete delivery of this project by March 2025. Use feedback from those engaged to secure further funding to expand this work.

Community Groups	Have established connection with River Thame Community Trust. Also started work of mapping achievements already made by local community groups through work with Thame Players and looking at how to showcase their efforts.	3 total, 1 in progress.	Support River Thame Community Trust to deliver a 'Thame Catchment Partnership' event locally. Support RKFC to apply for funding to cover costs of work to reduce energy usage and possibly install Solar PVs. Run event to showcase Thame Players achievements and support other groups to learn from what they have achieved
Cycling	Gathered information in readiness for Thame's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which has been delayed.	8 total, 3 in progress	Chase OCC for progress and timeline for this.
Energy	Being led on now by Phoenix Energy Community who have established themselves since last report – partnership across local area including Haddenham, Long Crendon and other villages. TTC played a role in start up meetings, but not regularly involved. Available as needed.	36 total, 13 in progress, 6 complete	Starting to explore alternatives to EV Car Hire scheme. Looking at options like Hiya Car – where residents can generate an income from an underused second car, and support travel needs of Thame. Currently looking for people interested in participating
Landowners and Farmers	Huge amount of work achieved through this, beginning with Thame COP and connection to Lopemede farm. Through this and supporting the showing of a film called 'Six Inches of Soil' firm relationships have been established with LWS who are keen to develop more fieldwork opportunities for their pupils. Great opportunity for learning. Connection to 3 other farms locally as well.	6 total, 6 in progress.	Continue to build on farm education programmes and support connection with LWS, and develop it with Primary schools. Relationship with RTCT should also help to develop these links through their work with local farm clusters.
Mayoral Projects	Proposals within the GLP for ways that the status of the Mayor could be used to encourage more sustainable behaviour.	2 total.	Yet to start.
Travel Plan Working Group	Partially delayed due to OCC not starting our LCWIP, which will build many of the GLP actions around active travel into a list that OCC has ownership of, and that all layers of council are able to work towards – joined up approach.	33 actions, 16 in progress.	Continue to develop Thame Community Bus which now has a group of volunteers and Councillors exploring how to take it forward. Their discussions are including conversations about how the bus should be considered in light of travel in general, so there is likely to be some overlap that needs to be

			explore and worked through, to avoid unnecessary duplication.
TTC led	Review of these actions has shown that many have moved on due to changes in policy, or another body being responsible and therefore TTC having limited ability to influence.	22 total, 6 in progress.	Develop clear messaging that can be shared against GLP actions achieved, signposts to relevant information and highlight actions that are not likely to be achieved and why. Maintenance team training to support biodiversity.
Waste	Little done to make progress here. Coffee Cup recycling project explored but not successful in achieving funding.	12 total, 1 in progress	Funding to deliver waste project with businesses, and plan currently being developed for delivery in second part of 2024.

4. Proposed Green Living Plan Working Group

- 4.1 Action against the GLP has, so far, been coordinated by the EPO in partnership with local community groups. However, it now seems necessary to establish a Green Living Plan working group.
- 4.2 The working group would provide additional, active support to enable Thame Town Council to achieve more of the actions identified in the GLP, more quickly.
- 4.3 It is not yet decided whether or not this Working Group will include members of the community or whether it will be an internal TTC group. This, along with the Terms of Reference for the group will be discussed at the first meeting of the Working Group.
- 4.4 To ensure maximum impact of the working group the expectation is that members would:
 - monitor progress against the 193 actions contained in the Green Living Plan (GLP).
 - proactively engage with members of the community to increase learning about work taking place in Thame that overlaps with the GLP and support collaboration with these groups to avoid duplication of effort.
 - attend the Environmental Forum as a representative of Thame Town Council,
 - attend partnership meetings with relevant groups to promote the GLP and share progress against it as required,
 - ratify 'completion' of actions within the GLP – agreeing that enough action has been taken to consider the action completed,
 - research best practice elsewhere at the start of projects that are new to Thame, and sharing this learning back to the Working Group to inform best practice,
 - identify and support applications to other funding sources to allow the actions of the GLP to be achieved more quickly.

5. Action required:

- i) To note the report.*
- ii) To express an interest in becoming a member of the Green Living Plan Working Group.*