

Update for Bradford on Avon Area Board

Update from	Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon (CFBoA)
Date of Area Board Meeting	14 July 2021

Update for Bradford on Avon Area Board

Headlines/Key Issues

We have been holding our monthly meetings on Zoom, and similarly our topic group meetings. While public-facing activities have obviously not been able to take place, we have continued work on biodiversity, and raising awareness. The Swift group, which is part of the biodiversity group of CFB is organising a survey this year of where Swifts are nesting in the town, and in Westwood, with the hope that knowledge gained can be used to inform future planning decisions. Swifts have suffered a huge decline in numbers in recent years. We hope to extend the Swift Survey to more villages in future. We are at an early stage in developing a way of encouraging garden owners to increase the ecological value of their gardens, and we would plan to roll out this to all the villages in the community area.

CFBoA is a member of a national network of organisations working on climate change, called The Climate Coalition (TCC). CFBoA is also a member of the Wiltshire Climate Alliance, which aims to encourage and support Wiltshire Council in taking action on the Climate Emergency. In this connection, our main focus over the coming weeks is to plan and deliver a range of activities in September. The week of 18th-26th September has been designated as Great Big Green Week by The Climate Coalition, which is encouraging all member organisations to hold events; the Wiltshire Climate Alliance hopes that its member groups will hold Climate Festivals all around Wiltshire during this week.

CFBoA is planning the details of a Climate Festival to be held on Saturday 25th September, in Westbury Gardens and St Margaret's Hall, and hopes to involve the surrounding villages in the Bradford on Avon Community Area. Bradford on Avon Town Council has offered support in the form of officer time for publicity, and a grant towards venue hire and publicity.

Other activities during Great Big Green Week that we hope to arrange include nature walks, a display in Bradford on Avon Library, and involvement of local shops selling items that support a sustainable life-style and diet. We will be inviting local businesses that provide products and services for energy saving in the home, to take a stall in St Margaret's Hall, to provide information and advice to festival visitors. In this way, if we can attract visitors from the villages in the Community Area as well as from Bradford on Avon, we hope to help Wiltshire Council reduce carbon emissions from the housing stock in private ownership.

We want the event to be attractive to a wide range of people, and entertainment including live music from local artists will be provided. As our plans for this festival and our activities beyond September develop, we may find ourselves with a focused project idea that would benefit from a grant. We hope that Area Board would be open to supporting such a project.

If there is a way for Area Board to support this event, please get in touch with us:
climatechampions@gmail.com

Rachel Berger
Chair, Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon
