

# Public Document Pack



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough

## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 28 February 2023

6.00 pm

The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way,  
Telford, TF3 4NT

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**Democratic Services:** Kieran Robinson 01952 382061

**Media Enquiries:** Corporate Communications 01952 382406

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**Committee Members:** Councillors G C W Latham-Reynolds (Chair), M Boylan,  
G H Cook, T L B Janke, T J Nelson and G L Offland

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	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 6
4.0	Shropshire Good Food Partnership Briefing	7 - 32
	To receive a briefing on the work of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership.	
5.0	Chair's Update	

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## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 6.00 pm in The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

**Present:** Councillors G C W Latham-Reynolds (Chair),  
T L B Janke, T J Nelson and G L Offland.

**Also Present:** Councillors C Healy (Cabinet Member: Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services) and R A Overton (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Housing, Enforcement and Transport)

**In Attendance:** E Harvey (Lead Lawyer: Property & Commercial),  
M Powell (Service Delivery Manager: Strategic Transport & Highway Network Management), K Robinson (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)), I Wykes (Team Leader: Climate Change and Sustainability)

**Apologies:** Councillor M Boylan

#### **ENVSC56 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **ENVSC57 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting 12 October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **ENVSC58 Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update**

The Team Leader: Climate Change and Sustainability presented the report. The report covered the Council's progress on the Being Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free agendas.

The presentation outlined progress towards net zero since 2018/19 – the baseline year against which progress was measured. An outline of the way comparisons were made was provided, setting out the scopes and BEIS conversion factors. The Council used the Midlands Net Zero Hub to audit its net zero work

In terms of its own buildings, the Council was on a 100% green tariff for energy. Electric usage figures had been skewed by Covid-19, therefore, those years would not be counted. Despite this, there was still a general trend downwards in energy usage thanks to reduced building usage and the impact of solar panels.

The Committee received an update on the impact of works at Newport Leisure Centre. Refitting works, carried out with £586,000 of PSDF funding, had resulted in a saving of 566,863 kWh of gas and a 61% reduction in the Centre's carbon footprint. The savings generated by the works were also highlighted. Future works were planned for Oakengates and Wellington leisure centres.

Members were informed of the Council's planned next steps. The Action Plan was under review and the reduction and monitoring of emissions would continue. Work was to be carried out with service areas to develop adaptation plans and to extend the range of advice and support available to all staff on environmental matters.

Members expressed their support for the works at Newport Leisure Centre and the plans for further adaptation works whilst noting the need for the Council to promote its success and act as a leader and convenor for businesses in the Borough.

Members noted the Council's progress on becoming carbon neutral and plastic free.

#### **ENVSC59 Active Travel & Electric Vehicles - Workstream Update**

The Service Delivery Manager: Strategic Transport Highway Network Management presented the report.

##### Active Travel

Significant work had been undertaken on the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the related strategies. The plan set out a ten-year vision for where the Council wanted to take the Borough's walking and cycling networks and had been considered by Cabinet in July 2022. It set out an £8m plan for improving both leisure and commuter routes, bringing the whole route up to standard. Work had been started on improvements to signage, crossing interfaces, street lighting, and CCTV amongst other works.

Other active travel projects included cycle stations, a new footway sweeper, and the Telford Bike Hub.

The Council had committed to a four-year investment in active travel in 2020. A Levelling Up bid for £20m had been submitted for works on the Silkin Way and the Authority was hoping for a decision on this bid in the near future.

Members noted the importance of encouraging active travel and moving away from reliance on personal vehicles as well as the importance of making active travel accessible for all.

A question was posed regarding the implications of an unsuccessful funding bid. Officers responded to state that plans would need to change if Levelling

Up funding was not secured; alternative funding would need to be found, however, with plans for the future already prepared the Council was well placed to bid for any future funding routes.

### Electric Vehicles (EV)

The Council's EV strategy had been to Cabinet in July 2022; this was a data led strategy and covered issues such as potential adoption of charging points, levels of deprivation and a targeted plan for investment in charging in the Borough.

The presentation noted that there were 37 charging points in the Borough, although this was known to be closer to 45. In addition, there were around 800 home charging installations carried out through the EVHS schemes and 55 at businesses through the WCS scheme. Both of these schemes had either ended or evolved.

In total, there were 1,613 ultra-low emission vehicles in the Borough, the majority of which were company vehicles – 930 to 683 private vehicles. An uptick in the adoption of private EV charging points had been seen, especially rapid and ultra-fast charging points.

A funding bid to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles was being finalised to bring 50 charge points to the Council's off street car parks. In addition to this, the Authority had commenced procurement of an EV chargepoint operator with a tender to be issued by the end of the year.

In terms of its own fleet, the Council had six EVs and had a year delay for the next six.

Following the presentation, Members posed a number of questions:

*EVs still struggled in terms of mileage, were the Council's fleet operating as hoped?*

The vans should run all day when fully charged. This would be investigated if there had been suggestions that they were not.

*As the Council was aware of supply issues, were they looking ahead and ordering in advance?*

Forecasting work would need to be undertaken.

Members noted the need accessibility to be considered when planning chargepoints. Members also noted the prohibitive cost of EVs for many and that changing technology may put many off.

*Councillor T J Nelson entered the meeting after the item had started and was unable to take part in the debate and vote.*

*Councillor G L Offland left the meeting at 18:45. As only two Members able to vote remained, a vote on recommendations in the report was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.*

**ENVSC60 Chair's Update**

None.

The meeting ended at 7.27 pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** Tuesday 28 February 2023

Creating a local food system which is good  
for people, place and planet.



# SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD PARTNERSHIP



## Our Local Food System

*T&W Environment Scrutiny Committee - 28<sup>th</sup> Feb*



# Overview

- Introducing Shropshire Good Food Partnership
- Food Systems thinking and national context
- Local Action
- Working together – Next steps



## VISION

OUR VISION IS FOR  
REGENERATIVE FOOD,  
FARMING AND LAND-USE  
SYSTEMS.



## MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO  
BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER  
TO CREATE A LOCAL  
FOOD SYSTEM WHICH IS:

**GOOD FOR PEOPLE, PLACE AND THE PLANET.**





# Partnership Highlights

- ✓ A dynamic partnership with strong and growing member engagement
- ✓ Launched Good Food Charter
- ✓ Recognition as a Sustainable Food Place
- ✓ Building our team and funding base
- ✓ Set up and support working Groups on core focus areas
- ✓ Engagement with Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils and town & parish councils
- ✓ Effective engagement with national and regional organisations

## Our Working Groups:



**GROW LOCAL**



**SUSTAINABLE FOOD ECONOMY**



**WISE LAND STEWARDSHIP**



**NATURE CONNECTION**



**REDUCING FOOD WASTE**



**HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL**

# Building the Good Food Movement

**GOAL:**  
To have an active and effective good food movement for Shropshire

## SGFP as the Umbrella

SGFP links a network of stakeholders, and offers a "collective voice" through partnership members, from the grassroots to the council & MPs



## Steering Group

Food system experts and activists bring their knowledge and networks in support of SGFP Objectives



## Working Groups

Through our 6 working groups we interface with specialist organisations on the front lines of change & community support. These alliances are where impactful partnership takes place



## Partnership Members

These businesses and organisations are building links in their communities, identifying and responding to local problems and sharing the stories from the grassroots



## Farmers and Food Producers

An essential role in food system change, knowledge sharing of best practices in farming



## Individuals and Communities

These people want to be a part of something bigger, and realise that small actions build up to make great change.



## Local Council

Parish, Town and County councils working together can enable food system change





## Values

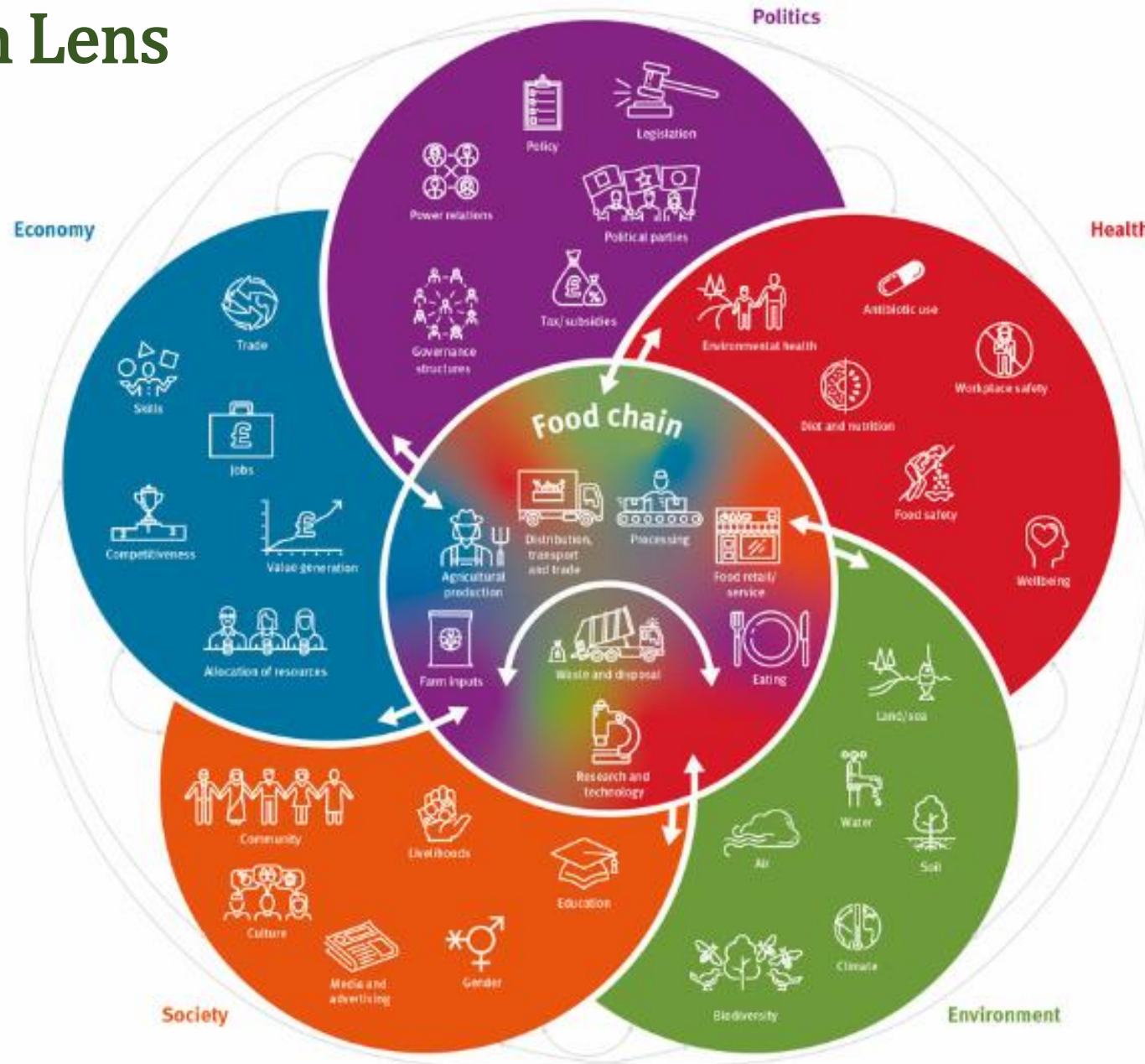
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Integrity

## Principles

- ✓ Systems approach
- ✓ Multistakeholder
- ✓ Place-based
- ✓ Farm to fork



# A Food System Lens





# Food and Climate

**30%**

of greenhouse gas emissions  
come from the food system

Making changes to our food system is one of the best ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change.




The measures required will have a positive impact on public health, wellbeing, livelihoods and nature.

# Government Food Strategy –White Paper





*Fails to meet the scale of the challenge*

## Recommendations




### 1. Escape the junk food cycle and protect the NHS

-  **Recommendation 1**  
Introduce a Sugar and Salt Reformulation Tax. Use some of the revenue to help get fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income families.
-  **Recommendation 2**  
Introduce mandatory reporting for large food companies. *"By the end of 2023... we will begin the implementation of mandatory reporting"*
-  **Recommendation 3**  
Launch a new "Eat and Learn" initiative for schools.





### 2. Reduce diet-related inequality

-  **Recommendation 4**  
Extend eligibility for free school meals.
-  **Recommendation 5**  
Fund the Holiday Activities and Food programme for the next three years. *Previous commitment*
-  **Recommendation 6**  
Expand the Healthy Start scheme.
-  **Recommendation 7**  
Trial a "Community Eatwell" programme, supporting those on low incomes to improve their diets. *"...a set of pilots to test place-based interventions"*

### 3. Make the best use of our land

-  **Recommendation 8**  
Guarantee the budget for agricultural payments until at least 2029 to help farmers transition to more sustainable land use.
-  **Recommendation 9**  
Create a Rural Land Use Framework based on the three compartment model. *"In 2023, we will publish a land use framework..."*
-  **Recommendation 10**  
Define minimum standards for trade and a mechanism for protecting them.

### 4. Create a long-term shift in our food culture

-  **Recommendation 11**  
Invest £1 billion in innovation to create a better food system. *Proteins, methane reduction & horticulture priorities, & What Works centre but little/no new £*
-  **Recommendation 12**  
Create a National Food System Data programme. *The "Food Data Transparency Partnership" may help, but the point was for government to lead*
-  **Recommendation 13**  
Strengthen Government procurement rules to ensure that taxpayer money is spent on healthy and sustainable food. *"We will consider widening the scope... to be mandatory"*
-  **Recommendation 14**  
Set clear targets and bring in legislation for long-term change.

*"It is positive that food and farming policy is linked explicitly to the government's net-zero target on several occasions given that last year's net-zero strategy downplayed the role of food." Footprint*



# Every mouthful counts

How UK councils are tackling the climate and nature emergency through food



Page 17



**sustain**  
the alliance for better food and farming

## Telford and Wrekin Borough Council



Governance



Farming & food growing



Food waste



Procurement



Overall score



All data was collected from publicly available sources. Please see our [methodology](#) for more information. Want to improve your score? Begin your food journey [here](#).

### Case study

## Telford and Wrekin: Working with residents to eliminate food waste

**Big wins:** Having a big impact on food waste recycling in a short time frame and supporting agricultural innovation and the local economy.

**Top tip:** Get dedicated resourcing for food as soon as possible, work closely with the community to develop your work, effective comms makes the difference.

Show full case study



# Local Action

- Partnership wide
- Telford & Wrekin Projects



GOOD FOOD IS VITAL TO OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN SHROPSHIRE

### WHAT IS GOOD FOOD?

**HEALTHY**  
It provides nourishment and enables people to thrive

**GREEN**  
It is produced in a nature-positive way and not wasted

**FAIR**  
Everyone along the food chain has been treated well

**ACCESSIBLE**  
Quality food is available to all

If you believe that everyone should be able to enjoy good food, sign up to the principles in this Charter and commit to doing one thing to help make it happen.

We.....  
Sign up to the  
**Shropshire Good Food Charter.**

Become a member and display your signed charter. Sign up now by visiting: [www.shropshiregoodfood.org](http://www.shropshiregoodfood.org)

### THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD FOOD

**GOOD FOR PEOPLE**  
Everyone has access to local, affordable, quality food and the knowledge and skills to grow, buy, cook and enjoy good food.

**GOOD FOR PLACE**  
We are connected through food to each other and the land, there is a thriving local food economy supporting jobs with fair wages and creating a regionally distinctive food culture.

**GOOD FOR PLANET**  
Our food system enables environmental regeneration, working with nature, reducing carbon emissions, enhancing climate resilience, and minimising waste and packaging.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As an individual

- BUY** more of your food from local independent food enterprises and retailers.
- GROW** some of your own foods at home or in your community allotments, farm or orchard.
- COOK** great meals from scratch using fresh, seasonal, local and organic produce.
- EAT** more plants and sustainable meat and dairy.
- MAKE** the most of your food and minimise waste, compost any that you can't use.
- KNOW** your food, ask where it comes from and how it was produced. Choose fairly traded goods and trusted labels like MSC for fish.
- ASK** your workplace or school to serve only food that is good for people, place and the planet.

As a business or institution

- PROCURE** healthy and sustainable food that supports local economic prosperity.
- PROVIDE** opportunities for people to grow, cook and eat food together.
- BE** responsible for reducing food waste and packaging. Commit to redistribution of surplus food.
- SERVE** only good food to your students or employees, patients or customers.
- PROMOTE** the Charter through communication channels & influence.
- KNOW** your supply chain, work with suppliers to reduce your carbon footprint.
- BRING** people together to celebrate Shropshire's regional food heritage.
- PROVIDE** leadership and advocate for regenerative food systems.

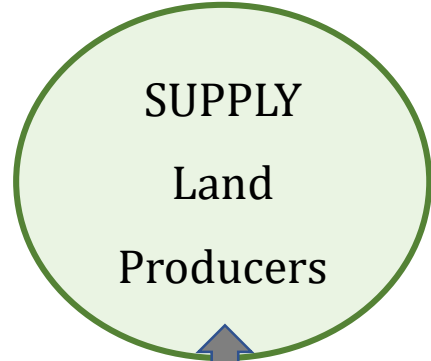


# WISE LAND STEWARDSHIP



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD ECONOMY

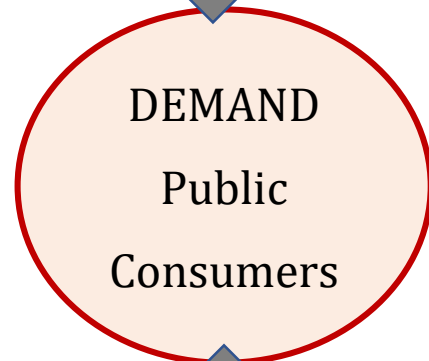
Marches Real Farming Conference



Scale up use of agro-ecological practices to sustainably manage soil, land & water resources

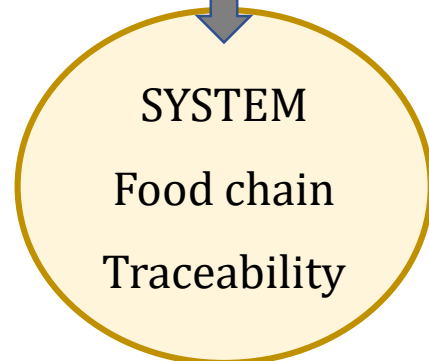
- ✓ Mapping
- ✓ Learning
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Case studies

- ✓ Nutrient density
- ✓ Soil fertility
- ✓ Soy alternatives
- ✓ True Cost Accounting
- ✓ Catchment sensitive mgt



A local good food movement to drive demand for climate and nature friendly food.

- ✓ Build awareness farm to fork
- ✓ A local seasonal diet
- ✓ Good Food Challenge
- ✓ Council engagement



A good food economy which links local producers and consumers

- ✓ Good Food trail
- ✓ Direct marketing – Open Food Network
- ✓ Public procurement / dynamic purchasing – marches feasibility study
- ✓ Hyper localized marketing hubs
- ✓ Retail opportunities



# REDUCING FOOD WASTE



Our vision is that food is valued and not wasted

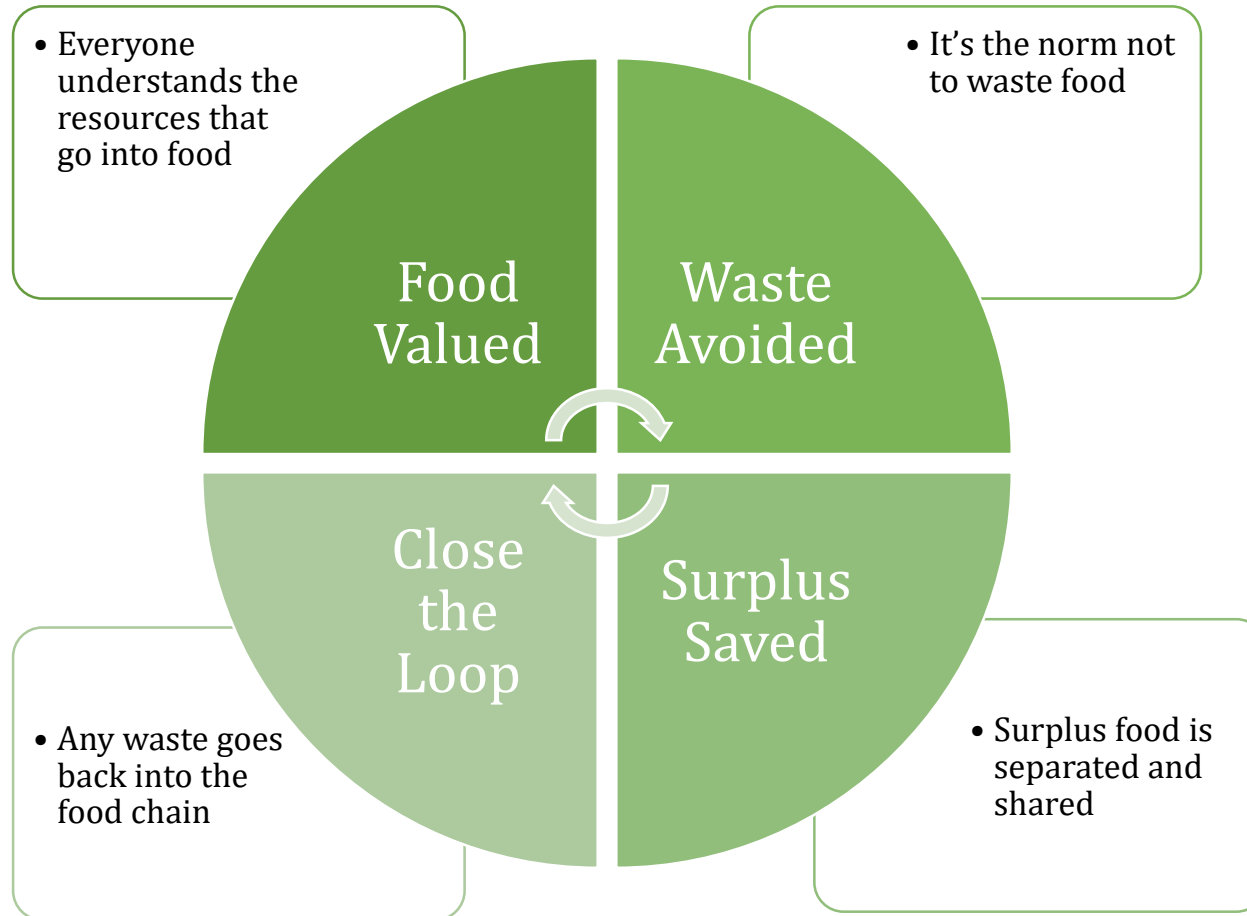
Underway for 2023

Council planning for 2025 weekly food waste collections

Master Composters

Surplus Collections

Taste Not Waste



Lead Possibilities for 2023

Shropshire Council and SFGP co-create food waste reduction strategy

Food Waste Action Week 6-12<sup>th</sup> March

Projects to develop:

- Resilience of Surplus Collection
- Scale up community prevention campaigns
- Gleaning
- Long Term Research

the **Nature Connection** working group  
is focussed on practical actions:

**to inspire, enable and encourage a greater connection with nature for residents of Shropshire.**

We believe this is good for personal health, good for the community, and good for the planet.

## 2022

**Working Together:** Support 3 nature connection projects, encourage collaborations, and get our hands dirty!

**More Places to visit:** Inspire and enable more green spaces to host activities that connect people with nature.

**Better Health:** Improve access to nature for those with physical or mental health constraints.

## 2023



Create club for NC connectors/enthusiasts  
Diary of events and 'open' days (community garden)  
New 'outdoor hub' project at Attingham (NT)

Good Food Trail - provisional dates: 24<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July  
Love Nature Festival - July dates tbc

Digital Connecting with Nature project  
Produce Green Social Prescribing guide





# HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL



## Tackle food poverty and increase access to quality food

- Coordination with [Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance](#)
- Priorities for the group are:
  - Children's access to food and food skills
  - Stigma - challenging the narrative around those on a low income
  - Cost of living crisis - how can we respond as a community
  - Capturing the value of community projects
- Community Fund Proposal under development on building cooking skills and food education across the community

# GROW LOCAL

Support growing initiatives to get more people producing and eating food locally.

- **Right to Grow** Making it easier for community groups to grow more food for local people on underused, or unused public land.
  - Bringing a Council motion
  - Creating process documents and templates to help Town & Parish Councils and Applicants to make it work
- **Shropshire Rural Seed Bank Network**  
Seed stewards recruited and trained to save seed and run their own community seed bank.
  - **Local growing peer support and learning**

Page 24



NEW PROJECT LAUNCH: GET INVOLVED



**THE SHROPSHIRE RURAL SEED BANK NETWORK**

SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD PARTNERSHIP with  
THE GAIA FOUNDATION SEED SOVEREIGNTY  
PROGRAMME





# Climate Fund Project: Grow Local

- ✓ Identify and map existing, or planned projects, carry out needs assessments, working with the Council and local communities
- ✓ Support local food growing champions to build a network of volunteers and provide tailored capacity building – peer exchange events, network development, training
- ✓ Promote the concept of food citizenship, community food resilience and social gastronomy in Telford & Wrekin, making national initiatives accessible and relevant locally
- ✓ Produce a plan for further development and sustainability of initiatives.

Page 25



Meet Janine Potter



# Climate Fund Project: Food Business Climate Champions

Support local food businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. Activities include:

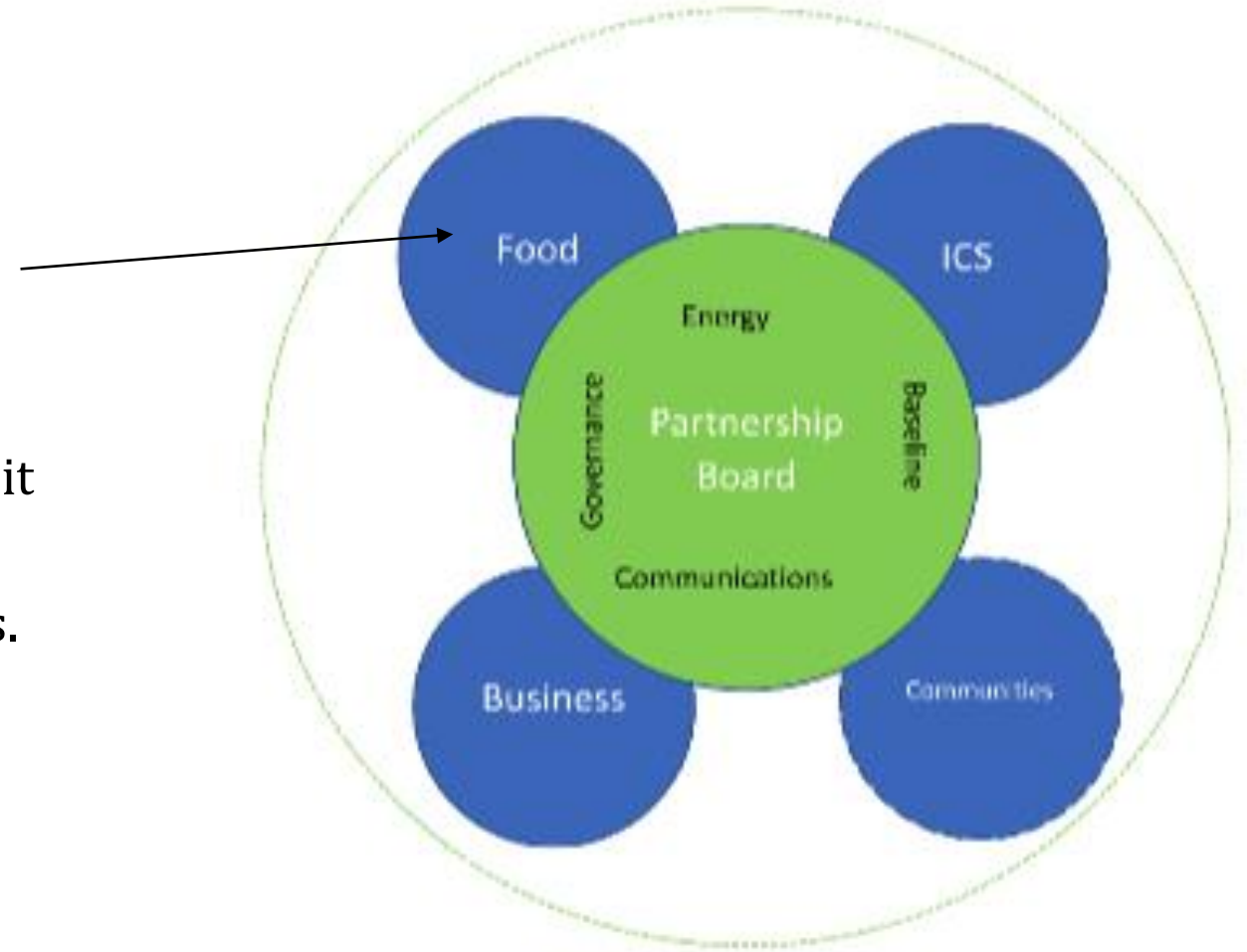
- ✓ Survey the current situation and identify climate change leaders
- ✓ Produce case studies that document climate change related strategies and share good practice.
- ✓ Produce an action plan to support businesses to develop or scale responses

Emma  
Cantillon  
starts working  
on this with us  
in May



# Partnership Working

- Engage with T&W Borough Climate Partnership Board and organize T&W specific Food Partnership meetings
- Promote our Good Food Movement; recruit members as individuals as well as organisations, businesses and institutions.
- Bring wider partnership Working Group activities to Telford & Wrekin
- Work with Telford & Wrekin Council – strategy engagement; local food resilience plans; consultation responses etc



T&W Borough Climate Partnership Structure

# Upcoming Activities

- Organize participation in national Good to Grow Day (21-24<sup>th</sup> April)
- Coordinate the engagement of local producers, processors and retailers from Telford & Wrekin area in the Shropshire Good Food Trail.
- Marches Real Food & Farming Conference – include issues relevant to T&W

## SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD TRAIL

A county-wide celebration of our rural heritage, outstanding local producers, and sustainably produced, delicious food and drink.



# Farming in T&W

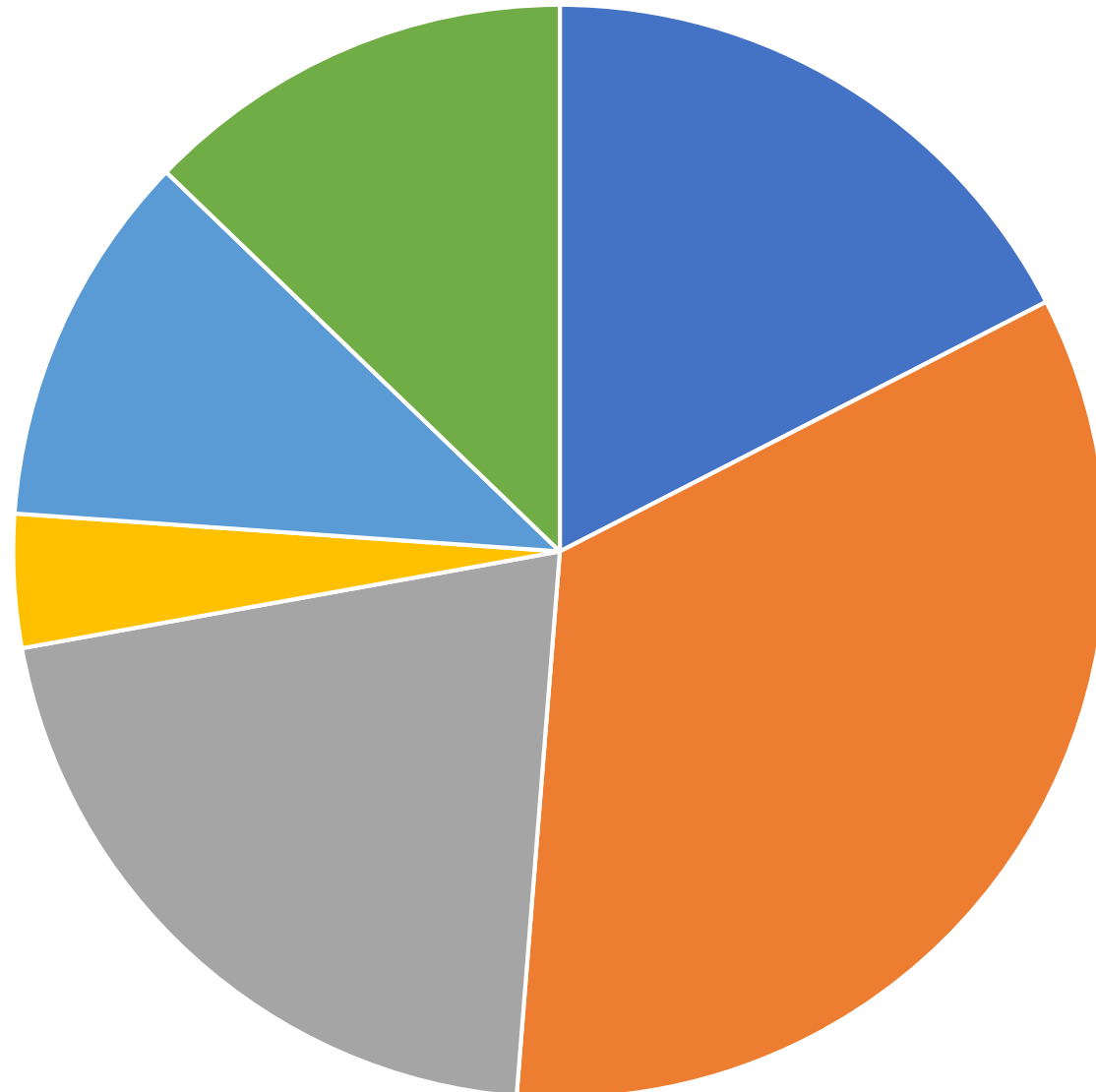
## 2021 Farm Type by Area

Total Farmed Area: 20,634 Ha

Number of Holdings: 187

Page 29

- Cereals
- General Cropping
- Specialist Poultry
- Dairy
- Grazing Livestock (Lowland)
- Mixed



Data Source: DEFRA 2021



# REDI (Race, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) for Change

SGFP has funding to deliver a programme with Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin based groups that are working with food, individuals and communities.

REDI for Change is a part of SGFP's ambition to understand people's experiences of buying, cooking and eating food, and to work in partnership with others to come up with solutions to address identified inequalities and barriers.

Page 30

**Do you know a group that works with people and food in some way?**

We can support in taking practical steps to explore and improve the equality, diversity and inclusion of organisations and activities



# Working together – Next steps

Discussion

Page 31



[www.shropshiregoodfood.org](http://www.shropshiregoodfood.org)

@shropshiregoodfood

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