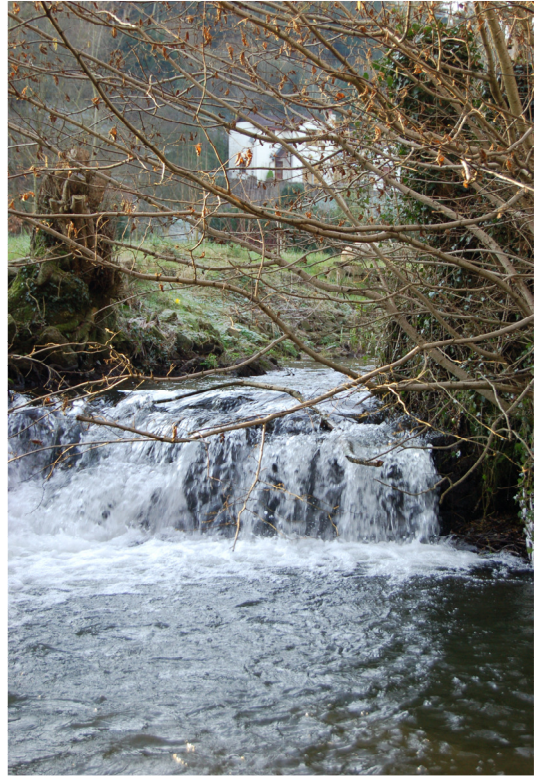


9. Environment / Sustainability

The Community Objective

Practically everything in this village plan can be linked back to the environment, but this section concentrates on using our resources wisely and making the community as sustainable as possible. It would be great if our long-term aim was to make the community carbon neutral. However, the rural nature of our community means we are heavily dependent on private transport and much of our housing stock is old, stone built and thus not as energy efficient as it could be.

The Community Council has only a limited role in meeting these challenges, but it can act as a central information point, promoting existing schemes and influencing MCC Policy to deliver further improvements to help us meet our goal. The central message that the community should embrace in order to reduce its carbon footprint is “**Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**” in that order.



Reduce

Everyone is guilty of wasting resources, be it leaving too many lights on, wasting foodstuff or just accumulating needless stuff. The list is endless. We should all try to reduce what we consume, asking the question, do we really need it? This needn't cause a reduction in the quality of our lives. If as a community we all took this simple step we would see a direct impact on the amount of refuse we put out for landfill each week. This reduction initiative is down to individuals.

Reuse

Reuse is the next most important point of the message; do you replace things before they have worn out, could someone else make use of the object? We will all have thrown away some perfectly serviceable object, just because we can not think of anything better to do with it. As a community, we could put in place a system to allow better reuse these valuable objects with perhaps a simple system of *free to*