

One Planet Bruton

Update to Bruton Town Council / Bruton Annual Forum

22 April 2024



This update covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

One Planet Bruton is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company, run by volunteer directors (Jane Durney, Christine Kaltoft, Dee Mullis), that aims to bring people together to make Bruton more sustainable, by initiating projects that enhance our town, and that enable people to reduce their impact on the environment; building community resilience.

We have adopted environmental charity and social enterprise BioRegional's One Planet Living Framework with a vision where everyone everywhere to lead happy healthy lives within a fair share of the earth's resources, leaving space for wildlife and nature. We initiate projects in line with the ten One Planet Living Principles:

- **Health and happiness** - Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing
- **Equity and local economy** - Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade
- **Culture and community** - Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living
- **Land and nature** - Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
- **Sustainable water** - Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
- **Local and sustainable food** - Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
- **Travel and transport** - Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
- **Materials and products** - Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption
- **Zero waste** - Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
- **Zero carbon energy** - Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

One Planet Bruton was set up in 2019 in response to Bruton Town Council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Bruton Town Council adopted One Planet Living as a sustainability vision for the town in September 2019.

Over the past year as a group, we have focused on:

- Town-wide **Community Freecycle** events where people can gift unwanted stuff, reducing waste and consumption. We held three Freecycle events during the period. We have noticed an increase in people offering and asking for things rather than just buying new.
- **Planting for Pollinators** where we organised planting sessions with volunteers at Jubilee Park and the Packhorse Bridge on land owned or managed by Bruton Town Council with seedlings grown by the Growing Space in Wincanton. We have a good partnership with Sexseys school

and have organised planting sessions at Jubilee Park with student (and staff) volunteers. Over 20 people took part in our sessions.

- **Stitch It Don't Ditch It** mending sessions at Bruton Library and at Bruton WI coffee mornings. We provide materials, advice and support to enable people to repair much-loved items of clothing. Our sessions in the period were attended by 61 people.
- Providing a permanent **Seed Swap space** at Bruton library, and seed swaps event in April 2023 and February 2024, attended by 40 people.
- **Bruton Hoedown and Bulb-planting**. In late 2023, we started Bruton Hoedown, tackling neglected areas of the town while leaving flowers for pollinators. We planted >5,000 bulbs, donated by Habitat Aid, in the Churchyard, by the Packhorse Bridge and at Jubilee Park. We planted 450 bulbs, donated by Organic Bulbs, in the planters outside Bruton Community Hall. Our Hoedown sessions in the period were attended by 76 volunteers.

We also

- Send a periodic email newsletter to our 300-strong mailing list sharing local initiatives and opportunities for people to take action to reduce their environmental impact (to be added to the mailing list, email info@oneplanetbruton.org)
- Share info relevant to the One Planet Living principles on One Planet Bruton Facebook page (@OnePlanetBruton) and Instagram
- Produce articles about sustainability issues and our activities for each issue of the Dove

In the next year, we will use our early summer Hoedown sessions for Planting for Pollinators. We will continue to organise Freecycle events, Stitch It Don't Ditch It sessions and Seedswaps. We will continue to seek ways to bring people together to make Bruton more sustainable and build community resilience.

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