

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

This is a **draft climate action plan** containing an outline of actions that the council can take. This will be developed to include more detailed actions and contributions from the environmental subgroups in due course.

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1. OUR AIM:

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Cholsey parish by 50% by 2030.

To protect and enhance biodiversity within Cholsey parish and increase carbon sinks.

2. INTRODUCTION

Cholsey Parish Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency. Action is required by all of us to reduce the impact of climate change on our community, our country and our planet.

Whilst we may like to think the worst impacts are far away, we are already seeing some effects close to home, with intense heat waves, heavy rainfall and flooding and more frequent moorland fires. Globally, these extremes are causing large scale flooding, crop failures and droughts, increasingly leading to massive migrations of people, collapse of societies, mass starvation and millions of species threatened with extinction. These conditions are only predicted to get worse, threatening the futures of our children and grandchildren.

What we all do at every level - personally, locally, nationally and globally - in the next few years is crucial for our future. We need to act now.

Reducing emissions and becoming net zero will require all of us to change to a more sustainable lifestyle. We need to drastically decrease the energy we use, get our electricity from renewable sources (such as wind and solar), move away from using fossil fuels and natural gas for generating electricity, and move to transport powered by renewable energy. We need to eliminate waste and reuse resources, travel less and promote sustainable cycling, walking and the use of public transport.

Cholsey Parish Council declared a Climate and Environmental Emergency on 2nd October 2019. The Parish Council is committed to working together with our community and other levels of government to reduce greenhouse gases and help make Cholsey a more resilient and safer place for us all and future generations.

3. ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR

Cholsey Parish Council has

- **Declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency**
- **Set up a Climate and Environmental Emergency Working Group (CEEWG)**
- **Appointed an Environmental Coordinator (EC)**
- **Surveyed climate concerns in the parish**
- **Circulated a leaflet to all households coordinating concerns and offers of help**
- **Set up 7 environmental groups under the name of Cholsey Environmental Champions (CHEC)**
 - **Transport**
 - **Home Energy**
 - **Community Renewable Energy**
 - **Wildlife**
 - **Food and Growing**
 - **Waste Not Want Not**
 - **Carbon Footprint**
- **Each group contains Cholsey residents, has a mission statement, meets regularly and reports to the Parish Council.**

Climate change actions carried out by the CHEC groups vary from raising awareness to simple short term actions encouraging individual involvement, group activities, and longer term projects resulting in major change and the big reductions needed to reach our goals. **All actions are welcomed and valued, however small or large.**

4. UK, OCC, SODC CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

Cholsey's climate action plan draws on governmental acts and frameworks at national, county and district levels:

UK NATIONAL LEVEL Climate Change Act 2008

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CCC-Insights-Briefing-1-The-UK-Climate-Change-Act.pdf>

The Climate Change Act contains a legally binding goal for reducing UK net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Initially, this was 'at least 80%' below 1990 levels. In 2019 it was updated to 'at least 100%' below 1990 levels.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OCC's Climate Action Framework commits the council to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

The Climate Action Framework, published in October 2020

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/about-council/OCC_Climate_Action_Framework2020.pdf

SODC

SODC's Local Plan 2011 - 2035

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/02/SODC-LP2035-Publication-Feb-2021.pdf>

5. 7 POINT ACTION PLAN (in line with the 7 CHEC groups)

5.1 ACTION PLAN for TRANSPORT

Baseline emission data 2021 for Cholsey and an explanation of Consumption and Territorial emission measures are given in Appendix 1. Cholsey's total emissions are approximately 31 tonnes CO₂e. Baseline emissions for transport 2021 are below.

Road transport emissions (t CO ₂ e p.a)	Per household	Total for Cholsey
Consumption	4.67 (25%)	8,137 (25%)
Territorial	2.01 (12%)	3,491 (12%)

Transport Actions

To reduce car dependency by:

- Providing pathways and joined up cycle routes to get to schools, the station, to work
- Encouraging car-sharing, car clubs, cargo bikes for communal use
- Providing parking facilities for bikes, trikes and cargo bikes
- Supporting the switch to electric vehicles, install charging points
- Promoting local, flexible, green energy public bus services
- Giving priority to walkers and cyclists, pedestrianise central areas
- Raising awareness about the carbon footprint of air travel

For a more detailed plan see **Cholsey's Transport Plan 2021** put together by Robert Ford and the CHEC Transport Group. The Transport Plan builds upon the approved Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan focusing on specific future transport policies for Cholsey. It will include the community's overall vision and aims for future development, which can then be translated into detailed policies, guidance and

proposals for the parish. It will abide by similar environmental principles on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting walking/cycling. The CTP will develop these themes and present options in greater detail.

5.2 ACTION PLAN for HOME ENERGY

Home Energy emissions (t CO ₂ e p.a)	Per household	Total for Cholsey
Consumption	3.57 (19%)	6,226 (19%)

Home Energy Actions

To promote the reduction and decarbonisation of domestic energy consumption by:

- Promoting household carbon footprint measurement and ways of saving energy
- Switching to clean fuels for domestic heating, cooling and cooking
- Switching to a green energy supplier
- Liaising with new build developers for zero carbon homes
- Promoting retrofits of houses, improved insulation, draught reduction, smart controls etc to make homes more energy efficient
- Supporting changeover to LED domestic and street lighting
- Working to ensure new builds are built to highest energy efficiency standards through planning process and Local and Neighbourhood Plans
- Putting pressure on the government to bring in more stringent building regulations to ensure new homes are zero carbon by 2030
- ensuring all parish council owned properties aim to have zero carbon footprint by 2030

5.3 ACTION PLAN for COMMUNITY ENERGY

Community Renewable Energy Actions

To support Cholsey's move towards carbon neutrality through community-level renewable energy generation projects ie wind energy, solar and ground/air source heating by:

- Identifying and developing opportunities locally ie solar panels on community buildings, land for ground source heat pumps , solar farms
- Supporting community-led development and community-level resources eg setting up a Community Energy Co-operative
- Obtaining grants, community-level funding and support for projects
- Exploring how residents can purchase local renewable electricity on a communal basis
- Putting pressure on the government to increase renewables so that 100% of grid electricity is renewable energy

5.4 ACTION PLAN for WILDLIFE, BIODIVERSITY and LAND USE

Baseline carbon capture (t CO₂e p.a) see Appendix 2 Treescapes Report

Cholsey	Existing capture	Maximum possible	Estimated net zero target
	2050 (25%)	7880.4 tonnes	7962 tonnes

Wildlife, Biodiversity and Land Use Actions

To increase the number and range of habitats within Cholsey parish in order to enhance biodiversity and create carbon sinks by:

- working with the community to increase awareness of the importance of wildlife and green spaces
- developing a mapping of all areas of particular interest, 'hot spots' - woodland, wildlife, verges, hedgerows and trees
- protecting and enhancing green spaces, habitats, and 'hot spots'
- promoting the planting and management of more trees and woodlands
- promoting community gardens, wildlife gardens and green spaces
- encourage biodiversity and populations of appropriate flora and fauna
- encourage planting to provide resources for pollinators
- supporting sustainable land use measures to ensure water conservation, flood protection and soil erosion protection
- working with farmers and land owners to support biodiversity

5.5 ACTION PLAN for FOOD and GROWING

Food and Diet Emissions (t CO ₂ e p.a)	Per household	Total for Cholsey
Consumption	4.01 (21%)	6,989 (21%)

Food and Growing Actions

To help reduce greenhouse emissions and increase biodiversity in the parish by:

- increasing awareness of how good choices about food can help the environment, eg buying locally produced food, reducing air miles, avoiding waste
- encouraging Cholsey residents to engage in actions that promote biodiversity and soil nurture eg rewilding, composting, no-mow, no-dig
- promoting small and large scale gardening, vegetable -growing, and fruit-growing projects
- promote local producers markets, restaurants and café using locally grown food
- support and create more allotment sites and community greenhouses to promote all the year round growing of local food to meet local demand
- supporting and working with local farmers

5.6 ACTION PLAN for WASTE and RECYCLING

Waste emissions(t CO2e p.a)	per household	Total for Cholsey
Territorial	0.07 (0.4%)	125
Consumption	0.04 (0.2%)	73

Waste and Recycling Actions

To reduce gas emissions by:

- Raising awareness about reducing consumption and waste
- Supporting community re-use, recycling and repair projects
- Facilitating the reduction of single use plastic and packaging by providing drinking water fountains in public places
- Promoting litter picks and waste collection
- Promoting buying and selling within the parish, clothes and book swaps, jumble trails, second hand stalls etc

5.7 ACTION PLAN for CARBON FOOTPRINT GROUP

Carbon Footprint Actions

To help Cholsey residents calculate their own personal and household carbon footprints and provide advice on how to reduce their emissions by:

- Setting up a website to guide people through the process
- Promoting widely the website and the need for personal action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: at the village show, Green events, community social events
- Providing one-to-one help with using the tools and advice on reduction measures
- Providing ongoing carbon footprint statistics to back up parish plans and inform new ones, and keep track of changes.

6.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

What we have achieved /aim to do

Short term: *(several actions have been achieved Dec 2021)*

- Employ an Environmental Coordinator, survey village concerns, circulate a leaflet with the results, set up environmental groups (**done**)
- Establish Cholsey PC's carbon footprint (of properties, grass cutting, mileage etc)
- Encourage parishioners to identify their own carbon footprints (**ongoing**)
- Plant trees and woodland (**partly done**)
- Map environmental 'hot spots' and areas to protect, verges, hedgerows, trees (**ongoing**)
- Liaise with allotment groups, provide soil nutrient (**done**)

- Engage with local farmers
- Install village EV charging points
- Set up cycle path subgroup (**done**)
- Provide a long path across the park for school walking bus (**started**)
- Purchase a communal cargo bike
- Carry out energy audit and initial investigation into solar installation on school roof (**done**)
- Set up a Community Energy Company (CEC) and raise funds for PV on the school
- Establish community orchard (**done**)
- Organise litter picks and clothes swaps (**done**)
- Support the Repair café
- Engage in discussions with housing developers
- Update the village Emergency Plan taking into account risks from climate change

Medium term:

- Completion of a cycle pathway connecting Wallingford / Cholsey / the station
- Establish zebra crossings, ramps at junctions, tactile pavements to improve access
- Set up green pathways to connect local villages, and advertise all footpaths
- Set up a community car-sharing scheme
- Work in partnership with local farmers
- Further work to map the flora and fauna and green spaces, trees, hedgerows, verges (including community participation in national citizen science schemes)
- Develop potential green spaces, hedges, verges
- Establish allotments for community use growing vegetables
- Promote 'grow your own' vegetables and fruit at home
- Encourage more tree-planting (Queen's Canopy 2022)
- Map flood risks and take preventative measures in liaison with SODC /OCC
- Train, employ / contract local services to insulate and retrofit homes
- Encourage residents to use Solar Streets or equivalent to install solar panels
- Work to ensure new housing in the parish adheres to government regulations
- Work to ensure community buildings are zero carbon, energy efficient

Long term:

- Station becomes a 'Transport Hub'
- Establish a pedestrianised village centre, EVs only, charging points
- Expand the CEC to develop the generation of clean energy for use by the whole village via turbines, solar farms etc
- Zero carbon, energy efficient homes,
- Cholsey grows a high % of veg, potatoes etc for village consumption
- Set up a community-run market garden supplying veg to local outlets
- Increase, preserve, enhance, enjoy Green spaces - a community nature retreat / café/ social area for all

- Drastically reduce consumption and waste

7. CHOLSEY FACTS

Map

Population	3,926 (2021 Local Insight report)
Households	1740 (Impact tool)
Av household size	2.26
Hectares	1592.4
Av density (per hectare)	2.46 persons

8. CHOLSEY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT Baseline emission data, see Appendix 1.

Estimated total Gas emissions* **32,000** tonnes CO₂e** per year directly and indirectly

Gas emissions per resident **8.3 tCO₂e**

Average gas emissions per household **18.8 tCO₂e per year** UK average **13 tonnes**

Cholsey's emissions per household are nearly **50% higher than the national average,**

marginally more than Wallingford and Didcot, one a par with many Oxfordshire villages, and slightly less than some eg Goring and Blewbury.

The impact of new housing developments

Gas emissions from building new homes is estimated to be on average 44 tonnes per house

The construction of 350 new houses in Cholsey will produce an additional **15,400 tonnes** on top of the **32,000 tonnes** we already produce annually.

This is an increase of 48%. From the construction of houses alone, it does not include emissions from the construction of associated commercial buildings, roadways, paved areas and drainage systems.

Appendix 1 Cholsey's Carbon Footprint (www.impact-tool.org.uk)

Cholsey's carbon footprint per annum can be measured using a territorial footprint or a consumption footprint measure. These measures are given for Cholsey as a whole, and per household.

The question of 'where do our emissions come from' is looked at in two different ways:

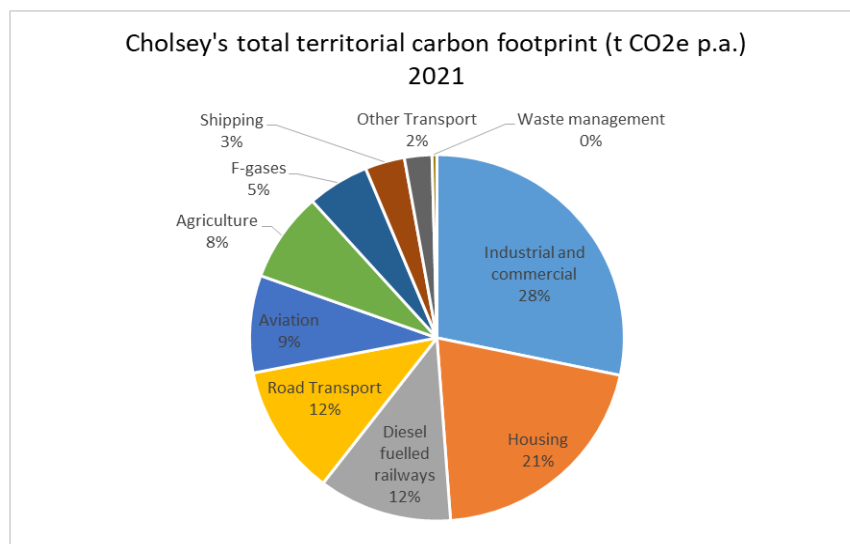
Territorial footprints consider all the emissions arising from activity within a particular boundary. This includes industrial, commercial, domestic, agricultural (both emissions from cropping activities and livestock as well as direct fuel use), road transport, diesel railways, other transport, and land use/land use change & forestry (LULUCF). Aviation and shipping are apportioned from national figures to the local level.

A **consumption**-based footprint largely looks at how the people in a given locality live their lives, and includes emissions from things that are produced outside the community, potentially including almost all of their food, clothing, appliances etc, as well as other services they use such as financial and banking services. From a transport point of view, rather than looking at the use of the roads just within the community (as per the territorial approach), the consumption approach instead looks at address level data on car ownership and miles driven.

Cholsey's emission numbers come from an online Impact Tool (www.impact-tool.org.uk) The data is produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and the University of Exeter with government funding, and covers every parish in the country.

**CO₂e stands for "carbon dioxide equivalent" and is a standard unit of measurement in carbon accounting. It expresses the impact of a number of different gases collectively as a common unit.

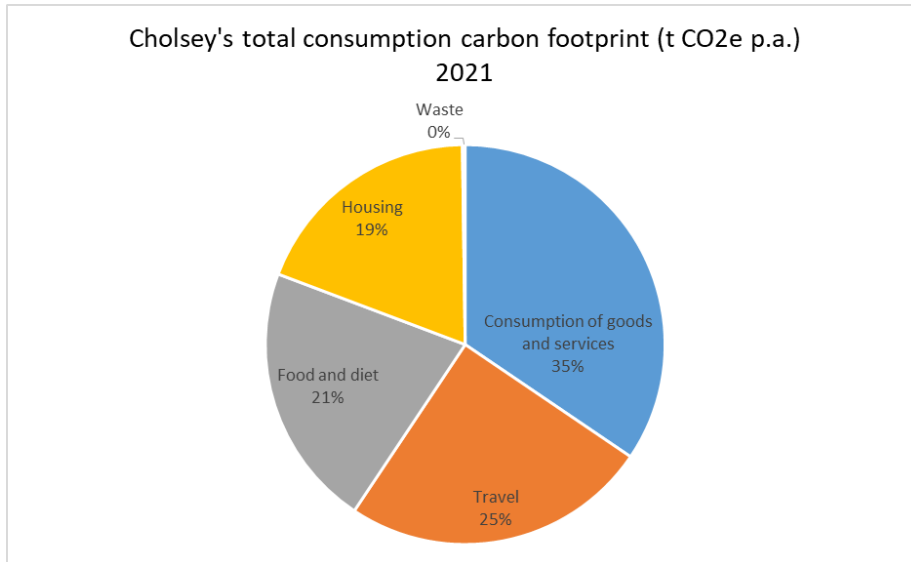
Cholsey's total territorial footprint (p.a.) 30,294t CO₂e*



EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO ₂ e)		
Industrial and commercial	8,567	28%
Housing	6,226	21%
Diesel fuelled railways	3,504	12%
Road Transport	3,491	11%
Aviation	2,602	9%
Agriculture	2,396	8%
F-gases	1,626	6%
Shipping	1,036	3%

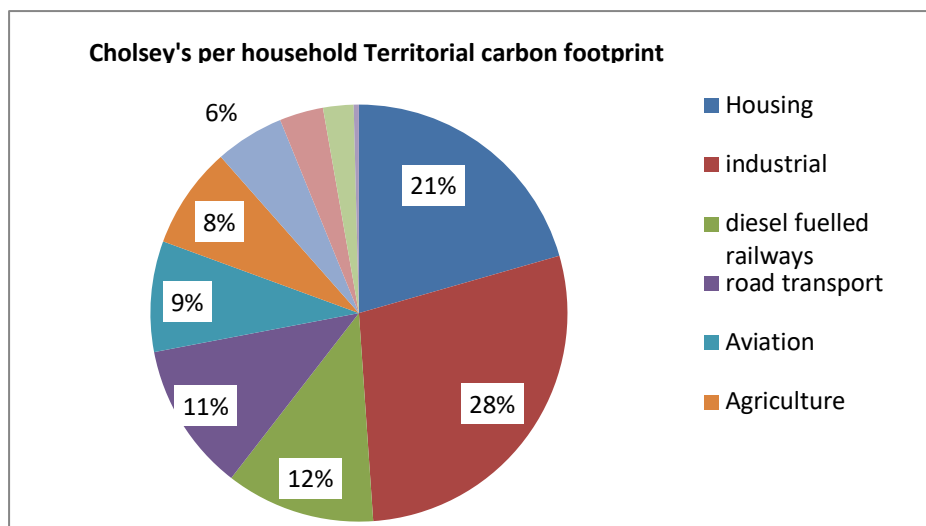
Other Transport	720	2%
Waste management	125	0.40%

Cholsey's total consumption footprint (p.a.) 32,702t CO₂e*



EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO ₂ e)	
Consumption of goods and services	11,277
Travel	8,137
Food and diet	6,989
Housing	6,226
Waste	73

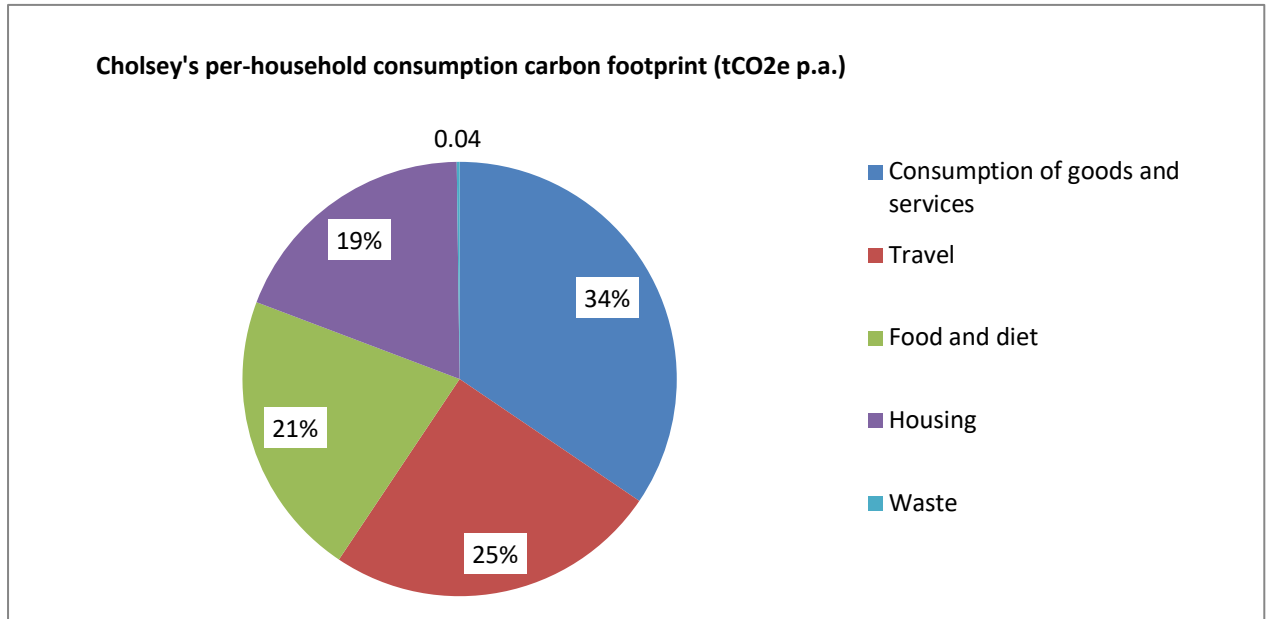
Cholsey's per-household territorial footprint (p.a.) 17.4t CO₂e*



EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO2e)		
Housing	3.57	21%
Industrial	4.92	28%
Diesel fuelled railways	2.01	12%
Road transport	2.00	11%
Aviation	1.49	9%
Agriculture	1.37	8%
F gases	0.93	6%
Shipping	0.59	3%
Other transport	0.41	2%
Waste management	0.07	0.40%

Cholsey's per-consumption footprint (p.a.) 18.8t CO₂e*

household



EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO2e)		
Consumption of goods and services	6.47	34%
Travel	4.67	25%
Food and diet	4.01	21%
Housing	3.57	19%
Waste	0.04	0.20%

Appendix 2

Treescaping 'Opportunity report for Cholsey Parish' 30 Nov 2021

This report gives a broad indication of the natural capital benefits that treescaping (a term for trees in all their forms) can bring to Cholsey parish and of the opportunities to increase them. It has been produced as part of a not-for-profit service for farmers, land owners, land managers, parish councils and community groups across Oxfordshire, and is led by the charity GrowGreenCarbon working with CAG Oxfordshire and Oxford University.

Carbon capture for woodland includes 5 tonnes CO₂e per hectare per year from the cessation of intensive farming operations in addition to 10 tonnes CO₂e per hectare per year in carbon capture.

Appendix 3 Email to SODC planning officers in response to the Leavesley new build planning application

Dear Planning Officers,

I am writing to object to this proposed development based on of the huge increase in carbon emissions that will result from the construction of 350 new builds at this site.

The 2008 Climate Change Act sets a legally binding target, stating that: "It is the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline." And amended in 2019 to get to zero carbon by 2050. In April 2021 the UK government amended this to 78% lower by 2035.

In Cholsey it is estimated that we produce over **32,000** tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year directly and indirectly (www.impact-tool.org.uk) (a). This is 8.3 tonnes per Cholsey resident, considerably more, 30% more, than the average 6.5 tonnes per person for the UK as a whole.

The carbon emissions from the construction of **350 houses** would result in an estimated additional **15,400 tonnes CO₂e** (b), an increase of **48%** in carbon emissions in one year. And this does not even include the commercial buildings, roads and drains.

This proposed development in Cholsey will **increase** the village carbon footprint by a factor of nearly 50%, in a village where the average carbon footprint per person per year is **already** above the UK average.

In a time of climate emergency with UK Government having stipulated legally binding targets and policies to reduce CO₂e emissions significantly in the next decade, this proposed development contravenes both the Climate Change Act 2008, and its amendment in 2019.

I call on SODC planning office to refuse planning permission and protect the village and its residents, as is their duty, from potentially unlawful and unsustainable development.

- a. The Impact tool is produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and funded by CSE, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund
- b. Average CO₂e per new build is 44 tonnes (35 for 2 bedroomed, 53 for 3 bedroomed, (Mike Berners Lee) Total 350 x 44 = 15,400 tonnes

Yours sincerely,

Ginnie Herbert

