



Great Green Bedwyn

Helping address climate change

1 Jan 2022 – 31 Jan 2023



www.greatgreenbedwyn.org.uk
greatgreenbedwyn facebook page

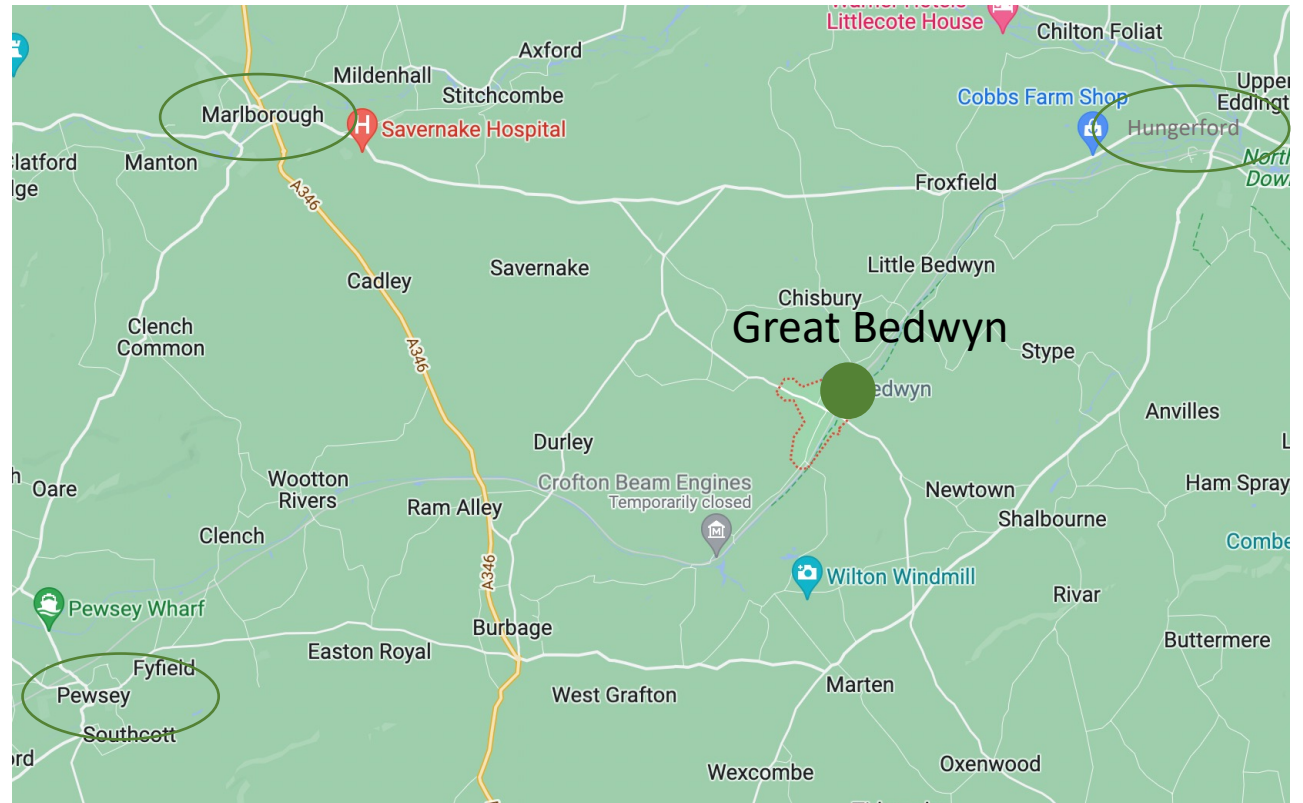
Project highlights

- Use of an inclusive community-wide survey to identify village priorities has shaped the project
- We 'reached' 1110 people including email and survey responses – with some duplicates
- We organised 11 events of which 7 were on different topics
- Ideas started to spread beyond Great Bedwyn
- Strong partnerships emerging Action for River Kennet (ARK)
- Attracted new funding from Thames Water for the UK's first community-led rain gardens project working with Action for River Kennet (ARK)
- We have spent the NLCF grant money very cost-effectively and over-delivered on most of our key objectives. Subject to agreement by NLCF, we would like to continue work on Great Green Bedwyn while we find additional funding



About Great Green Bedwyn

Great Bedwyn is a Wiltshire village of 1300 people surrounded by farmland and historic sites. There is a high proportion of old buildings, many with thatched roofs and most with gardens. There is a railway station with some direct trains to London, a canal, GP practice, 2 village shops and local school. It is at the bottom of a valley which has meant flooding in the past.



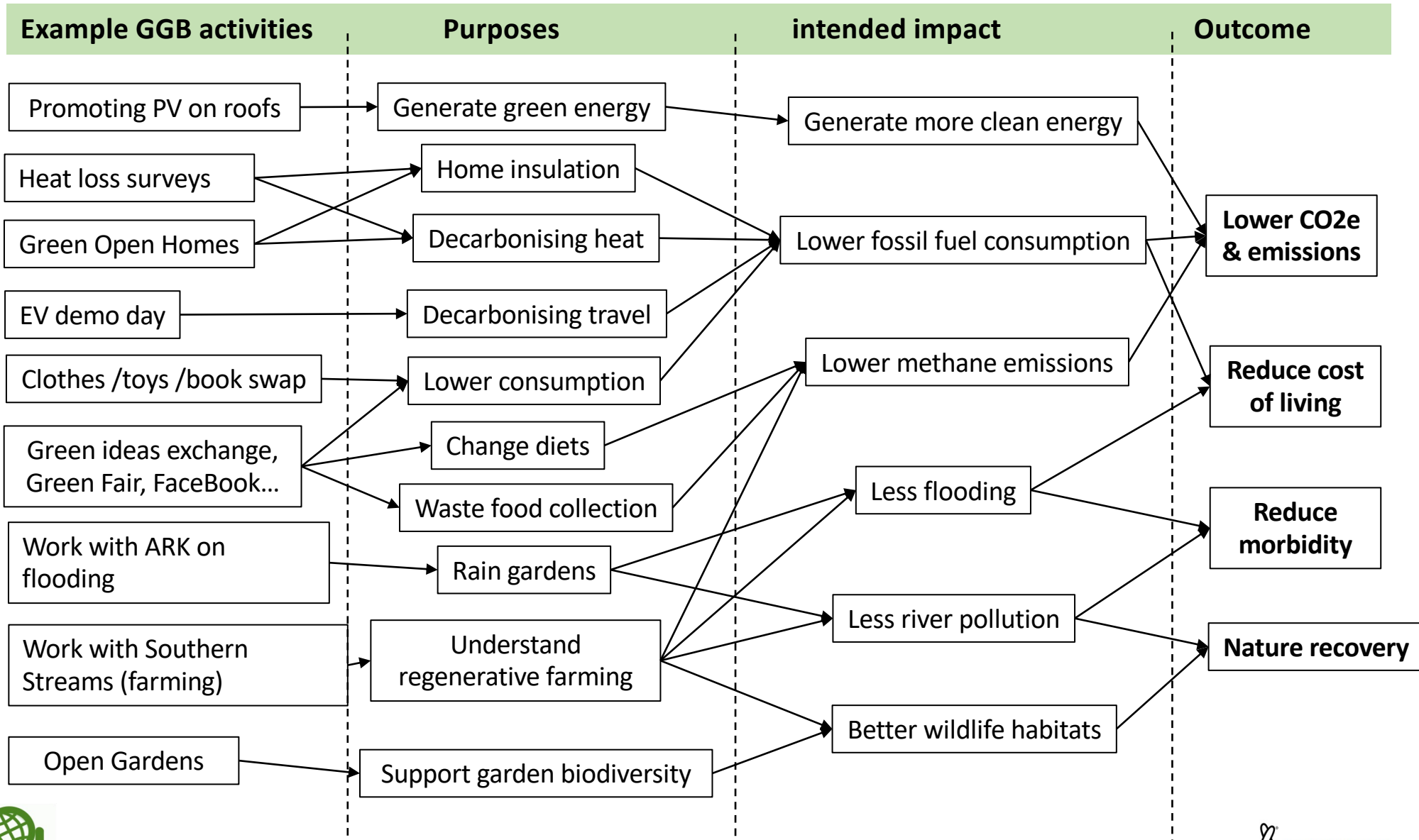
Great Green Bedwyn (GGB) was funded by national lottery to raise awareness to climate change for 15 months. It is sponsored by the Great Bedwyn Parish Council.

Great Green Bedwyn brings together local people to take action to improve biodiversity, tackle flooding risk and river pollution and reduce carbon emissions from energy, encouraging repairing, sharing & recycling and low carbon travel. GGB is developing partnerships with local organisations in Hungerford, Marlborough and Pewsey and the Southern Streams Farm cluster.



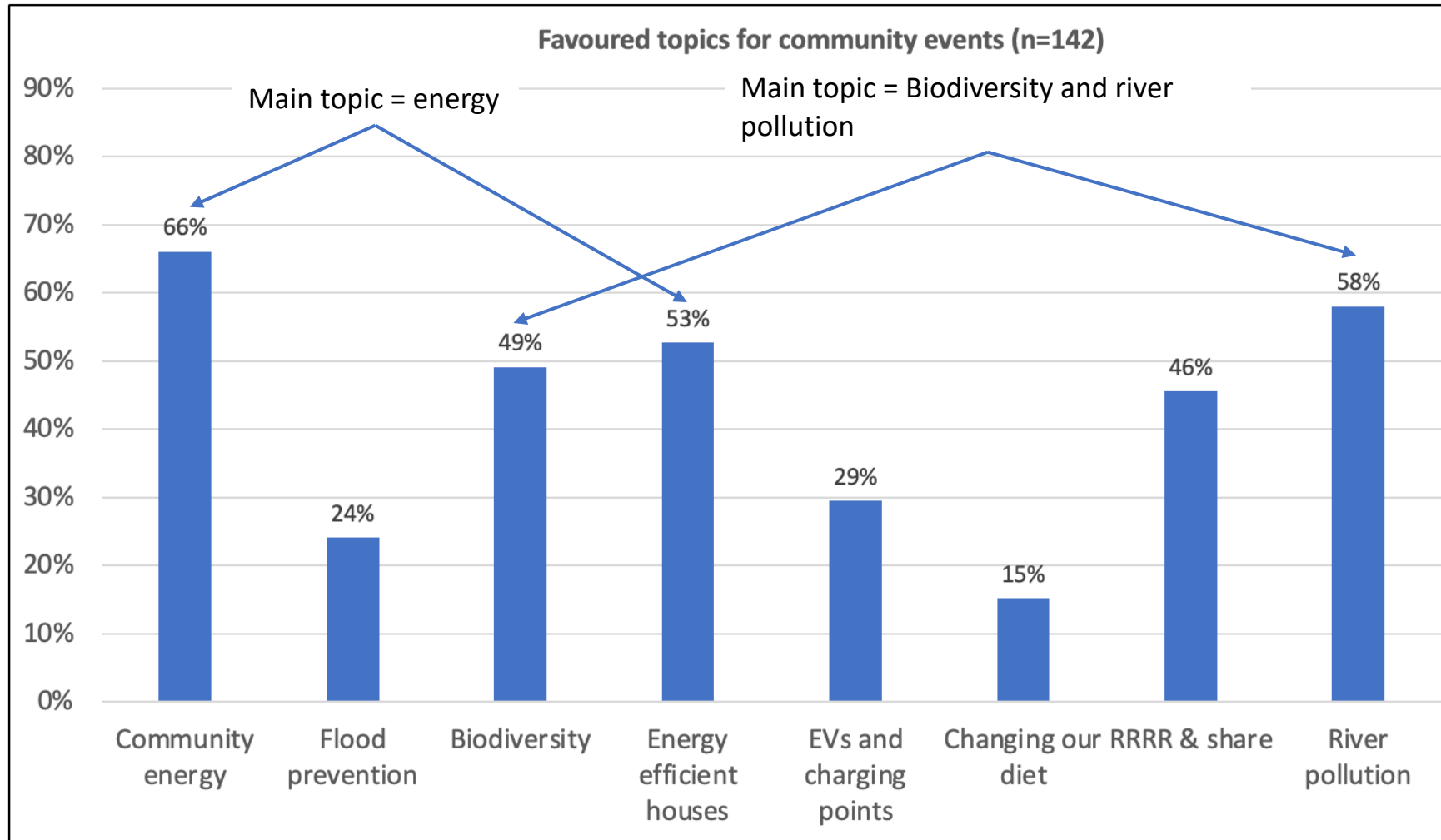
Towards a logic model for GGB

The diagram below summarises our activities and what we are trying to achieve



Survey results graph

The graph below summarises the results from a key question in the survey undertaken at the outset of the project, which set our 2 main community goals..



What went well?

- **Survey:** Good response to the survey. 650 questionnaires were distributed to households and available online, 147 household responses received.
- **Recruitment** of p/t (10% fte) climate officer – we attracted 4 good applicants. The role was important in enabling us to do a lot in a short time
- **11 events were organised, rather than the 3-4 events planned.** These events were on 8 different topics. The range was welcomed and the attendance was good – Expert speakers added depth of knowledge.
- **Green Fair** at the school on a Saturday reached children and families – a new demographic
- **Developing partnerships** with a wide range of other local organisations, which we are now beginning to develop.
- **Infrared heat loss surveys** enabled us to have in depth 1:1 conversations about carbon savings, cost savings and what GGB was about. We developed a useful checklist (in the bundle) that was requested by, and shared with, several other organisations, eg. HEAT Hungerford and Banstead and Reigate Borough Council



What could have gone better?

Participation across age groups:

- Getting more young people and working parents with young families involved
- Overall survey completion rate (23%). Online survey completion rate only 8%.
- Getting more volunteers to contribute their time, not just attend meetings

Messaging & publicity:

- Visibility beyond the village and on the web. We did not set up the website early enough as we were too busy with organising events, see www.greatgreenbedwyn.org.uk
- Some messages were less welcome, eg. reducing meat and dairy in diet or using second-hand clothes rather than buying new.
- Turnout for the green open homes event was poor – the online pre-booking system did not work well. We will do it again, but differently

Community energy challenges:

- While there is enthusiasm for a local community energy (small solar PV farm), it has been difficult getting a project going because of the end of Government support (Rural Community Energy Fund) and prohibitive grid connection costs (£1.6M). We are exploring other options.

Finances: Management of NLCF grant by the Parish Council added complications:

- The GB Parish council accounting year is 1 April – 31 March (different from NLCF financial year)
- Getting permission to spend money for an evolving project meant a 2 month decision making time lag from the Parish Council



Draft GGB outline plan for 2023/24

1. Working with ARK, help people in the community to build rain gardens to slow the run-off from 2000m² of village roofs, reducing flooding and sewage releases in the village. This is the ***first community project of this type in the UK.*** (already funded)
2. Set up a Constituted Community Group or charity
3. Partner with smaller local groups to support them in developing ideas & climate projects (eg. Bedwyn Train Group, Bedwyn Footpaths Group, local Women's Institute)
4. Strengthen partnerships with other local organisations outside Great Bedwyn with similar or complementary aims
5. Get more funding.
6. Pursue more solar energy generation, including working to put PV on the Bedwyn School roof to generate about 40MWhr pa. supported by Communities for Renewables CIC
7. Work to identify SMART targets for the community for generating clean energy, lower fossil fuel consumption, lower emissions, less flooding, river pollution and improved wildlife habitat
8. Hold more village knowledge exchange events and a second Green Fair.
9. Develop the GGB website as a community knowledge resource, accessible to all
10. Support improved home energy awareness and reduced energy usage through 1:1 activities eg. heat loss surveys and a second Open Green Homes event (in collaboration with HEAT, Carbon Neutral Aldbourne and Sustainable Marlborough)

