

## Retrofit Bruton and Cary gets down to business

Bruton Town Council is delighted to announce that following successful recruitment, our Retrofit Bruton and Cary project goes live on 4 October 2021.

Justine, our professionally qualified retrofit co-ordinator will give impartial advice to homeowners in Bruton, Castle Cary and the surrounding rural parishes about the best and most carbon-efficient way of improving their homes, at the same time as working with local builders to develop their expertise in low-carbon retrofitting.

Councillor James Hood said:

*‘Many people want to improve their homes by reducing energy waste and bills, cutting carbon emissions, and transforming cold, neglected rooms into well-used spaces. But they don’t always know where and how to start. If they look for advice, they just find firms trying to get their business. Justine will offer the expert and truly impartial advice and support they need to get going.’*

*‘We’ve been planning this project since June of last year. Following a generous grant from the County Council’s Climate Emergency Community Fund, we are very pleased to be able to get going.’*

Mayor Ewan Jones said:

*‘Retrofit Bruton and Cary is a perfect example of a Town Council taking the lead where Westminster Government shirks. The UK does not build new homes fast enough to replace our older, colder and leakier, homes, even if we wanted to in historic Somerset Towns such as Bruton. We have known what we need to do for decades – to save by insulating, and switch to cleaner heating energy. It is fantastic that Somerset Climate Emergency Community Funding can kick-start Retrofitting in the Bruton and Cary area.’*

The service will be available to homeowners (including private landlords) in Bruton, Castle Cary and the immediately neighbouring rural parishes. For more information go to <https://retrofit.brutontown.com>.

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The project will be led by Bruton Town Council, but is a partnership between the Council, Castle Cary Town Council, One Planet Bruton, Greener Cary and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The project will offer services to homeowners in Bruton, Castle Cary and the surrounding rural parishes.

Low-carbon retrofitting means putting into action a comprehensive plan for home improvements with the aim of improving the energy efficiency of a property.

‘Retrofits to improve the carbon performance of homes... emerge as a clear win-win... through retraining workers and initiating local area approaches.’ (Committee on Climate Change (June 2020) Reducing UK emissions, Progress Report to Parliament, p151)

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is an independent national charity, based in Bristol and established in 1979, with a mission ‘to share our knowledge and practical experience to empower people to change the way they think and act about energy.’

<https://www.cse.org.uk/>

In March 2021 Bruton Town Council was awarded a grant of £75,000 from Somerset County Council's Climate Emergency Community Fund, one of only three councils to receive the maximum grant.