

Duration: 2 minutes
Starring: Martin Cox
To be filmed: 6th June

PHOTOS & VIDEOS TO BE ADDED

‘Our environment has rarely been as important or as high profile as it is today.

Anyone who has watched the news recently and seen young people demonstrating or seen any of the David Attenborough programmes will be aware of the compelling evidence that our environment is in danger.

The recent *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem* said

“The loss of species, ecosystems and genetic diversity is already a global and generational threat to human well-being. Protecting the invaluable contributions of nature to people will be the defining challenge of decades to come”

This year the ‘Committee on Climate Change’ recommended that Wales needed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050.

Now is the time to re-double our efforts. With this in mind – the PSB has started bringing together our collective knowledge and resources to develop a sustainable environment strategy for Powys. We will of course be working closely with partners and stakeholders to make sure our strategy is as robust well supported and inclusive as possible. The aim of the strategy is to ensure a co-ordinated approach and action across the public sector and beyond to deal with the issues we face and the opportunities we have in Powys.

We have started to analyse **existing activity** amongst the PSB members and drafted **some key themes** to work with. This process will help shape what we need to do to in the future. We need to identify where we are doing well, where we could do more and where the gaps are in our current plans.

- We need to **connect people with nature** so that they can **understand, appreciate and enjoy nature** better. We can do this ~~through~~ by improving and developing outdoor recreation facilities, encourage volunteering and promoting education, amongst other things. Great examples of this include the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority’s “*Inspiration project*” which is helping excluded communities to access & gain health and wellbeing benefits and the ‘Open Newtown’ project which is looking to regenerate Newtown and offer new health and recreational opportunities by using the river and other natural resources of the town.
- We need to **reduce society’s impact on the environment** by reducing pollution, and waste. The public sector are trying to do our bit – Brecon Beacons National Park, Natural Resources Wales and Powys County Council all have electric vehicles in their fleet and are installing charging points and renewable energy at Visitor Centres and offices where possible. But of course – we could do more.
- We need to work to ensure **ecological & climate change resilience** by better habitat and species management, making it easier for wildlife to move around and encouraging pollinators. We have some excellent success stories with iconic species such as the Osprey returning to nest in Powys as well as landscape ones such as the ‘Elan Links’ project - which is encouraging visitors to the Elan Valley while maintaining habitats and restoring the uplands.

- We need to **sustainably use the environment** by ensuring and help society and to do this. A good example of this is the BBNP: *Black Mountain Land Use Partnership*, a pioneering project delivering continued improvement and management of the upland areas in the Black Mountains including Peatland stabilisation and revegetation.
- We also need to link our strategy to existing initiatives and plans such as the Mid Wales Area Statement, Brecon Beacons *Nature Recovery Action Plan* and Park management plan, and Local Development Plans amongst others so we get a better, more joined up approach.

The timeline for the strategy is

So please come and get involved and help make Powys a great place for nature and people.