

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Initial Brainstorming Meeting 10th January 2022

Present: Cllrs D Cranwell, S Earl Davies, D Dunkley, C Munsey and S Hosking (Clerk)

C Munsey - temporary Chairman for this meeting.

CM - Brainstorming to focus on two areas:

- What can we do as a Parish Council to mitigate against Climate Change and improve the environment and how can we encourage residents to do the same?
- Communication of ideas to village.

The terms of reference for the committee and who can be on the committee to be confirmed.

DC - While we can identify areas of concern at this meeting, we need to invite residents to input ideas. The committee should look at involving residents from the start.

CM- we need to involve all ages and groups in the community.

Areas of concern:

- Use of chemicals eg pesticides and herbicides.
- Tree planting
- Rewilding
- Wetlands identification and care
- Allotments and how to redistribute excess local produce
- Community Orchard – Bradbery Close verge?
- Hedgerows – keep what we have.
- Encourage planting of copses.
- Need for green corridors, links between hedgerows and wild areas.
- Engage local farmers who are interested, and value their expertise and input.
- Rural heating poverty, encourage better insulation of old properties.
- Solar panels and wind turbines in the community.
- No grid for gas or future hydrogen.
- Air source heating is not always affordable/practical, what are the alternatives?
- Environment grants – WNC/Parish Council to inform residents.
- Excessive Food Waste eg milk. Educate.
- Work in conjunction with WNC ACRE etc
- Discourage use of plastics. Encourage businesses eg Green Machine (groceries sold without packaging), perhaps a market for local produce?
- Electric Charging Points. Potential for locating in Village Hall Car Park. But technology changing so quickly, research required as to what is best option. DC – Committee will need to check with Western Power if there is spare electricity capacity for car charging points.
- Hydrogen fuel? We don't know which way technology will go.
- Alternative means of travel – Cycling, buses, car sharing, group collections of shopping/prescriptions.
- Bee keeping.

- Excessive grass cutting. Rewilding of areas of verge to improve biodiversity, avoid cutting unnecessarily. Engage with national campaigns e.g. Plantlife's 'No Mow May' [[No Mow May \(plantlife.org.uk\)](http://plantlife.org.uk)]
Grass verges along Abbey Road are being wrecked by car parking. Could they be rewilded to discourage cars parking on them?
There could be some compromise but would still need a lot of maintenance.
- Encourage plant pollinators in gardens, e.g. heathers. As well as in PC flower beds/boxes, wildflower islands in Swingfield and in Pocket Park.
- Encourage RSPB bird garden watch.
- Everyone put up bird/bat boxes and have composting bins. Might the PC Consider bulk purchasing these items for distribution in the village?
- Sustainability of the village, obtain map of drainage system.
- Recycling and litter.
- Planning applications should be reviewed from a climate change and environmental point of view.
- When the Village Design Statement is updated, incorporate climate change and environmental issues as new priorities.
- Encourage residents to switch off unnecessary lights.
- Obtain carbon footprint calculators for distribution in the village?
- Churchyards, discuss rewilding and that not every area needs to be kept pristine with Church representatives.

Communication

- Involve the school, Church, Chapel, Village Hall etc
- Speak to local Farmers/Young Farmers groups.
- Communicate to everyone – website, Facebook, Syresham Times, Noticeboard, but also leaflets printed to send out to everyone in the village. DC – suggested email alerts as there are only 67 followers of PC Facebook page, less than 10% of residents reached. Westbury PC reach 85% of their residents via emails.
- Holding community events – energy café, repair café, green exhibition.
- Collaborate with WNC and their Environmental team.
- Scarecrow Festival +other events encourage environmental organisations to attend.
- Green Open Houses.
- Posters (children to design).

Sources of information

- Liaise with beekeeping Association.
- CSE – Centre for Sustainable Energy
- CEG – Community Energy England
- Ridam composters
- Welsh Lane Composter - find out if village residents can access that industrial scale composter.
- ACRE – campaigns and resources
- Insulation grants
- Ask Parish Council if residents can help design policies by carrying out research.