

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP
HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors Janet Alty, David Brunson, Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Jennifer McAllister, Louisa Radice, and Susan Rasmussen.

Robert Nash (Town Clerk)

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at this time.

23. **GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION SCHEME**

Angela Owen was in attendance for this item.

Angela outlined the objectives of the Clean-up Britain Campaign which was a not for profit National Campaigning Group dedicated to raising public awareness of litter and its consequences on the environment. In Leamington the Group had launched a local campaign under the banner “now or never” which aimed to influence attitudes toward litter through behavioural change. The campaign was directed at all sections of society where the message about the damage caused by litter can be conveyed including local schools and business.

The campaign had promoted the Green Business Recognition scheme which provided businesses with a check list of actions. Various levels of award recognised the contribution that business can make to both litter prevention and material waste avoidance with the level of award reflecting the number of actions undertaken.

<https://www.itsnowornever.org.uk/green-businesses/>

Angela outlined some of the initiatives introduced in Leamington to encourage behavioural change including the targeting of cigarette smokers through the provision of cigarette “ballot boxes” and portable ash trays to encourage responsible disposal of cigarette remains.

The Working Group noted that almost all the measures set out in the Business Recognition scheme could be introduced at little or no additional cost as this was much about changing working practices and attitudes. Those areas which related to Council activities were being addressed through the Climate Change Group’s Action Plan. Reference was made to the role of enforcement in dealing with litter in public places and whilst powers existed for Councils to prosecute offenders, there was appreciation that this was unlikely to have a significant impact on public attitudes to the problem.

Angela was thanked for her attendance and it was agreed that she be invited to future meetings of the Group.

Action: Town Clerk

24. **ACT ON ENERGY**

An invitation had been extended to a representative of Act on Energy to attend the meeting but although a positive response had been received, no one was in attendance. It was therefore agreed that a further invitation is made to the next meeting.

Action: Town Clerk

25. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group, held on 21st October, 2019 are confirmed as a correct record.

26. **FOLLOW UP ON ACTIONS ARISING**

The following actions arising from the last meeting were discussed:-

Local Planting schemes/Biodiversity

Details of practices employed by Rotherham Borough Council had now been circulated to all Members by Cllr Bryce.

Allotments

The Town Clerk reported that the meeting of the Allotment Sub-Committee on 11th November had considered the issue of invasive weed killers such as glycol sulphates. Councillor Rasmussen indicated that this had resulted in a positive response from several of the Allotment Associations and a bid was to be made to the Town Council for use of additional funding for a scheme to purchase weed suppressant material that would obviate the need for chemical based weed killers. If approved, this would be reflected in the Action Plan.

It was noted that this initiative was confined to the four allotments that are owned/managed by the Town Council. Similar opportunities should be extended to those other allotment sites that are in private ownership.

Action: Town Clerk to write to St Mary's and New Binswood Allotment Associations

Energy Efficiency

The points discussed relating to measures to improve energy efficiency among homes in Leamington would need to be deferred to the next meeting to await further discussion with Act on Energy.

Action: Town Clerk

The measures being considered in relation to the Town Hall had been further explored in correspondence with the Energy Efficiency team at Warwick District Council and information relating to both energy performance, water consumption, and future energy audits to address high consuming elements of use are included in the response attached to these Minutes. The Action Plan would be updated to reflect this information.

Action: Town Clerk

27. **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

The Action Plan previously agreed had been circulated. The changes agreed earlier would be incorporated into a revised version. It was suggested that the availability of existing cycle routes could be better publicised via a cycleway Directory specifically for routes into and around Leamington. This would be investigated and reported to the next meeting.

Action: Town Clerk

Following the last meeting, information relating to the following matters had been obtained:-

The planting of trees by Warwick District Council in furtherance of the commitment by the Leader to plant a tree for each resident during his term of office was currently being considered by Officers but no decision had yet been made in terms of locations.

The criteria for community grants had been initially considered by the Cultural and Community Committee and a further report, including provision for measures to improve energy efficiency/minimise carbon output, would be considered at the next meeting.

28. **CLIMATE CHANGE AS A SOCIAL ISSUE**

At the last meeting it had been agreed that all members would contribute ideas as to what the town council can do practically to support those in Leamington's super output areas/more deprived wards make changes and improvements to reduce everyday impacts of climate change, and ideas as to how the town council could most effectively communicate with residents in these areas about this such as attendance at community forums and mother and baby groups.

As only two responses had been received it was agreed that these are circulated to the Group and the item be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Action: All Members to consider and respond to RN for next meeting.

29. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 9th January 2020 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Action: All Members to note.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.05 pm.