

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP
HELD ON 25th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA**

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

Robert Nash (Town Clerk)

7. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Louisa Radice.

8. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at this time.

9. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group held on 20th August, 2019 are confirmed as a correct record.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting it was agreed they had agreed to identify 3 actions that each would take over the next 12 months to help address climate change. It was agreed individual Members would email their response to the Town Clerk.

Action: All Group Members

10. **FOLLOW UP ON ACTIONS ARISING**

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

Local Planting schemes/Biodiversity

Councillor Bryce confirmed that he had researched the practices employed by Rotherham Borough Council and would circulate details to all Group members.

Action: Cllr Bryce

Whilst the Town was generally well tended, there was concern that certain highway verges – Radford Road for example- were not well maintained. It was acknowledged that there was trade- off between periodic verge maintenance and reducing CO emissions. The widespread use of weed killer that is harmful to insects and pollinators was now generally infrequent but it was not clear to what extent contractors employed by the Principal Councils were required to comply with best practice.

Action: Town Clerk to contact WCC and WDC.

Allotments

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council's Allotment Sub- Committee was on 11th November. This was a good opportunity to discuss with Allotment Representatives issues connected with building greater community food resilience, including the possible donation of surplus produce.

Action: Town Clerk (Agenda)

Transport

Councillor Brunson had initially discussed with the Manager of the Shopmobility Scheme the possibility of the scheme being the outlet for hire of electric bikes. Whilst there was a possibility of this in principle, the current Mobility unit was too small and there was a need for a significant capital outlay in terms of both location upgrade and

equipment purchase. It was noted that the University of Warwick was also pioneering this mode of transport as part of its “car free campus” policy. No further action was necessary at this stage but the idea should be kept under review.

Energy Efficiency

The Town Clerk reported a reply from Warwick District Council in relation to the introduction of energy conserving measures at the Town Hall. The key points outlined in the reply were as follows:-

- The current Energy Performance Certificate for the Town Hall was issued in November 2018 and will last for ten years, unless there is a large change in circumstances. The current Certificate shows that the Town hall emits 85 tonnes of CO² annually giving a D rating. Buildings of the size and construction of the Town Hall typically emit between 76-100 tonnes of CO² annually.
- Consumption of water is not included on the EPC for the Town Hall but the District Council’s Energy Unit would respond with further details
- In relation to the introduction of further energy saving measures, the District Council was committed to reducing Carbon output and achieving a positive impact on climate change but a project plan with timescales was not yet available. This would be the subject of a further update from the Energy Unit.
- The Town Clerk had also raised the possibility of replacing the fluorescent lighting in the Council Office with energy efficient LED lights. The District Council was presently considering whether to install LED lighting in Office throughout the Town Hall and the Town Council Office would be included in that process.

The availability of finance and advice for householders would be investigated through a direct contact to Act on Energy. **Action: Town Clerk.**

The wider availability of Wifi in the Council Chamber was under investigation, **Action Town Clerk**

11 **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

The Action Plan agreed at the last meeting had been updated for completed actions and a copy was circulated with the Agenda.

The following additional actions were agreed:-

Budget/Service	Suggested Climate Change Action	Agreed follow up action
Community Grants	Review Community Grant criteria to assess environmental impact	Refer to Cultural & Community Committee – November 2019
Shopmobility	Investigate options for bulk collecting point for shoppers	Further investigation via retail sector/BID to evaluate demand
Neighbourhood Plan	Air Quality Summit scheduled for 11 th November	Ensure invitation is extended to Town Councillors

12. **PLASTIC FREE LEAMINGTON**

Consideration was given to the Objectives for achieving Plastic Free Community Status which had been referred to the Task and Finish Group by the Policy and Resources Committee and for further consideration.

OBJECTIVE 1 – Local Governance

Local Council passes a resolution to support Plastic Free Communities, committing to Plastic free alternatives and supporting plastic free initiatives within the constituency.

Action:

1. Town Council to cease use of any form of single use plastics in its premises.
2. To encourage greater use of plastic free initiatives through support for the plastic free campaign and supporting events. This is to be achieved through use of Council Social Media/ Website and other promotional opportunities.
3. Consider appointing a Member of Council to the Plastic Free Steering Group

OBJECTIVE 3 – PLASTIC FREE ALLIES

Gain widespread support spreading the message and establishing the call to arms against Wasteland. Targets will be suggested and will be judged on individual allocation. More evidence provided of Plastic Free being adopted by local community, the increased effectiveness of the campaign.

Action: Utilise Social Media and regular contacts with Community Groups to gain support for the 5 Easy Changes:-

1. Buy a reusable water bottle and refill
2. When shopping, take a reusable bag
3. Buy Local and loose where possible
4. Use a reusable Coffee cup
5. Stop using plastic straws and cutlery

The achievement of (1) above is to be supported through the Refill Leamington scheme. The Town Council will also lobby Severn Trent Water to provide public water refill stations.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND the Policy and Resources Committee to adopt the above measures in support of Plastic Free Leamington and Warwick.

13. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 21st October, 2019 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Action: All Members to note.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.50 pm.