

The Climate Emergency Working Party Notes of the Meeting of Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom

Present: Mrs S Jarvis, Chairman, Cllr Tim Steer

Also, in attendance: Jude Wood, Administration & Projects Manager
and Victoria Woodhouse, Executive Officer

Apologies

Joan Gristwood

Members were informed that Joan Gristwood had now resigned from the Working Party and passes on her best wishes to CEWP

Climate Action Plan

Updated after changes proposed by Parks & Playing Fields Committee, circulated to members – changes agreed.

Litter Bins

Solar powered litter bins were discussed but it was thought these were a little ambitious it was agreed that more bins were needed - identify some areas where more or extra bins would be required and contact NDC.

Recommendation: Take to Parks and Playing Fields Committee for discussion

Biodiversity Action Plan

Parks & Playing Fields welcomed the concept of re-wilding and were supportive of intentions, but it was felt that Parish Council would need to ensure any plan or policies were in line with DCC's. It was agreed for Executive Officer and Administration & Projects Manager to draft some guidelines.

Mr Jarvis requested that CEWP drop the term "re-wilding" as it was felt it was not helpful and concerning some councillors – he suggested that they will only be planting wildflowers on patches of land and not on grass verges. He suggested a Summer meadow mix planted to start growing in the spring. Mr Jarvis has already done a patch at the top of Elm field Road - he is aware that there was some concern over this. He would like to do some test patches. These were identified in Mr Jarvis' 'Increasing Wildflower distribution and abundance in Fremington Parish' document as land at Middle Combe Drive/Hele Lane, Land at Tews Lane Playing Field, and either land at top of Beards Road or land at Redlands Road.

Recommendation: Continue to draft guidance for 're-wilding' and change the name of the project. Take test patches to Parks and Playing Fields Committee for discussion.

Information Action Packs – Reducing Carbon Footprint

Mr Jarvis showed the CEWP a leaflet from Mitchell & Dickenson headed 'Ready to take action' which had some suggestions on how to reduce your carbon footprint for example buying seasonal food from local farms/companies, it also included some background information and other suggestions such as insulating your home.

The CEWP came up with a list of ideas/suggestion to help people reduce their carbon footprint under headings: Quick Changes, Lifestyle Changes & Long-Term Changes.

- **Quick and easy things** – switching energy supplier, switching light bulbs to LED
- **Lifestyle Changes** – eat/shop local and organic where and when you can, car sharing (covid permitting), travel by train/Eurostar or bus instead of driving, holiday local rather than flying reducing carbon footprint, 3 R's (reduce, re-use, re-cycle) recycling soft plastics, try to buy products with less or no plastic packing, use your own shopping bags where you can, refillable water bottles and refillable cleaning products, switching electrical products off at night where you can. 'Make do and mend'.
- **Long terms Changes/Aspirations** – House insulation (361 energy), downsizing car/going electric, when old appliances need replacing try to buy more efficient high end quality white goods (saving you money in the long term and contribute to a better global environment)

Cllr Steer suggested making people aware that you can recycle soft plastics.

Promoting Walking buses for Schools and nurseries where possible.

Recommendation: Pick 'favourites' work into a list to look at next meeting (define high end white goods and perhaps provide some guidance for consumer)

Hydrological Survey

Mr Jarvis thought it may not be needed. Would be good to know the extent of pollution in the local watercourses it is thought it is likely going to come from agriculture, but if the CEWP did get someone from the University of Exeter to take a look they would want chemical analysis and if it shows that there is a lot of agricultural runoff then maybe it could be passed to NFU, who can, in turn, contact local farmers, if it suggests it's coming from urban areas this can be something the CEWP can flag up that this is likely to be garden chemicals.

Contact Geography Department of University of Exeter (and possibly Plymouth) to see if they have a Geography undergraduate who would be interested in doing the survey for their course/degree.

Recommendation: Administration & Projects Manager to contact Universities.

Any other matters

Cllr Steer asked the question about Light Railway Fremington to Barnstaple – Mr Jarvis said that it was an idea that was passed around and was decided it was beyond Fremington Parish Council's remit. Cllr Steer is part of Bideford Railway Heritage Centre and feels light railway would be a much better way of traveling as it would be a cleaner and greener. Mr Jarvis suggested that if any such scheme arose, CEWP could ask the Parish Council to consider supporting it.

Mr Jarvis informed the CEWP that a neighbouring Parish were investigating renewable energy within the community and he suggested that it could be something to look in to.

Next meeting agreed for the 11th May as Full Council has been moved to the 4th May.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm