



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
15 JUNE 2020

Agenda No

9

Responsible Officer: Helen Ball - Town Clerk

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Purpose of Report

To update members on the Climate Emergency Agenda.

Background

Below are the key milestones of Climate Emergency:

- 25th March 2019 – Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to developing an Action Plan within 6 months
- April/May – The Town Clerk & Operations Manager convened a group of interested individuals of climate emergency and facilitated an open discussion about what the Town Council was already doing and what it needed to do – presentation appended to this report
- July 2019 – Officers undertook a review of its Carbon Footprint
- 30th September 2019 – Council adopted the draft Climate Action Plan
- 27th November 2019 – the Mayor convened a Mayors & Town Clerks Meeting to discuss Climate Emergency, at which Adrian Cooper the newly appointed Climate Change Task Force Leader at Shropshire Council attended
- 30th January 2020 – Council set its 2020/21 budget and set aside a £250,000 fund to look at climate mitigations measures over the next three years
- 6th February 2020 – Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk facilitated a workshop event with the Climate Change Working Group, note of which are appended to this report
- January/February 2020 – Key staff have all signed into the SLCC Webinars on Climate Emergency facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Actions since the budget meeting

The Deputy Town Clerk has developed a set of Terms of Reference for a Climate Emergency Advisory Group and invitations to set organisations have been sent out. A number of organisations have responded and nominated a representative.

The Town Clerk has met with Adrian Cooper (Climate Change Task Force Leader) on two occasions; firstly to understand each organisation's approach to Climate Emergency and more recently areas for collaboration. These included:

- Revisiting the Hydro Scheme works
- Opportunities for solar and wind power on public estate land
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points Trials
- Procurement of Electric/Hydrogen powered vehicles
- Approach to Trees as mitigation



- STC Involvement in SC's Stakeholder Mapping Workshop designed to develop a Shropshire/Telford wide Climate Action Partnership with localised Sub-Groups

Town Council staff are continuing to work towards the Action Plan as adopted in September 2019 and ongoing work includes:

- Procurement of a solar scheme for the Quarry
- Procurement of Green Energy
- Procurement of electric hand tools for the Grounds Maintenance Team
- Exploration of Electric Vehicles for the Grounds Maintenance Fleet and the Mayor's Car
- Exploration of installation of EVCPs at Weeping Cross
- Commencement of a Buildings Audit to determine any energy efficiency measures
- Procurement of an Energy Efficient Boiler at Grange Youth Centre
- Shading work at the Greenhouse
- Expansion of the Tree Nursery at Weeping Cross
- Development of the Ash Die Back Action Plan
- Planting 2000 Trees
- Inclusion of Climate Emergency Criteria in every Tender Proposal
- Procurement in high energy efficient LED lighting for Christmas 2020

Workload

Currently COVID is taking up an extraordinary large amount of Senior Management Team time. This impacts on both the day job but also being able to work on both the Capital Programme and the Climate Emergency Agenda. Members' expectations need to be realigned to this current demand.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1. That the report be noted**
- 2. That the Deputy Town Clerk proceed with confirming membership and convening a meeting of the Advisory Group**
- 3. That the Town Clerk continue discussions with the Climate Change Task Force Leader**



Appendix 1

CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKSHOP NOTES 6 FEBRUARY 2020

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The Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk facilitated a workshop, which included an update on Council activities followed by a breakout session looking at per themes. Tables were asked to suggest areas for consideration. Attendees moved around all tables so that they could contribute to every theme.

Energy

- Promote using events
- Know who can help/skills
- To public and parishes
- Audit of local skills
- Green directory?
- Plus renewable generation, 100% renewable electricity, ESCO (become one), Weir Hydro
- Advice/support for heritage buildings
- Pressure on planning
- Pressure on large building users (University & schools)
- EV charging points (sell the electricity) Heritage buildings, schools & colleges
- Offer to see charging scheme at Environment Agency & air source heating system
- Trial community charging?
- Promotion / engaging with Shropshire & parishes
- Lack of skills

Climate Communication

- George Marshall 'Climate Outreach'
- TC Blueprint for SME's
- Transcend politics – bigger than small politics – forgiving politicians
- Darwin Festival – talk about climate
- Businesses:
- Town Council as a business
- Person in a position
- You get your business carbon neutral – get an award
- Citizen action
- Young people through school
- Eco council made up of students
- Tree planting
- School hedges – better than trees
- Citizen's juries – jury duty – formalise and fund
- already a central grant citizen's assembly
- This Think Tank is not a citizen's assembly
- People have more in common than what divides them
- Advertising misses a majority that can be engaged face to face
- People respond to calls for action – successful tree planting campaigns



- Past convincing stage
- Shrewsbury Climate Emergency accredit action
- Hard to reach people who are not in a position to care – inequality
- Provide families in need reusable bottles or recycling provisions

Community Engagement

- Ashley Street Collective – recycling, tool share on your street
- Rubbish ambassadors – building community by working with neighbours
- 5 x increase in recycling in Shropshire
- Start with 100? to get to 40,000 households – viral engagement
- Key moment to engage – parents picking up their kids from school
- Is scare advertising counter - productive?
- How can XR get academic advice
- XR evolving to mainstream
- Language matters – “emergency” and not “climate change”
- Engage with existing groups and informal networks
- BID to announce a climate emergency – businesses are living in the community
- Pedestrianise - increases financial viability of businesses.
- Car free day once a month
- People switched off from local politics
- Forgive politicians!!!
- Realistic about what (ordinary) person can achieve
- Educating/sharing with neighbours

Traffic/Travel/Transport

- Cancel North West Relief Road!!
- North West Relief Road is not a relief – it does nothing to “economic growth”
- Promote sustainable transport hierarchy (car is last resort)
- Influence planning that is not dependant on cars
- Reduce speed limits to 20mph (safer for pedestrians & cyclists)
- 20mph – air quality issues
- Work place parking charges
- Strategic plan for cycling network
- ‘final mile’ scheme – but hybrid trucks at night are ok
- Electric buses (changing demographic) – new government competition!! £50m
- Access /air equality charging?
- Pedestrianise the Town Centre (Shoplatch)
- New bus station
- Integrated ticketing, more regular services. Sundays!! Evenings.
- Rename Highways department as Mobility/Movement Department
- E Charging infrastructure
- Residential parking scheme
- Park & Ride (resistant to floods)



Waste Campaign Events

- Best practice waste contracts
- Repair Café
- How are events powered?
- Town Collections – public bins
- Recycling bins in town?
- Promoting Shrewsbury Cup
- Veolia - E.V @Energy saving trust
- Food Hub
- Food Waste – how many people separate it? What happens to it? Should the town be campaigning on this? Separation Food Waste Campaign
- Composting for the town? Britain in Bloom – are we producing our own compost?
- Support environment centre
- Information by video/projection onto building
- Promoting campaigns around reducing waste e.g. ways to show where water bottles can be re-filled
- Confusion over recycling

Trees/Community Orchard/Woodlands

- Where? – Homes
- Woodland Trust Home Tree Pack
- Offset
- Woodland Certification Scheme
- Crowd funding
- Tree precept (treecept)
- Hedgerows – Should we cut them?
- Involving Community – Connecting people with nature /through trees
- “Local Trees for local people”
- “The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second-best time is today”
- Shropshire Forest for gifting trees
- Planning regime for Conservation Area - TPO
- Use planning process
- Tree Conservation Officer
- Allotments
- Sponsor a tree (like roundabout sponsorship)

Workplaces

- Buying land in lieu of offsetting
- Badge scheme certification scheme
- Looking after existing trees
- Urban trees
- Land – Schools, Faith groups, workplaces/employees, groups, ENV.AG, Scouts etc



TERMS OF REFERENCE (Draft)

Climate Emergency Advisory Group

Membership

The Group will comprise representatives of council, climate related organisations and various community groups. Ten people will be invited from appropriate organisations to represent the community on the basis of their understanding of the climate emergency and links to the community, with consideration given to specific characteristics for representation such as age, gender and membership of targeted or general community groups.

Reports to: Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Frequency of Meetings: 4/5 per year.

Quorum: To be agreed by the Group.

Role of the group

Following the declaration of Climate Emergency Resolution on 26 March 2019, the overall purpose of this advisory group is to provide advice and support Finance and General Purposes Committee on how Shrewsbury Town Council might best proceed to reduce and measure any reduction in its (net) carbon footprint.

- The role of the group will be to advise Finance and General Purposes Committee on an appropriate Climate Emergency Action Plan for Shrewsbury Town Council.
- To represent the views and needs of relevant community organisations or community members regarding the climate emergency.
- To assist with engagement of the wider community on the agreed Climate Emergency Action Plan, including via the wider Climate Emergency group.
- To help identify high level strategic direction, opportunities, and goals that will address the climate emergency, which can be implemented practically.
- To review reports and feedback following community engagement to further inform the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- To further inform and recommend the resources needed to meet the Council's objectives in calling a climate emergency.