

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2022 AT 6PM AT 'VIRTUAL' LOCATIONS USING VIDEO AND AUDIO LINK

PRESENT

Councillor Amanda Wheeler (Chair), Councillor Shaun Ford (Vice-Chair), Councillor Dave Dorson, Councillor Marian Pitt, Patricia Stuart-Mogg (Town Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT Rachel Butler (Rivers Trust), Jenny Hall (Resident), Jim Irvine (Resident), John Polkinghorne (Sustainable Stamford), Michael Temple (Sustainable Stamford),

1. WELCOME

Councillor Amanda Wheeler welcomed all to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Gloria Johnson (Town Mayor), Val Harvey (Sustainable Stamford), Hannah Gold (Resident), Jane Rutherford (Resident), Kayleigh Nicolaou (Extinction Rebellion), Lauren Bennett (Langdyke Trust), Deanna Donovan (Sustainable Stamford), Simon Batty (Resident), Paddy Jelen (Civic Society), Jane Bateman (Sustainable Stamford), Councillor Joanne Winterbourne and Councillor Lisa Brewin had submitted their apologies. These were noted and accepted.

3. TO CONFIRM THE NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 09 February 2022 had been circulated and reviewed. There were no matters raised and the content was confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

4. UPDATE ON DRAFT TOWN CLIMATE PLAN AND TREE PLAN

John Polkinghorne presented a draft of elements which should be included in the Town Climate Plan.

It was recognised that the Government has requested cities, districts and towns to submit a Climate Change Plan. The focus of this action is mandatory towards cities rather than towns or districts. Lincolnshire County Council has produced a Green Master Plan on its own operations. It was also recognised that South Kesteven District Council had declared a Climate Emergency and had an Officer in place to monitor the Council's activities to enable the Council to monitor its operations internally.

It was considered that using the experience of Sustainable Stamford and the Town Council's Climate Action Working Group a Climate Plan could be produced incorporating the following topics.

Transport: Cycling and walking are being addressed already via Connect Stamford and Sustainable Stamford projects, however, walking and footpath clearing need attention and action. Local monitoring of SUV ownership, electric vehicles, cyclists, regular walkers could provide local useful statistical information.

Building/Housing: Construction of new houses needs to be monitored to ensure new developments address energy poverty in existing households, use of solar panels and heat pumps.

Energy: Support of the new Government initiative to install solar panels in schools. Installation of LED lighting in all Stamford Council properties; increase of insulation in all its buildings; consider the use of heat pumps to replace gas boilers where possible. Following discussion it was recognised that heat pumps are not appropriate for all locations.

Street lighting should be converted to LED lighting in Stamford and throughout the district. Additionally, the possibilities of a “dimming” or sensor activation scheme should be introduced.

Food: Encourage residents to grow more of their own food and register for allotments when available in the town.

High carbon products: Monitor local inappropriate advertising e.g. the glories of gas, oil, coal, all of which must be phased out appropriately.

Encourage local schools to set up a joint local schools Climate Change Action Group setting their own targets.

It was considered that there were many other topics which should be included such as Waste, Water usage, Transport and Biodiversity. A holistic approach to the production of the Climate Plan must be taken. It was noted that a Tree Plan has been produced which should be included within the Plan. It is important that the consultation document should be open to engage with the public to incorporate and include three key questions associated with each topic. Councillors Shaun Ford and Lisa Brewin expressed support to identify the questions. John Polkington offered to write the next Mercury item on engaging with the public. Councillor Dave Dorson expressed willingness to produce the social media and on-line consultation.

Tree Plan – It was noted that the initial Tree Plan which has now been expanded by Councillor Marion Pitt to include the space of the locations and the suggested trees species suitable for each site. The Plan was shared with the Working Group for consideration. This document would to be examined by Nima Julius, an Ecologist, to ensure the proposed species were the most appropriate and resilient to climate change.

5. **ACTION POINTS:**

- i. *Reducing Town Council Carbon Footprint* – Statement by the Council agreed. The logo to accompany the statement to be reviewed at the next meeting
- ii. *Blond Beet* – Talks on plant based products and individuals were encouraged to attend talks on 1st Wednesday of the month.
- iii. *Wildflower Planting* – Stamford Station Adopters are also engaged in developing wildflower planting on the banks of Stamford Station.
- iv. *Water refill station* – This matter is in hand.
- v. *Electric Charging points* – This matter is being progressed with the District Council

6. **STAMFORD MERCURY MONTHLY COLUMN**

The following schedule was reviewed for the Stamford Mercury monthly column on Climate issues:

May: Cycling – Matthew Cleathero

June: Climate Plan & Sustainable Stamford – John Polkinhorne

July: Plant base diet – Blond Beet.

It was suggested that articles could also appear in Stamford Living, as these articles are a channel to inform residents and raise awareness. The focus should be on “Refuse – Reduce - Redesign – Recycle – Reuse – Recover” so the articles promote eco-sustainability, tackling waste and pollution. It is also important to introduce consultation towards the Climate Crisis Plan.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 at 6pm tbc

The Chairman - Closed the meeting at 7.15pm.