

Climate Change Working Party

1st July 2019

Meeting Notes

Present:

Cllr H. Piper (Chairman)
Cllr R. Ransley
Cllr P. McDowell
Cllr N. Nutkins
Cllr B. Patterson
Cllr R. Hollinghurst
Cllr C. Townsend
V. Allan (Tring in Transition)
B. Kazer (Tring in Transition)
M. Curry
D. Slade

1. Terms of Reference

- The purpose of the Working Party is to make recommendations to the Allotment & Environment Committee in relation to the Committee's brief from the Council "To consider any matters relating to environmental issues affecting Tring, particularly in relation to climate change (Terms of Reference Item 4(c) Environment remit)
- On instruction and guidance from the Committee, develop recommendations. In determining its recommendations the Working Party should:
 - Focus on practical measures to reduce climate change and the harm being done to the environment
 - Identify ways to publicise and promote such measures
 - Work with other organisations to identify what is being done locally, best practice and co-operative ways of working
 - Embed consideration of climate change and environmental concern throughout the Council

2. A Declaration and Ambitions

- Following discussion of the various 'targets' for the reduction of emissions (The UK Government, Extinction Rebellion, EU and the Covenant of Mayors), the following recommendations were agreed:
 - The Council make a simple declaration acknowledging that there was a climate emergency
 - Review the commitments of the Covenant of Mayors in the context of alternatives, in order to make recommendations to the Allotment & Environment Committee meeting on Monday 9th September 2019 for a proposal to be put to the Council meeting 23rd September 2019

3. Points of Notes

- To ensure any publicity is effective it must span a variety of different channels of communication: social media, printed matter and newspaper articles
- It is important to benchmark the current situation in terms of emission levels and biodiversity
- To bring together knowledge of what organisations are doing throughout Tring
- Holding a conference was seen as a possible way forward
- The annual budget process begins in November
- Sustainable transport:
 - Red Rose have introduced a new, smaller vehicle
 - The conditions of HCC's bus contract stipulates the size of the vehicle
 - Providing charging points for electric vehicles
 - Some cyclists do not use cycle ways because of the hazard of vehicles (and pedestrians) emerging from residential access points

Date of Next Meeting: 19th August at 8:00pm or after the Planning Committee, whichever is later