

Notes from Climate Change Working Party Meeting held Wednesday 10th July 2019 at 14.30 in The Tower Clock Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present Cllrs Mellings, Nash, Drummond and Dee,

Simon Ross Marches Energy Agency.

Apologies Cllr Soul,

Simon Ross from the Marches Energy Agency was welcomed to the meeting and a discussion took place on the work that the Town Council had started on carbon reduction and projects to help combat climate change.

It was explained that the first stage of this process would be to establish what the Town Council's current carbon emissions were. The working group identified the following buildings /assets that came under the Town Council's ownership which it would be able to collate energy use from.

- Public toilets
- Town Council owned Street lights
- Butler Sports Centre and associated buildings
- Wem Swimming Pool

The view was expressed that the Town Council does not have the expertise or capacity from its members and staff team to undertake the calculations required to establish a baseline carbon emission figure for the Council and that this work would need to be outsourced. Simon explained that this was something they could help with and he was asked to submit a proposal for undertaking this work on behalf of the Town Council for consideration at the July meeting.

Once the baseline survey was completed it was agreed that the Town Council could then develop a strategy to reduce emissions in line with its aspirations in the April 2019 Climate Change motion and it was agreed that this could be launched at the October Public Meeting.

A further discussion took place on a joint project to research alternative energy on public buildings in the town with the aim of reducing reliance on oil. Simon recommended that the Town Council seek a meeting with Tim Yair, Regional Senior Energy Projects Officer from Midlands Energy Hub who could provide support to work up a grant application for a feasibility study into alternative energy for Town Council buildings.

A wider discussion took place on the need for the Town Council to produce a Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plans SECAP within 2 years of the original motion (April 2021) which is one of the criteria for signing up to the Covenant of Mayors.

A SECAP must include

- A Baseline emission Inventory
- Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Simon was asked to include the production of a SECAP as part of his proposal to work with the Town Council on this project.

Timeline for Actions

July	Meet with Sam Kirby-Bray. Sustainability Commissioning Officer at Shropshire Council to discuss support on offer.
July	Meet with Tim Yair, Regional Senior Energy Projects Officer from Midlands Energy Hub to discuss grant application for feasibility study for alternative energy sources for Town Council Buildings
July	Town Council consider proposal from Marches Energy Agency to undertake carbon emission survey on Town Council owned buildings
September	Carbon Survey complete and action plan to reduce emissions developed.
October	Public meeting to present work of Town Council to date and launch the creation of Wem Area Climate Forum aimed at reducing carbon emissions across Wem Area.
Ongoing	Work on action plan items
2020	Develop SECAP for submission at end of 2020

A general discussion took place on the need to plant more trees in the Town and it was reported that The Groundsman had been asked to suggest suitable places. A suggestion was made that the Shropshire Council owned land off Ranford Way could be turned into a community orchard, a project that could be developed with Incredible Edible

Meeting ended 15.45