



# WEM CIVIC SOCIETY

[Registered Charity No: 1001351]

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Mrs Penny O'Hagan  
Town Clerk  
Wem Town Council Offices  
Edinburgh House  
New Street  
Wem, Shropshire  
SY4 5DB

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Mrs O'Hagan

On behalf of Wem Civic Society I am writing to you to congratulate Wem Town Council on its approach to Climate Change. I have been asked to offer the society's full support in the council's plans to contribute both to the alleviation of the increasingly negative impact of climate change and help prevent further damage to our environment. We are all aware that present emissions will take between 10 and 20 years to work through the system.

The introduction of charging points for electric cars in Wem is particularly applauded. It will not only aid in lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also attract people to the town. The new 'pulse system' of charging will speed up operations significantly and lead to a step change in the use of electric vehicles. The type of charging station needs to be carefully selected – a rapid 'charge, pay and go' system is needed, not one that requires a complex registration by the driver at each charging operation.

There was one point of concern raised. The efforts of the council are concentrated on reducing existing emissions but not removing the pollutants. We would urge the council to look seriously at the potential offered by increasing tree cover in Wem. Trees not only mop up CO<sub>2</sub> but have a cooling effect on built areas – a positive feature for towns in the future. There is another impact to consider – Wem is becoming increasingly suburbanised in appearance – it is looking less of a market town. This is caused by many of the town's trees reaching maturity and for various reasons being felled but not replaced. Is it possible to revisit the work that was done on green networks in Wem and initiate a new Green Wem? Planting large swathes of trees need not be the only approach. Most of the wildlife trusts, including Shropshire's, are looking at urban solutions encapsulated by 'dig up the concrete/paving stones, etc. and plant a tree'. Maybe we could alter an old catchphrase and publicise the policy under the slogan, "Plant a tree for '23!".

Yours sincerely

*Shelagh Richardson*

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*Chairwoman: Wem Civic Society*