

Notes from Wem Area Climate Change Forum held on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 19.00 in
The Roden Suite, Edinburgh House

25 members of the public present

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr George Nash welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Appointment of a Forum Chairman and Secretary

This item was taken at the end of the meeting.

It was agreed to appoint Hilary Canto as Chairman of the Forum and that someone would be nominated to take notes at each meeting. The Town Council would in the beginning provide support to the forum by arranging meetings and send out notices of meetings via email.

3. Update from the Town Council on its Action Plan to become Carbon Neutral by 2030

The Clerk updated the meeting on the action of the Town Council to date and outlined the plans for the grant application to the Rural Community Energy Fund which if successful would help reduce the carbon footprint of the three buildings located at Bowensfield. She explained that further grant funding would need to be secured to implement any of the recommendations of the feasibility project so this was a long term project. She also updated on the fact that the Town Council is climate proofing all of the Town Council's contracts when they come up for renewal and currently the 2020 Floral Display Contract has been amended to reflect this.

4. What does the Forum want to achieve? – Discussion session to consider the role of the Forum and to discuss any projects and initiatives that it might want to pursue

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council intended that this Forum would be run by the community to pursue community-based projects that could in principal be supported by the Town Council but not run by it. It was anticipated that two councillors would try and attend each meeting and report back to the Town Council.

Views were shared on projects that could be developed by attendees which included the following suggestions:

Waste Reduction

Identify where waste collected by local companies (not Veolia) ends up – how much is recycled?

Arrange visit to incinerator in Shrewsbury so that residents can fully understand how rubbish is recycled.

Running a campaign to educate people on what we can and cannot recycle and ways to reduce waste.

Sign up for Plastic free Community Initiative.

Use forum to encourage Co-op to reduce waste.

Use the forum to measure the reduction in plastic use.

Water Saving

Build on the work of refill Wem and investigate the possibility of installing drinking fountains in key places in the town.

Food /Environment

Forum to work with farming community to create a local food policy and identify local sources of food supply.

Educate residents how to grow produce even in small spaces / container vegetable growing / key hole gardening.

Identify tree planting areas and possible areas for rewilding, seek permission from local landowners for these projects.

Create wildlife corridors in the town.

Identify areas of the town where verges could be cut less often along with possible planting of wildflowers on verges.

Sustainable Travel

Encourage more sustainable forms of travel – walking cycling.

Campaign for trains to stop at Wem more frequently.

Campaign for use of electric buses in the town.

Energy Efficiency in Residential properties

Investigate setting up a project to enable joint purchase of services to enable domestic properties to improve insulation or install solar panels that will improve heat retention and reduce energy bills.

Through all discussions the importance on engaging with the schools and Wem Economic Forum was discussed as being essential to the success of the project.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be organised for January and would be held in Wem Sports and Social Centre Function room.

Meeting ended 20.15