

**Climate Emergency Working Group Meeting**  
**Via Zoom, 10.00 am 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**In attendance:**

Cllr Mick Richardson(Chairman)

Cllr Darren Aitchison

Cllr Margaret Morris

Cllr Doreen Savage

Cllr Andy Smith

Debbie Frost, Deputy Town Clerk

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Seamus Bennett; Ash Tadjrishi, Town Clerk

**2. Notes from last meeting**

The notes were approved as accurate from the meeting on 9 October 2020.

**3. Update on Council Buildings/equipment**

Members were pleased to hear that insulation has now been fitted to Walton Community Hall and the Cemetery Toilets, also an insulated suspended ceiling has been fitted above the office and workshop at the Cemetery. All lighting throughout Council's buildings are now replaced with LED lighting when they fail.

Due to the pandemic the trial day for Battery power tools is still to be arranged, Members will be informed of the trial date so that a Climate Emergency Working representative can attend. The re-wilding on Langley Avenue will start in Spring.

Members considered when the appropriate time would be for the EPCs and DEC to be updated (cost of £35 each) but decided that more exploration on what can further be done to make Council's buildings more energy efficient. In 2016 a survey of Walton Community Hall was carried out as part of the Thriving Community Buildings project, this report will be circulated to members and further investigations can be made on whether there is further work that can make Walton Community Hall more energy efficient.

As the Town Hall continues to be vacant for the majority of the week, a digital app such as Hive or Nest is currently being investigated to make the heating of the Town Hall more efficient. Zone heating could also be investigated so that would increase efficiency further. The group noted that quotations were currently being sought via Council's Assets and Services Committee to replace or renovate the deteriorating wooden framed windows on the front elevation of the Town Hall and the large Council Chamber window and part of the consideration would be to make them more energy efficient.

**4. Community Engagement**

Members considered the list of environmental awareness days, several of which were already promoted locally by local environmental groups. It was felt that Compost Awareness week commencing 2 May could be promoted by the Felixstowe Allotment Association and an article be written in the Spring Magazine, and Recycle week 23 September could also be promoted in the Autumn Magazine and on social media. It was disappointing to note that the

Waste site at Felixstowe was likely to continue the booking system and this would make it difficult for householders to recycle tetrapaks as these could not go in the household recycle bins collected from each home.

It was felt that if we were to adopt an awareness day that Felixstowe ownership should be taken ie 'Love Felixstowe Day' with mainly an environmental theme. Youth Forum used to highlight areas in the town that were scruffy and needed litter picking etc. The Great British Spring Clean would be an ideal awareness day to promote work on a particular area. The Grove was suggested as an area where a lot of environmental work could be carried out on such a day. The Great British Spring Clean dates are normally in Spring but due to the Pandemic have not been announced, last year when restrictions allowed a low key Great British Autumn Clean was carried out. It would be good to get schools involved in this via the Youth Forum.

## **5. Schools**

It was good to see that the Idling Banners were now on display outside all local schools, an article was placed in the Winter Magazine. Due to the schools being closed, Members had been unable to go into schools to ask for feedback from them on how the Climate Emergency Working Group could help support them. It was agreed that the Youth Forum would be a good place to find out exactly what environmental projects each school was currently working on. This would encourage cross-learning between schools and would then lead onto Members visiting schools when they were operating as normal again after lockdown. The Youth Forum would be asked to call a special Environmental themed meeting which would take place over Zoom/Teams as soon as it could be arranged.

Members agreed on the following allocation for Schools to work with later in the year once able to:

Mick Richardson	Colneis Junior School
Darren Aitchison	Fairfield Infants and the Felixstowe Academy
Margaret Morris	Grange Primary School and Langer Primary Academy
Ash	Kingsfleet Primary School
Nick	Maidstone Infants and Causton Junior School

Members were curious as to whether anyone would now be checking on whether the Idling posters were effective and cars were no longer left idling outside the schools. A few years ago the Youth Forum did have some schools adopt a Junior Traffic Warden scheme, and it was agreed that this would be worth further discussion at the Youth Forum Environmental meeting.

It was unfortunate that the trip to Felixstowe Academy to consider their capacity for a 'Tree planting scheme' and look at cycle links had to be postponed due to Covid-19, but this would be arranged in due course.

## **6. Training**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported, that a search for training courses had been recently made, but there were currently no suitable training courses that could be found by training providers such as SALC, Friends of the Earth, Climate Action or other providers online. If members find any training courses that would be helpful please let all working group members know.

## **7. Action Plan – Next steps**

Members updated the Action Plan as attached.

Members agreed that the action regarding inviting Flagship Housing to Planning & Environment with CEWG members also invited, should be treated as urgent and an invite should be made in the next couple of weeks. *Update from meeting Flagship will be attending P&E on 10<sup>th</sup> March to talk about Ground Source Heat Pumps.*

Members discussed cycle routes, in particular the cycle lane on High Road East and West and also strategic cycle routes from the North to the West of the town. This will be referred to the Planning & Environment Committee for discussion on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## **8. Report for Council in March**

A report from this working group will be brought to Planning & Environment on 24<sup>th</sup> February for onward referral to Full Council in March.

## **9. Date of next Meeting**

Date to be confirmed by Doodle poll, once schools are back to normal and Youth Forum's Environmental meeting can take place. Aim for May/June.