

Climate Emergency and Environment Working Group Update

1. Background

In April 2021, the Parish Council passed the following resolution:

“This Council is increasingly concerned about the impact on the environment within the Parish, and beyond, of climate breakdown and the associated Climate Emergency and is committed to supporting the Wiltshire Council initiative to reduce emissions and to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by no later than 2030.”

The motion further resolved to: *“Establish a Climate Emergency and Environmental Working Group that will identify a carbon reduction strategy and associated policies for the Parish, co-opting as appropriate and necessary, community volunteers from interested groups to assist with this work.”*

The Climate Emergency and Environment Group was established in September 2021. Over the subsequent four years, the Working Group focussed on raising awareness about climate change and sustainability, and practical projects to support the natural environment.

These included the following:

- Climate survey of residents.
- Two Energy Saving and Nature Events at the village hall.
- Wellbeing and Sustainability Weekend, in collaboration with the Community Committee.
- Free thermal imaging camera loan scheme.
- Collaboration with the Bristol Avon River Trust on restoration of the River Marden.
- Free Tree Scheme.
- Promotion of the Calne Community Nature Reserve Scheme.
- Community Orchard.
- Bicycle Rack Planters.

2. Working Group Update

The Working Group currently comprises Cllrs Barnes, Handyside and MacInnes, as well as the Parish Clerk.

The Group has held a kick off meeting which has identified a range of ideas for potential projects. These include:

- Nature conservation projects within the parish, either parish-led or in collaboration with third parties.
- Public EV Charging Point in the village.
- Participating in the Wiltshire Green Homes Open Weekend.
- Organising regular Environment & Sustainability evening events in the Village Hall.
- Sustainability and Environment column in the Parish Magazine.
- Promoting nature-friendly gardening.

3. Next Steps

The Working Group felt that it was important to involve more community members in the Working Group, both to help generate ideas and to support initiatives.

It was agreed that the Working Group would organise and advertise an informal relaunch event at the Lansdowne Arms on the evening of Monday 16th March.

4. Recommendation

That the Report be noted.