

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Monday 23rd January 2023, 2-4pm



WARRINGTON
CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Organisations Represented:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Business Declares
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce
- Natural England
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- **Outstanding actions not covered elsewhere on agenda**
 - The council submitted a bid to Innovate UK 'Net Zero Living Pioneering Places' fund to develop a mission focused net-zero method for local application drawing on innovation diffusion theory. The bid was unfortunately unsuccessful but the Net Zero Living Programme includes a fast follower competition, the details of which have now been released and the competition due to open soon
- **Communications Update**
 - Since the last meeting the Commission was represented at a faith climate event where a presentation was given on the new climate strategy
 - Adverts were run to coincide with COP27 to promote the commission's social media accounts. These resulted in a doubling of Twitter followers and tripling on Facebook
 - The intention is to progress a climate action website later in the year linking up with other local climate activity
 - Work is ongoing to set up a dedicated mailing list to enable e-bulletins to be sent out to interested parties
- **Commission's Forward Plan**
 - A forward plan for the year had been drafted and was presented. This gives a simple overview setting out the main activities anticipated for the Commission plans over 2023 and the associated timescales
 - A key activity is organising a public climate forum event
 - Discussion took place around engagement activities with the general public
 - It was agreed to form a task group to bring communications interests together and develop the communications plan further
 - It was suggested to cross-promote climate work with other messaging that is already being put out e.g. cost of living, transport initiatives etc.
 - Several opportunities for engagement were suggested by members of the commission including business event, annual property review and university event

- It was agreed to adopt the forward plan as a working plan taking on board the communications activities discussed
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)**
 - Natural England presented on LNRS and the role of Natural England in their delivery
 - The core purpose of LNRS is to help the reverse of the ongoing decline of biodiversity and nature
 - LNRS aims to help restore and link up habitats so that species can thrive; the process will ensure local partners collaborate to agree the best places to help local nature recovery
 - Natural England have a leading role in supporting responsible authorities to achieve the purpose, aims and process of LNRS
 - There is huge crossover between the climate and ecological emergencies and Natural England hope to feedback activity on LNRS through this group
- **Net-Zero Review**
 - The Government's Net Zero Review which the Commission and the council both responded to last year has now been published
 - The review picks up many of the points that were raised in the submissions made by the Commission and council
 - It has re-emphasised the importance of net-zero for the economy and also highlighted the importance of local areas in delivering climate action
- **Council Updates**
 - The council have set up an internal task and finish group made up of representatives from each directorate. The group exists to develop a council climate action plan by the end of March
 - A cyclops junction (cycle accessible cross roads) is expected to have works on site towards summer following consultation.
 - The council's in-house carbon literacy training course is now up and running, with around 50 officers already completed or part-completed their e-learning
 - The council have submitted 2 bids to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for the Town Hall and Walton Hall and are expecting to hear back imminently
- **Any other business**
 - No other business

Main Actions:

- Commission to progress activities outlined in the forward plan
- A task group is to be set up to progress communications plan

Next Meeting: Monday 6th March 2-4pm