

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Monday 6th March 2023, 2-4pm



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 the Net Zero Living Fast Followers fund. This fund is focused on overcoming non-technical systemic barriers to achieving net-zero. If successful, a Net-Zero Innovation & Delivery officer post will be established to deliver a project. News on the bid is expected mid-April.
- **Planning Update: Developing a new Design Supplementary Planning Document**
 - The council's urban planning design officer presented to the Commission on the process for developing an updated design guide
 - The updated design guide will put greater emphasis on a fabric first approach to new developments, that have a lower whole life carbon impact, are more resilient to the effects of climate change and have a positive impact on nature
 - The updated design SPD will go through several draft stages in 2023 with the final version due to be finalised and adopted in 2024
 - Representatives from Natural England and Cheshire Wildlife Trust offered their support in incorporating incoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain design principles into the guide
- **Warrington Climate Emergency Forum 2023**
 - The Commission plan to host a climate emergency forum in 2023, the date and location of which is yet to be determined. The forum could be a series of events and activities over several days or one event
 - Work has begun to establish a programme for the forum and identify potential speakers/activities.
 - A smaller task group is to be set up to progress arrangements
 - Support was requested from the council's communications team to promote the event

- **Communications Update**
 - The Commission now have an online newsletter sign up tool on the webpage and a newsletter template has been prepared, the Commission hope to circulate regular e-bulletins to those signed up
 - A Linked In account has now been set up for the Commission, work will be needed to grow the account
 - A proposal was prepared for a communications focused 'Climate Action Network' group, made up of organisations or climate leads from across the borough to progress climate change engagement work
 - This proposal is to be circulated following the meeting and all commissioners were asked to provide feedback
 - Two short video explainers were in development to introduce the Commission's strategy and the borough-wide Count Me In climate action pledge campaign.
- **Council Updates**
 - No updates to report
- **Commission Membership**
 - The council are to clarify their principal representatives on the Commission
 - Discussion took place regarding inviting new contacts to participate in the Commission
 - The Commission agreed to approach representatives from the LEP/NW Net Zero Hub, Warrington & Vale Royal College, the University of Chester, NHS Integrated Care Board to invite participation as well as a schools representative currently organising a proposed local school climate conference
- **Any other business**
 - No other business

Main Actions:

- Commission to set up a task group to continue to progress work to organise the Climate Emergency Forum event
- Members of the Commission to contribute feedback on the event programme, and also provide feedback on the proposed 'Climate Action Network' and video explainers
- Representatives from agreed organisations are to be invited to the next Commission meeting

Next Meeting: Monday 1st May 2-4pm (later rescheduled to Friday 5th May 10-12pm due to bank holiday)