

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Friday 1 September 2023 10am-12pm



Organisations Present:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- NHS Integrated Care Board
- Schools representative
- University of Chester
- Tim Frenneaux (*presenter*)

Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- **Doughnut Economics** – *presentation from Tim Frenneaux*
 - A presentation on Doughnut Economics was given by Tim Frenneaux, a regenerative business designer and member of Leeds Doughnut Coalition.
 - Doughnut economics is a framework that brings both environmental and social issues together, to map out a space where humanity can exist within the means of the planet.
 - It is possible to map out the activities of an organisation or place onto the theoretical doughnut model, to identify opportunities where they can reduce their impact against each of the social and ecological limits. This can help inform priorities for action.
 - It is also used as a valuable tool in many organisations to inform decision-making and projects.
- **Notes of previous meeting and action points not covered elsewhere on agenda**
 - A meeting has been arranged with Ecospheric to progress discussions on the proposed Warrington retrofit network.
- **Warrington Climate Emergency Forum 2023**
 - The planned Climate Emergency Forum will now take place in late November/early December to coincide with the UN COP28 negotiations.
 - The Forum was originally planned to coincide with the schools climate conference in September, however this will now take place in the New Year. There may be some scope to host a teacher's event to tie in with the Forum programme however, with a focus on writing school action plans.
 - A number of events have been proposed and venues have been contacted for availability.
 - Availability and prices for Culture Warrington venues were circulated ahead of the meeting. The University of Chester campus is also being investigated for availability in the new timeframe.
 - Some discussion took place on possible funding routes for individual events.

- Members of the Commission are invited to come forward with any additional contributions for content.
- It is expected that there will be a mix of in-person and online events.
- **Communications Update**
 - The council's communications team have been working to launch the new action plan and promote the Solar Together scheme.
 - Work will soon begin to launch the proposed Climate Action Network. This will be an informal network of communications professionals from organisations across Warrington, encouraging collaboration and sharing of best practice.
 - A scoping exercise has begun for the new Warrington Climate Action website. A small task and finish group is to be established to take discussions further on initial functionality.
 - It is expected initially that the website will host information about the Commission, the strategy, newsletter, and pledge campaign, but will be further developed over time.
 - Any Commission members interested in taking part in discussions are to come forward.
 - The current newsletter audience is limited, efforts need to be made to promote this as much as possible. There was some debate as to whether to publish the first newsletter, or continue efforts to build the audience. All members of the Commission are to promote the newsletter where possible.
- **Commission Annual Report**
 - The Commission are due to prepare an annual report on progress against the climate strategy since it was published in 2022. This will capture local activity including steps taken by the Commission to accelerate action.
 - Commissioners were invited to share any updates or information on local climate action to be captured in the report.
- **Council Updates**
 - The council's Climate Action Plan has now been launched and both the full version and summary version are available online.
 - A new climate and sustainability implications section is to be introduced to all Cabinet reports from September, to ensure these issues are being considered by decision-makers.
 - The council took part in the environmentally themed weekend of events hosted by Culture Warrington at the end of July, to promote the new action plan. The Commission also had a presence to promote the strategy and wider work.
 - Work is underway with the winning contractors for both heat pump projects at Walton Hall and the Town Hall. Both projects have presented some challenges to date.

- The Solar Together Cheshire & Warrington scheme launched earlier this week and has already generated significant interest, with nearly 700 registrations in the first few days. Working in collaboration with both other Cheshire authorities, the scheme intends to harness the group-buying power of residents and businesses who are interested in installing solar panels on their properties. The council welcomed the support of Commissioners to promote this scheme. Registration will close at the end of October.
- Progress is being made to set up the Innovate UK funded Carbon Culture project. Initiation meetings have been held with the project collaborator Pure Leapfrog, who will be developing training and support for local Parish councils and businesses. A more detailed presentation is to be provided at a future meeting.
- **Any other business**
 - The NHS ICB sustainability board have requested an update on relevant activities in Warrington. The Commission were invited to attend an upcoming meeting.
 - Culture Warrington are due to deliver Carbon Literacy training to their senior management and board members on Monday 4th December, to tie in with the global Carbon Literacy Action Day campaign.
 - The University of Chester's sustainability team are currently undergoing recruitment and are working to build a programme of activity for next year.
 - The Warrington annual business conference is due to held on 15th September.
 - The Chamber aim to promote the climate newsletter where possible including via the Warrington & Co newsletter and through the Warrington business exchange magazine.

Main Actions:

- Commissioners to consider where they can support in planning the proposed Climate Emergency Forum
- All Commissioners to share any relevant activity from their respective organisations/sectors for the Commission's annual report
- All Commissioners to promote the Warrington Climate Emergency Newsletter where possible

Next Meeting: Monday 6 November 2023 2-4pm