Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams meeting - Monday 6th November 2023, 14:00 – 16:00

Organisations present:

- **University of Chester**
- **NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board**
- **Natural England**
- **Warrington Borough Council**

- **Culture Warrington**
- **Warrington Vale Royal College**
- **Warrington Chamber of Commerce**
- **Cheshire Wildlife Trust**

Items Discussed on the Agenda:

1. **Notes of previous meeting and action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

- Notes approved from Septembers meeting
- Further discussion has taken place with Ecospheric on developing a local building retrofit network where progress was made towards narrowing the scope of the project. Currently in a position where interested parties may be gathered to create an advisory panel. A proposal is to be drafted but this hasn't been clarified yet.
- The high number of houses requiring retrofitting was discussed in relation to the Warrington Skills Commission. It was identified that there are significant opportunities for employment within retrofitting vocations. This is important for educational sectors to consider to ensure that there is local understanding of skill set gaps in the area. This could be done following guidance from the Local Skills Improvement Strategy.
- Following this, the need for ecology and landscaping skills for climate adaptation was discussed.

- ➤ **Supplementary Planning Document on design update**

- A previous overview of the planned process though which design guidance was to be developed took place back in March. An update was provided on the borough wide design code.
- The Supplementary Planning Guidance on Design is a significant opportunity to advance local climate objectives, helping those proposing new developments to understand and give due consideration to these matters.
- The latest SPD Is designed to be fit for purpose for the next 10 years and to reflect current and future needs, consolidate existing guidance, address climate emergency goals and public health inequality, and be aspirational and visionary.
- Within the SPD a baseline study was conducted to determine the key constraints and opportunities both currently and for the future of Warrington such as out of town centres and Warrington's Road networks.
- The ambition of the SPD is to implement ambitious design quality and innovation, promote climate resilience, welcome retrofitting, lead with identity to avoid generic development, to be inclusive of community led development, and to connect Warrington's communities.

- o The town centre, inner Warrington, and suburban and countryside settlements are the areas in which the ambition must reflect. Future development plans are expected to reflect this document.
- o The document is expected to undergo external consultation before Christmas with full implementation planned for March.
- o The SPD should help to improve the standard of development in Warrington because the material considerations of developers can be used to push back for better design.

➢ **Climate Commission Annual report**

- o Our strategy signals that we will produce an annual report on the commissions progress.
- o There has been input from most commissioners and the report will be in its final format within the next few days.

➢ **Warrington Climate Emergency Forum 2023**

- o Plans for the Climate Emergency Forum have progressed significantly since the last meeting with support from several members of the commission.
- o The Forum programme was shared prior to the meeting with the dates and times of the meeting and links to the booking pages. The following four events have been finalised:

  - A Repair Café at Birchwood Community Centre.
  - A screening and discussion of the Business of Nature documentary from The Save our Wild Isles series at Cineworld.
  - A climate express event hosted at the university centre in Times Square.
  - A session at the Pyramid arts centre to coincide with the Carbon Literacy Action Day.

- o Some potential events are still under discussion including one organised by Stockton Heath Parish Council in December, but these will miss the early publicity push as details are not yet confirmed.
- o The draft programme for the climate express event was also shared ahead of the meeting. Commissioners discussed having stalls at the event.

➢ **Communications update**

- o Events for the Climate Emergency Forum are all on Eventbrite, which provides general information and allows people to book onto the events.
- o A web page has also been set up, which has replaced the solar together scheme page.
- o Social media shareables have been produced to advertise the programme.
- o There has been a positive response from other communications colleagues regarding the Climate Emergency Forum events. The programme will be shared across the wider network.
- o Further discussions about budget to boost advertising for uptake onto the events is ongoing.

➢ **Council updates**

- o Progress monitoring of the Council's action plan continues, with 90% of updates received for the first quarter.

- The Carbon Culture project with Innovate UK is progressing. Meetings have taken place with the advisory panel and Pure Leapfrog to continue developing parish council and local business toolkits for carbon literacy training.
- Recent work has taken place with the internal comms team to advance uptake onto the carbon literacy workshops to advance the position towards a 'Silver' carbon literate status.
- Applications for the Solar Together scheme have closed. Over 1,200 residents in Warrington have signed up and WBC are awaiting information on quote acceptance ahead of installation.
- A visit to WVR college has been arranged to discuss the councils climate emergency action plan with the sustainability working group.

➢ **Any other business**

- A new programme lead for LNRS has been appointed by Cheshire West and Chester. They are keen to meet and join the commission as well as circulating a broad communications package of information to the wider district to promote LNRS.

Next meeting: Our next meeting is Monday 8th January 2-4pm.