



WARRINGTON
CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams meeting – Monday 11th March, 14:00 – 16:00

Organisations present

- University of Chester
- Natural England
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce
- Warrington Borough Council
- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board
- Warrington and Vale Royal College

Items discussed on the agenda:

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

- Notes from January's meeting were approved.
- We are still awaiting the LEP commissioned housing retrofit study, which is due imminently. It was highlighted that it may be useful to link this study to local stories.

2. Communications update

a. Newsletter

- A 'lead generation' advert was run to boost subscribers to the Warrington Climate Emergency Commission newsletter ahead of the January edition. The campaign was successful in boosting uptake by 185 subscribers. Commissioners were reminded of the need to keep promoting sign up to the newsletter [[sign up to the Warrington Climate Emergency Commission newsletter](#)].
- It is important that newsletters are sent out regularly as indicated in the forward plan. The next issue is scheduled for the end of May. Commissioners were encouraged to share any local climate related stories or to encourage people in their networks to do so, so we can showcase the work which is taking place in Warrington and illustrate the actions we are encouraging.
- Ideas for future content discussed included:
 - Groundwork's recent appointment to deliver decarbonisation support to businesses located in Warrington.
 - A sustainability event named 'turning the college green', taking place next week at Warrington and Vale Royal College. The event consists of stalls and talks from various organisations including Halfords who will be encouraging active travel.
 - Recent work to install new insulation in Birchwood Community Centre. This was funded by Warrington Community Energy. As a result, energy bills for the site have halved.
- The LNRS public consultation survey will have closed before the newsletter is published. Commissioners were thus encouraged to share the LNRS survey through their channels and submit any sites in Warrington which could be mapped as priority areas for investment into nature's recovery.

b. Social media

- How to deal with negative comments left on the successful Facebook advert was discussed to agree an approach to similar responses in the future.
- It was agreed to avoid engaging in detailed argument with those posting negative or misleading comments directly but to use a standard response that linked to credible sources of further information (e.g., Sceptical Science, a website which rebuts common climate myths) This should help to present a more balanced view than leaving misleading comments without a response without wasting time.
- Social media content was also raised. To improve the commission's online reach, it was suggested that social media content needs to be local, and the format may need changing. To address this a communications plan may need producing. As with the newsletter, more engaging local material relied on a joint effort from across the commission and beyond to gather relevant material to share on an ongoing basis.

3. Young people/schools' engagement

- Some work had been initiated within the council to promote sustainable practices in schools. A leaflet is planned alongside a questionnaire for schools to opt into to a wider school's network.
- The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership was flagged as an existing opportunity for engagement. The Pledge links employers with schools to inspire young people on careers. However, this network focuses on connecting employers with educators rather than creating connections between schools which are focused on sustainability.
- The University of Chester is currently in the process of planning a youth conference in collaboration with Green Expo for Chester.
- Organising an early spring youth engagement programme was in the initial commission forward plan. However, it was raised that an early spring/summer date may not be feasible due to exams and other deadlines for students.
- It was suggested that any events should be interactive to increase engagement.
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust is currently working with the University of Chester to with a view to carrying out a study to help understand how to get young people involved in nature. This was subject to a funding bid, but if successful could expand engagement activity work in Warrington
- It was agreed that a meeting be organised involving interested parties from the commission to discuss in expanding youth engagement.

4. Council / commission partners updates

WBC

- A second cycle of climate action plan progress updates has been gathered.
- Warrington's Own Buses took delivery of their first electric bus last week.
- The council has received local transport funding commitment. It was suggested that an officer from the environment and transport directorate is invited to a future meeting to update on plans for transport in the borough.

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board

- There is work taking place within hospitals where there are active representatives.
- To progress the creation of an public sector engagement network a discussion is needed as to how wide the public sector engagement network should be. C&WICB to engage with Warrington NHS interests.
- It was highlighted that a Cheshire network involving NHS and other public sector organisations had been identified. Further details were being sought to understand if this would be a useful forum for Warrington interests too.

5. Supplementary Planning Document consultation response

- The chair confirmed submitting a response on behalf of the commission to the SPD consultation. The key points included in the response were: the need to strengthen some of the passive wording used; highlighting the possibility of using vehicle to grid/home connections; and to ensure that new homes are built to meet a Passive House standards.

6. Any other business

- Warrington is the location for a new energy advice demonstrator project called Retrofit for Lets. This is being delivered by charity Pure Leapfrog with support from various partners include the council. It was proposed that a representative working on the project is invited to the next meeting to present.

Next meeting: Our next meeting is Monday 13th May 2-4pm