

Woodham Walter, Fighting Climate Change together

Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7pm

Woodham Walter Women's Club Room

Meeting of those interested in the Woodham Walter Climate Action Working Group

Notes from meeting hosted by Woodham Walter Parish Council

Present: Parish Council: James Rushton (JR), John Brown (JB), Jacky Bannerman (JEB)

Others: Graham Bannerman (GB), Sue Dodd (SD WW Primary School), Valerie Loveland (VL), Dave Slate (DS), Chris Wheadon (CW), Paul (PC) & Viv Clark (VC)

Apologies: John Tompkins, James Bunn, Joanna Symons, Jenny Hughes, Peter Warren, Geoff Hicks, Cathy & Ian Barber.

Cllr. James Rushton outlined the reason for the meeting; that the Parish Council were hoping to form a working group to look at Climate Action in Woodham Walter and how the community may be able to play their part in reaching the 2030 and 2050 Government Climate targets. It is hoped that a group of enthusiastic volunteers would take this forward in the village and present recommendations to the Parish Council.

It was explained that this would not be a sub-committee of the Parish Council but a Village Working Party. The Parish Council's role would be to help facilitate and encourage participation to help Woodham Walter.

The Parish Council has recently adopted a Climate Action Statement and Biodiversity Policy and details of these documents were shared.

There was then an open discussion of sharing ideas and comments from those present.

- Good idea to reach out to other groups who have already formed such as Danbury and Tollesbury. Big projects for our small community are probably not feasible on our own.
- Small wins for the village could include reduced mowing of Bell Meadow and creating more of a meadow (with mown paths and the football pitch area continuing to be mown) which would result in enhanced biodiversity as well as fuel savings.
- Areas could be re-wilded with wildflower seeds. Encourage reduced mowing throughout the village.
- CW Explained about the Living Landscapes project. Made introductions to local farmer, Daniel Mountier who has engaged in a project to enhance the hedgerows on his farmland in the village. Essex County Council Forestry Team are due to have a meeting to discuss and it looks hopeful that works to plant could take place in the Autumn. Volunteers may be needed to help with planting. Daniel has already created several wildflower areas around his farm.
- Biodiversity projects will be easier to achieve in WW and a proportionate response for a small community.
- PC - Community should think about the things they are already doing and report these as part of the discussion. E.g., the church has a wildflower area but people may not realise this. Individuals should take responsibility for how they can reduce their personal impact e.g., consider use of cars and reduce the number of journeys by planning ahead. Maybe lift sharing? A community shopping list?

- SD explained that the school have a Climate Action/School Development plan and it would be a good idea to let the village know what they are doing.
- School traffic into/out of the village makes up a significant proportion of journeys in the village. Consider looking at ways of lift sharing and walking bus.
- Reduce speeds through the village to 20mph.
- A village shop would be a good way of reducing journeys.
- Heating Oil one of the biggest problems to rural communities in tackling Climate Action.
- Mobile shops – e.g., weekly fish van on Monday at 1pm. Are there any others who could visit?
- Ground source heating – local resident offered to provide information on their experience.
- Air source heating – local resident offered to provide information on their experience.
- Thermal Imaging Camera – if one was available to hire in the village this could be advantageous to lots of people.
- Simple things that everyone can do e.g., changing to LED lights. Turn off your lights when not in use. Turn off appliances when not in use. Reduced external lighting.

After open discussion there did not appear to be any volunteers prepared to take on the role of leading a Working Party. It was felt that the following action points should be further considered.

1. Public Meeting (hosted at the school) to bring together information and ideas. Action in Spring/Summer. Invite speakers to talk about their knowledge or experiences and general open session for ideas sharing. (Invite: Danbury/Tollesbury groups – School presentation – my experience with a ground source heat pump/air source heat pump/solar panels – what is currently available to the village e.g. oil buying group, fish van visits)
2. Village News – regular Climate Action page. What is already happening. Share ideas and information. Could be sponsored by Oil Buying Group? PC to write an opinion piece.
3. Hedgerows (increased hedges on farmland in WW) CW to coordinate.
4. Bell Meadow re-wilding (Parish Council)
5. Sharing e.g. Transport – Shopping – Oil Buying (would need a coordinator)
6. Liaising with other organisations e.g., Danbury / Tollesbury
7. Thermal Imaging Camera – rental
8. Encourage residents to turn off external lighting. Replacement to LED of streetlights.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate those present with the information and links presented.

Useful and relevant information Shared with Meeting

WWPC Climate Action Strategy & Biodiversity Policy

Draft Terms of Reference

Tollesbury Climate Partnership

Sustainable Danbury Leaflet

Cut Your Carbon (Thirty for 30) Leaflet

Useful links

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/>

<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/essex-advice-pack>

<https://sustainablethanbury.org/>

https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20095/home_energy_and_climate_change

https://www.maldon.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18809/climate_action_strategy_jan_2022.pdf

<https://www.facebook.com/tollesburyclimatepartnership/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution>

https://assets.ctfassets.net/64jx5x/4lhrw6uXe2g19YxYWkfsk6/eba8f76776738b010f21d3e7f3b9add2/9422_Climate_Action_Plan_Report_v3_-_Digital_Accessible.pdf

https://assets.ctfassets.net/64jx5x/66iYahk4XL00lcZCvR4onW/8fbcfe22c41be72255259037e96128a8/Essex_Climate_Action_report_2021-22.pdf