

Minutes of a meeting of the CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP held on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 1.00pm via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor S Barnes, Councillor I Burns, Councillor A Smith & Councillor A Semple

Also Present: Councillors Tyson & Watson

143 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

144 Public Participation

There was none

145 Declaration of Interest

The Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest due to his membership of various bee organisations.

146 Climate Change Emergency

Those present considered the replies received in respect of the actions completed at the last meeting.

Agreed – That progress be noted.

147 Kendal's Climate Change Citizen's Jury Recommendations

A diverse group of 20 Kendal residents who reflected their community in terms of age, disability, gender and attitude to climate change met over four months in the summer of 2020 and after listening to a wide range of outside experts worked together to come to a detailed set of recommendations in answer to the following questions 'What should Kendal do about the emergency of climate change?'

The recommendations were then ranked within the theme and allocated a number of points as well as given an overall ranking.

Agreed - That the Kendal Climate Change Citizen's Jury recommendations be noted.

148 Tackling Climate Change

The January 2020 Clerk Magazine contained a special feature: tackling climate change. The feature contained top tips for action now, FOE advice, discussed community energy, Government Policy and 12 case studies from parish councils large and small.

Those present considered the recommendations and discussed which could be taken forward by the Task Group.

Recommended – That the following actions be included in our list of possible actions and implemented as soon as practicable:-

Support the formation of an Allerdale Partnership Climate Change Group drawing on expertise from councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, business and skills providers. The Group will consider actions and strategies being developed by Allerdale Borough Council and partnership organisations and develop a borough wide strategy.

Vocally support applications for new renewable energy in Cockermouth

Ensure we know the climate change or nature implications of our decisions before we make them.

Be aware of planning and climate change legislation

Strive to become an Earth Protector Town

Recognise, promote and partake in:

Earth Hour
Earth Day
World Environment Day
Clean Air Day
Cycle to Work Day
Zero Waste Week
Zero Emissions Day
World Car Free Day
International Walk to School month
National Clean up Day
National Bee Day

Write to all take-away outlets and businesses in Cockermouth to reduce their waste.

Encourage paperless meetings

Use water retaining planters

Encourage members/staff to carry refillable bottles and re-useable cups

Work with Allerdale and CCC to convert footway lighting to LED and/or trial solar lighting.

Speak to the Chamber of Trade about the introduction of a Cockermouth Cup for use in cafes and restaurants. Customers pay £1 deposit for a Cockermouth Cup, enjoy their drink and return the cup to any participating café to get their £1 back. Cups are then washed ready to be used again.

Promote safe walking routes through TIC

Promote/help organise litter picking events

Residents to be encouraged to let their gardens become wildlife havens

Ask CCC to provide a selection of climate change books for our library

Organise speakers and children's activities relating to climate change in the library

Hold information events to inform residents

Consider how we can reduce food waste – find out what is being done locally

Ask local chefs to suggest seasonal meals

Lobby Government for the development of a country wide food and farming strategy

Work with CAfS to produce a training and accreditation scheme to enable local builders/trades persons to gain all the necessary skills for retrofitting homes

Work with CAfS to provide an ongoing awareness scheme to every home in Cockermouth informing owners of the steps they can take to retrofit homes, the help available and provide a list of accredited companies

Appoint a climate change lead councillor and officer

Encourage councillors and staff to take part in suitable climate change education programmes to ensure that they are better able to make the informed decisions required.

Include such trainings as part of their induction.

Encourage the Creation of a one stop shop/climate change hub/information centre in Allerdale.

Do an audit of what activities/groups are already taking action to address climate Change

Include continue our subsidised bus routes into town centre

Liaise with ABC & CCC to Improve cycling provisions

Encourage car sharing

Establish a tree sponsorship scheme

Continue to budget yearly to help us fund our aspirations

The meeting closed at 1.40pm