

Cockermouth Town Council



23 February 2022

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Climate Change Action Group to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 1.00pm for the purpose of the under-mentioned business.

Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

All welcome.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Brown

1. **Minutes – To agree as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting (pages 1-2)**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Declaration of Interest** – Members to give notice of any disclosable pecuniary interest, other registrable interest or any other interest and the nature of that interest in relation to any item on the agenda in accordance with the code of conduct.
4. **Public Participation**
 - a) To answer any questions from members of the public in accordance with the Summary of Public Rights
 - b) To receive a petition from a member of the public in accordance with the Summary of Public Rights
5. To chat to Julia Robinson regarding the works of Climate Emergency West Cumbria.
6. **Climate Change Emergency** – To consider our list of possible actions and decide which to take forward over the next quarter **(pages 3-5)**
7. **Date of next Meeting**

Press and Public Welcome

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Joint Winners

Council of Europe Year 2000

Europe Prize

Previous Awards

Plaque of Honour, Flag of Honour

European Diploma

Minutes of a meeting of the CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP held on Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth

Present: Councillor S Barnes
Councillor I Burns
Councillor A Semple
Councillor R Watson

118 Minutes

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

119 Public Participation

There was none

Resolved – That member(s) of Climate Emergency West Cumbria Group (CEWC) be invited to our March meeting to give a 15 minute presentation about their aims/aspirations.

120 Declaration of Interest

None declared.

121 Climate Change Emergency

Those present discussed progress to date and which actions should be taken forward during the next quarter.

Councillor Watson and Town Clerk had attended an Electric Vehicle infrastructure procurement workshop online. Allerdale Borough Council had organised the workshop which was facilitated by the Local Government Support Programme Team. The information provided was very useful. It was hoped that Allerdale would support two small installations in Cockermouth & Wigton.

Members were also pleased to note that the litter generated during Switch On was collected, sorted, and recycled.

Recommended – (a) That a wildflower meadow be planted on the Memorial Gardens on land opposite the Castle.

(b) That 200 packets of wildflower seeds be distributed from the library in 2022.

122 COP 26

A new global agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact was reached at the COP26 summit.

Those present considered the pledges.

A discussion ensued regarding whether or not it goes far enough.

Next year's COP27 will be held in Egypt.

Agreed – That the measures announced be noted.

123 Electric Charge Points

From next year developers on sites such as supermarkets and office blocks will be required to install electric vehicle charging points in an attempt to help phase out the use of petrol and diesel cars before sales of them come to an end in 2030.

Buildings undergoing renovations that leave them with no more than 10 parking spaces will also be subject to the new measures.

The Government expects the move to lead to 145,000 new charging points each year.

Agreed – That the new regulations be welcomed.

124 Date of the next meeting

Resolved – That the next meeting be held on 2 March 2022 at 1pm.

The meeting closed at 2.05pm

Climate Change Task Group Actions	<i>Rank within the theme and number of points</i>	<i>Overall Rank</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
ENVIRONMENT			
Cease providing plastic water bottles at TC Events – IN HAND			June 2019
Express concerns about river pollution to MP/Environment Agency – ACHIEVED			June 2019
Scheme for shops/businesses to refill water bottles – ACHIEVED			June 2019
Tree-planting on council-owned land – 1212 trees to be planted Harris Park Extension			November 2021
Green pages on TC website – ACHIEVED			June 2019
Volunteers to provide advice on growing vegetables (like WW2 ‘Dig for Victory’)			
Recycle Halloween outfits, Christmas jumpers, dressing up outfits and re-distribute through library.			Ongoing
Cease/restrict use of ‘pesticides’ on Council land – IN HAND – Town Clerk to write to Tivoli. Tivoli have drastically reduced the use of Glyphosate usage in Allerdale by 75% by using a residual herbicide in February/March which prevents germination. The hanging baskets we provide already contain plants that will attract bees and other pollinators			June 2019
Plant wild-flower meadow areas in Memorial Gardens and/or elsewhere – IN HAND – Rotary to plant wild flower meadow in Memorial Gardens			
Support carbon offset schemes run by local travel agents (tie in to tree planting) – IN HAND – No reply from Craig Travel, tree planting scheme already in existence with Cockermouth Travel			June 2019
Floral displays in town centre to use plants which attract bees and other pollinators – IN HAND – Tivoli have confirmed that they use such plants			June 2019
Encourage County Council to plant wildflower verges on approaches into town – IN HAND – Town Clerk to write to CCC about planting wildflowers on verges on approaches into town and on banking in their ownership opposite Gote Road allotments. In general the soil on the verges is too rich for wildflowers. Verges need to have the soil stripped off. A bee corridor will be will be created across North Cumbria. It mainly follows the A591 but will include the A66 from the Low Road roundabout heading out towards Workington. This will be funded through National/charitable funding to support bees			June 2019
Create a bee-garden – DELETE the creation of a single garden. Allotments Awards Evening to include 2 new categories, best bee friendly allotment and best bee friendly garden			Nov 2021

Give and Take Day – Funding available from CCC. Idea supported by Town Council. Delayed due to Covid			
Best Pollinator Allotment and Best Pollinator Garden categories to be added to Garden Competition. Delayed due to Covid			November 2021
The aim of Cockermouth Town Council is for its activities to be carbon-neutral by 2030 at the latest. This will require an audit of the council's current carbon footprint and concerted efforts to reduce it. Some of the measures that will be necessary are included above, e.g. ensuring that the town council buildings are fully insulated and that energy is purchased from 'green' suppliers			
Vocally support applications for new renewable energy in Cockermouth			
Write to all take-away outlets and businesses in Cockermouth to reduce their waste.			
Encourage paperless meetings			May 2021
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.			
Establish a tree sponsorship scheme			June 2021
Give away 200 x 10g packets of free wildflower seeds from library			June 21 Feb 22
Encourage residents to join a virtual climate change Cockermouth reading group			18/6/21
FOOD AND FARMING			
HOUSING AND ENERGY			
Town Council buildings – ensure insulation up to spec and energy from green supplier, (eg Good Energy or Ecotricity) PARTIALLY IN HAND – Town Clerk to write to procurement at CCC to find out if green energy suppliers included in their tender process and if they would be willing to move to 100% green energy. Npower supply brown energy which is			June 2019

cheaper. Having said that 8.5% coal, 57.9% natural gas, 17.4% nuclear, 12.6% renewable, 3.6% other.			
PROMOTING ACTION AND RAISING AWARENESS			
Work with other businesses to increase recycling facilities (e.g. Aldi/Lidl for clothing) – IN HAND – Mayor has spoken to Lidl			June 2019
Carry out a 'green' survey of businesses asking them to score themselves against a set of criteria (e.g. recycling, use of plastic packaging etc.)			
Where possible councillors to walk or cycle to meetings – IN HAND			June 2019
Encourage shops to use paper bags			
Consider starting an Incredible Edible Group – deferred due to Covid			
CafS are looking to recruit 20 volunteers across Cumbria to help them deliver a brand new programme to boost knowledge about climate science solutions and inspire people to take action in their own lives – advertised on our social media 4/2/21.			June 2019
Neighbourhood Plan – specs for new builds on insulation, green energy etc.			
Promote bike paths, lanes, parking places, electric bike charging points			June 2019
Planting fruit trees on council land			
Encouraging shops to sell more seasonal produce			
Town centre litter bins with separate compartments for plastic, paper and general rubbish – IN HAND – Town Clerk to write to Allerdale to request these. No reply to date. Councillor Smith to chase a response			
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.			
Strive to become an Earth Protector Town			
Recognise, promote and partake in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Hour • Earth Day • World Environment Day • Clean Air Day • Cycle to Work Day • Zero Waste Week 			completed in 2021 & Started in 2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Emissions Day • World Car Free Day • International Walk to School month • National Clean up Day 			
Promote/help organise litter picking events			Sept 2021
Residents to be encouraged to let their gardens become wildlife havens – seeds given out			June 2021 & Feb 22
Ask CCC to provide a selection of climate change books for our library – Pamela Wilkinson is drawing up a list. Books received.			June 2021
Encourage support of climate change reading group			August 21
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			
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			May 2021
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.			Ongoing
Include such training as part of their induction.			Election 2023
Encourage the Creation of a one stop shop/climate change hub/information centre in Allerdale.			
TRANSPORT			
Work with Allerdale/County/business to provide electric vehicle charging points in town – Cumbria LEP is currently considering the approach to electric vehicle infrastructure. This is likely to result in the development of an electric vehicle strategy which would look at a range of issues including the future development of charging points across the County and the approach for installation of charges at residential properties. Allerdale are in discussions with Charge my Street. TC encouraged residents to take part in the charge my street on line survey which ended on 8/1/21. Electricity North West are introducing a £1million Reinforcement Fund to enhance			ongoing

their network in the next 2 years where connection requires extensive re-inforcement.			
Support/encourage cycling-friendly businesses			June 2019
Continue Town Bus Service			June 2019
Promote safe walking routes through TIC			
Encourage car sharing			Put add on social media July 2021
Liaise with ABC & CCC to Improve cycling provisions			
Purchase a speed indication device			Nov 2021
OTHER ACTIONS			
Support the Local Electricity Bill – the Bill, if made Law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory right to supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge set up and running costs involved in doing so – SUPPORTED 18.03.20 TC MEETING			June 2019
Support the Climate & Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill – SUPPORTED 20.01.21 TC MEETING			June 2019
Ensure we know the climate change or nature implications of our decisions before we make them.			
Be aware of planning and climate change legislation			
Lobby Government for the development of a country wide food and farming strategy			
Do an audit of what activities/groups are already taking action to address climate change.			
Continue to budget yearly to help us fund our aspirations			£1000 in budget for 2021/22