

ITEM 14 – PARISH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Climate change refers to the long term shift in earth's weather patterns and average temperatures. For the past 250 years, humans have contributed to the increased release of carbon dioxide, alongside other greenhouse gases, which causes an increase in global temperatures.

Burning fossil fuels, such as coal, produces energy while releasing greenhouse gases. The long-term challenge is how we address this build-up of greenhouse gases and ensure a clean future for future generations.

Hampshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019, with a target that the whole of Hampshire be Carbon neutral by 2050

Below are a list of NALC's suggestions on what local councils can do:

- Declare a climate emergency
- Create a task force to establish a green agenda that includes developing a resilience policy and engaging in flood defence measures
- Sign up to the Woodland Trust's Tree Charter and develop a tree maintenance programme
- Develop and promote green transport plans including safe routes to school
- Ensure that all council buildings are as energy-efficient as possible and that energy is not wasted through unnecessary heating and lighting
- Use green energy sources and environmentally friendly products
- Plan for a green community in a neighbourhood plan
- Reduce waste and recycle as much as possible
- Limit the use of plastics, especially single-use plastics in your council
- Protect important open spaces and consider creating a community orchard and/or wildflower meadow and/or allotments.

Friends of the Earth have also identified actions that parish and town councils can take to reduce climate change:

- Encourage the formation of Climate Action groups within the local area
- Actively support small and large planning applications for new renewable energy in the area
- Promote practical action by local people by providing information on accredited local businesses
- Bring together groups of people for bulk purchases when developing renewable technologies i.e. solar panels
- Develop and promote lift-sharing scheme
- Use your voice when possible to oppose high-carbon developments, promoting sustainable alternatives instead. Press local authorities and MPs to demand national changes to bus services regulations,
- Lead by example by looking to be as energy efficient as possible, recycle waste as much as possible, reduce activities that harm wildlife, and use green transport ourselves wherever possible (walking, cycling, car sharing)

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Recommendations

I propose that Copythorne Parish Council:-

1. Declare a climate emergency.
2. Pledge to work along with Hampshire County Council (and other local authorities within the county) in ensuring Hampshire is Carbon neutral by 2050.
3. Task the Five Year Plan Advisory Committee to develop the "Parish Environmental Policy" which is included with its existing Terms of Reference (see below).
(Responsibility 8: To develop our Parish Environmental Policy' in collaboration with the initiatives from both NFDC and HCC as well any other localised initiatives and central government drivers.)
4. That the Parish Environmental Policy should include the establishment of a task force to work on an action plan to take us forward.

Cllr Jackie Rhodes

March 26th 2021