

Notes of a meeting of the Climate Change Woking Group

Held on 17 March 2022, virtually via Zoom

1. Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Update Report

The group received an update on the progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since December 2021.

It was noted that at the Executive meeting held in January 2022, several priority climate change activities for the forthcoming year were approved. Formal support of Surrey County Council's Climate Change Delivery Plan was also noted.

Woking Borough Council's (WBC) Green Infrastructure team was successful in a funding bid from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) (part of the Department for Transport). This contributed towards the installation cost of 70 electric vehicle charging points in the new Victoria Place development.

Woking Borough Council was ranked tenth nationally in a district council league table of climate change action plans, compiled by Climate Emergency UK. The action plans were scored against over 100 criteria.

2. Natural Woking

An update summarising delivery against the Natural Woking action plan during the period October 2021 to March 2022 was received.

Attention was drawn to the joint Natural England and Woking Borough Council Great Crested Newts (GCN) project which had completed its fifth operational year, also noting that the contract with ADAS had come to an end. A note of thanks was acknowledged to the ecologist from ADAS for the knowledgeable input into the championing of the pilot over this period.

Regarding ongoing conservation volunteering across the borough, the efforts of Woking Environment Action's (WEAct) Biodiversity Working Group were praised. The group had contributed a total of 726 hours, equivalent to 108 days, over a period of a year at various sites.

Considerable progress was made at White Rose Lane and St Johns Lye. The Ward Councillor expressed thanks to all volunteers involved with the project.

The group were informed that WEAct would be launching a new hedgehog project in the spring to coincide with Hedgehog Awareness Week from the 2 to 8 May 2022. Full details are [available on their website](#).

The forthcoming Wild About Woking event coming to the town centre and other satellite sites in the borough on 21 and 22 May 2022 in partnership with Surrey Wildlife Trust were noted. Full details will be [published to the Get Involved pages of the Planet Woking website](#).

3. WEAct

Attention was drawn to WEAct's active engagement with the local community and local businesses on raising awareness on issues relating to climate change and sustainability. Recent activities included the group's Climate Forum on 24 February 2022 and its input into the forthcoming

council's revised Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document. The vision for the group included a hub in the Town Centre, similar to Zero in Guildford which encourages community led climate change action.

The group was made aware of the latest UN IPCC report that was published at the end of February 2022, it highlighted on the cascading and catastrophic effect of climate change and how by 2050, one in 20 people will be displaced by the changing climate – equivalent to approximately one million people worldwide.

4. ThamesWey Update

Members received the ThamesWey report, the document summarised and provided updates on the initiatives that the ThamesWey Environmental Projects team were currently undertaking.

It was reported that Action Surrey had now concluded the successful delivery of Phase 1 of its largest home energy efficiency project to date, the Green Jump Surrey project. Action Surrey had been awarded £6.2m of grant funding helping 600 low-income households in Surrey with a total of 775 energy efficiency improvements.

Over 100 installations were reported to be completed in the Woking area alone, benefiting 74 individual households.

It was highlighted that households could save approximately £660 annually on energy costs as a result of the measures undertaken.