



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 13th September 2022
7pm, Green Room, Needham Market Community Centre

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); Nicola Booth; Andy France; Jo Hughes; John Matthissen; Martin O'Shea; Jen Overett; Jean Pittaway.
Apologies	Sophie Barrell; Ruth Coomber; Michele Francis; Frank Lea; Jo Lea; Martin Ost; John Reardon.
Background to formation of the working group	Welcome given and introductions made. There has been some interest and expressions of support from others who cannot commit to the sub-committee – these are added to a volunteers list and are willing to support events/projects. The Town Council made a declaration on 20.04.2022, agreed to set up this working party as a sub-committee and set initial first terms of reference.
Appointment of sub-committee chairperson	Amanda Reardon was appointed. Jo Hughes was appointed as Secretary.
The Town Council's declaration	<i>Needham Market Town Council declare a Climate Emergency for our town and pledge to develop a plan which sets out actions for the Council to take and guidance for individual residents in order that, as a community, we can contribute to achieving the national goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.</i> It was recognised that the declaration is limited in that it does not refer to aspects such as biodiversity. It was agreed that in time it may need reviewing and at that point the Town Council will be asked to consider the group's recommendations.
Drawing up of Terms of Reference	The Town Council set the following initial terms of reference: • <i>To raise awareness of the climate emergency at Town Council level and within the community.</i> • <i>To actively assess the climate impact of planning applications, Town Council plans/strategies and other areas of Town Council business.</i> • <i>To provide information to the Town Council which will ensure consideration of climate impact as part of all decision making.</i> • <i>To promote awareness of steps that individuals in the community can take to address the climate emergency.</i> In time, the group will recommend to Town Council any additions. The following was discussed in terms of context for the sub-committee's role: Our ethos should be that we aim to engage with all regardless of levels of knowledge or interest, regardless of financial resources. It is best to get many doing what they can and to take what actions we can rather than to aim for perfection/large scale projects.
Project Planning	Various ideas were discussed and expertise/experience shared. The following projects were agreed as starting points: <u>Planning Committee Advisory:</u> Martin O'Shea will lead. • Members of the committee will be asked to offer comment on planning consultations with reference to climate/environmental matters. Nicola Booth and Andy France specifically will support Martin. • Andy France agreed to represent the sub-committee on the Neighbourhood Plan review group to offer comment with reference to climate/environmental matters. • Martin will draft a template response to planning consultations regarding climate/environment matters which can be tailored for responses.

	<u>Biodiversity</u> Grass verges and mowing regimes: Andy France and Sophie Barrell will lead. It is hoped Ross Piper will join the group and assist here. • Investigations will be made into land ownership (MSDC, TC, Charity) and existing mowing regimes. • Contact will be made with Richard Parmee (MSDC Biodiversity Project Manager) regarding possibilities. • A plan will be drawn up to incorporate public liaison and actions which will need to be completed in order to make recommendations. Other: • There were other ideas which will be considered including creating green corridors and hedgerow/tree/wildflower meadow planting. <u>EV Charging Points:</u> Nicola Booth will lead. • Existing EV points to be identified. • Possibilities for additional points to be investigated to include looking at provider business models. • Potential for a proposal to be made to Town Council for installation of additional points. <u>Recycling/Waste Disposal Understanding:</u> Amanda Reardon and Jo Hughes will lead. • Investigate what happens to household waste once it is collected with the aim of informing the community to encourage full use of the facility. • Investigate visits to the facilities in Great Blakenham. • Aim to acquire an understanding of what happens to all waste streams following processing and hold MSDC to account if it is felt there are other possibilities with lesser negative impact for the climate. <u>Earth Day 2023:</u> Amanda Reardon will lead. We will work towards developing ideas for a community event on 22nd April 2023.
AOB	John Mattissen explained that there will be occasions when his contributions would be limited owing to his role as a District Councillor. Ross Piper will be invited to join the sub-committee. Nicola advised that the current replacement of gas pipes with larger pipes is in readiness for a move from gas to hydrogen fuel. Scottish Power are currently planning to develop a green hydrogen plant at Felixstowe. The subject of budget was raised. There is no allocated budget to the group. Town Council will consider funding for projects as applicable. There may also be opportunities for grant applications. Publicity will be via newsletter and website. In order to communicate to as many as possible, social media is an important platform - Town Council to consider.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 11 th October, 7pm, Green Room, Community Centre.