

Community Board – North West Chilterns Environmental & Climate Change Briefing Report

Purpose

The NW Chilterns includes significant parts of the Chiltern escarpment and AONB, as well as important chalk streams and watercourses. Potentially at odds with this are the growing towns of Princes Risborough and Stokenchurch, the M40 corridor and land zoned for significant house building and development.

As a priority of the NW Chilterns Community Board, the Environmental & Climate Change group has been established. This group will aim to cover all green and sustainability issues including, recycling and waste management; renewable and sustainable energy; air quality and alternative transport solutions; countryside and sustainable leisure.

Priority Objectives

Initially, in common with other Community Board subgroups, it will prioritise schemes and initiatives that help sustain, grow and create recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secondly, it will seek schemes and initiatives that have a sustainable and lasting effect on the NW Chilterns area, improving the built or rural environment and promoting or reversing environmental damage or climate change.

Progress to date

- The group was established on 5 August under Chairman Cllr David Knights and Vice-Chairman Cllr Robin Thomas.
- At the initial meeting the priorities for investigation, action and funding were agreed.
- A focus on waste management and waste recycling chain investigation was suggested as an initial area of investigation.

Actions going forward

- The group agreed to invite Cllr Bill Chapple (Cabinet Member for Environmental and Climate Change) to attend its next meeting to provide clarity around where recycled waste goes in the county, and more detail about the quality of the waste recycled.
- To invite Julian Smith and David Rounding, the Council's officers responsible for Air Quality and Fly-tipping respectively, to attend at a future meeting to better understand these issues.
- To consider how we assess residents' priorities in the areas of Environmental and Climate Change. Perhaps this could be done through a series of focus groups, or digitally through online polls.

Cllr David Knights
Chairman
30 September 2020