

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

Priority Objectives

A reminder of our priorities:

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.

The role for the group needs to balance a number of competing priorities:

- **Informing and educating** the members and others on specific issues – we have benefitted from presentations on Recycling & Waste, and Air Quality Management Zones
- **Reviewing funding applications** from local groups and interested parties putting forward schemes that support one or both of our two objectives
- **Adding to pressure on wider and larger issues** – on schemes, consultations or issues that have a Country or National focus. We must be careful that these don't overtake everything else and have us spend large amounts of time on issues that do not provide local action or make a measurable difference locally.
- **Looking for areas of partnership** – helping to provide support and influence to groups who want to deliver something. Looking at opportunities to work more closely with the other sub-groups. Identifying schemes that may need the support of more than just our Community Board.

Above all we need to ensure that we can provide local delivery for the residents that our Community Group is responsible for and to.

Progress to date

- **Chiltern Rangers:** The group received an extensive presentation from Chiltern Rangers (John Shaw) who presented their plans for environmental work in the Board area, ahead of a formal funding application. The project involves using community volunteers, especially young people, to carry out a wide range of sub-projects to preserve and improve the chalk grasslands, streams, ponds and habitats, including work to support the fragile Duke of Burgundy Butterfly, amongst other habitats. The project will see around 300 people take part and involve the use of trained and skilled Rangers. Group members were impressed with the breath of work envisaged across the whole Community Board area and the skill with which the projects were carried out, despite the current restrictions.
- **Grymsdyke Farm:** The group learned about a project that Grymsdyke Farm is working on with St John's Primary School to improve the school classrooms. After reviewing the project, the group felt that this did not fit the purpose of the group, although it might be of more interest to the Young and The Elderly subgroup.

- **Other ideas:** The group considered ideas for schemes around electric car sharing, the forthcoming e-scooter trial in neighbouring areas, cycling and walking promotions and green tourism.

Actions going forward

- The group asked Jackie Binning to investigate the establishment of a Facebook group to promote the Community Board, and in turn the Environmental and Climate Change group.
- There was a number of schemes around transport and tourism which the group felt should be considered together with the Transport and the Economic Development groups. The Chairman will be looking at how this is best achieved.

Cllr David Knights

Chairman

19th November 2020