

**Community Board – North West Chilterns
Environmental & Climate Change
Briefing Report – 11th March 2021**

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.**

Our aim continues to strike a balance between:

1. **Informing and educating** the members and others on specific issues
2. **Reviewing funding applications** from local groups and interested parties
3. **Adding to pressure on wider and larger issues** – on schemes, consultations or issues that have a Country or National focus.
4. **Looking for areas of partnership** – helping to provide support and influence to groups who want to deliver something.

While maintaining a focus on local delivery for residents of the NWCCB area.

Progress to date

1: Informing and Educating

The group received an informative presentation from Transition Town Marlow detailing the work of the group and how they were challenging and leading green issues across Marlow. Most recently Cllr Bill Chapell (BC Cabinet member for Climate Change and the Environment) provided a summarised version of the new BC Climate Change Strategy which is in consultation. Members were able to ask extensive questions.

2: Review of Funding Applications

The group has reviewed applications and has recommended the following for support:

- Lacey Green Parish Council for the clearance and rejuvenation of Kiln Pond
- Princes Risborough Charity for the connection of mains water to a series of allotments
- Studley Green Community Centre for installation of solar panels, EV charging and heat pumps
- Princes Risborough Town Council for the resurfacing of part of the Ridgeway National Trail.

It has also reviewed the following application, and has agreed support in principle, but has asked for the scheme to be reworked:

- Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council for the collection and use of rainwater for irrigation

3: Adding to Pressure on Wider Issues

No actions have been carried out this session.

4: Looking for Areas of Partnership

The group have sought to understand ways in which it can support new initiatives and bring them to a local focus:

- **Community Energy Generation:** Buckinghamshire Community Energy presented to the group to inform about their work and to seek possible partnerships for community energy generation. Group members helped identify opportunities for initial discussions and were excited at the possibilities locally.
- **E-scooter scheme:** Zipp scooters presented to the group about a possible extension of the Wycombe and Aylesbury schemes to Princes Risborough. Following the meeting, the Town Council gave the scheme its support. It is expected that the scheme will start in April and will encompass Princes and Monks Risborough and Askett.
- **E-car share scheme:** Char.gy electric vehicles provided us a presentation about the government funded test scheme which is reviewing the placement and use of e-vehicle induction charging as a car sharing club. Two locations were offered for inclusion (the Mount car park in Princes Risborough, and a van for the use of Risborough Basket). Other locations are being considered across the county, so not all locations will be chosen, but these sites were welcomed.

Actions going forward

- The group looks forward to seeing the results of some of their initial funding and support and is interested in having greater involvement with the new BC Climate Change Strategy as initiatives roll out, including tree planting and community energy generation.

Cllr David Knights
Chairman of the Subgroup
11.03.21