

North West Chilterns Community Board
Environmental and Climate Change Action Group
Briefing Report for Community Board Meeting on 27th July 2023.

Purpose: This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Action Group since the Community Board Meeting on 7th February 2023.

Priority Objectives: The Action Group's reviewed its priority objectives for 2023/24 on 3 May 2023. It was agreed that they would be slightly amended to - to seek and support schemes that have a sustainable and lasting effect on the North West Chilterns area, improve the built or rural environment, reduce the impacts and increase awareness of climate change, and reverse environmental damage. Additionally, the Action Group seeks to help achieve *and inform* the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.

Action Group: The Action Group continues to aim to meet bi-monthly when possible; the last meeting was held on 3rd May 2023, with the next planned for the 2nd August 2023. Its agendas cover a mix of policy, strategic and fundraising related matters, many of which have been delegated to the group by the Community Board or raised by local councils, the public or by members of the group.

Recent work has included:

- Helped the Chiltern Conservation Board in the funding of its Central Chilterns Farmer Cluster Hedgerow Project.
- Continuing to identify suitable locations with Town and Parish Council's for tree planting in streets and public spaces.
- Encouraging schemes looking at Wildflower planting.
- Continue to look at options to install Electric Vehicle charging points in public areas.
- Supporting joint community planning and community resilience through planned education programmes.
- Supported Princes Risborough Town Council in exploring the feasibility on installing solar panels on the Wades Centre.
- Supported Princes Risborough Town Council in its application with Bee Squared for the distribution of over 2000 seed packets.
- Invited the Chair of the Transport and Road Issues Action Group to our December meeting to look at combined work on verge cutting and wildflower planting.
- The Public Awareness Energy Efficiency Campaign for the North West Chilterns was completed with Buckinghamshire Council. An Energy Efficient Homes Clinic was held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on 11th March and the roadshow also went to Stokenchurch and Aston Clinton.

Projects planned and actions going forward

- Liaising with the Chiltern Society on the restoration work of the Whiteleaf Cross and car park.

- Liaising with Stokenchurch Scouts on a proposed pond renovation project.
- Liaising with Stokenchurch Primary School and Chiltern Rangers on a proposal for grounds development for wildlife and learning.
- Pursuing our group spreadsheet which highlights potential areas and objectives where it is felt the action group could encourage applications.

Chairman: Cllr Robert Carington