

North West Chilterns Community Board
Environmental and Climate Change Action Group
Briefing Report for Community Board Meeting on 22nd February 2024

Purpose: This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Action Group since the Community Board Meeting on 23rd November 2023.

Priority Objectives: The Action Group continue to focus on the following:

- To prioritise schemes and initiatives that help achieve and inform the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.
- 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.
- To consider any application in regards to the environment and climate change.

Action Group: The Action Group aim to meet bi-monthly; a meeting was held on 13th December 2023 and the next is planned for 28th March 2024. 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.

The group continue to work on:

- Identifying suitable locations with Town and Parish Council's for tree planting in streets and public spaces. The group however were recently advised that residents may apply direct to Buckinghamshire Highways for trees
- Encouraging schemes looking at Wildflower planting.
- Looking at options to install Electric Vehicle charging points in public areas.

Project since the last meeting which has been approved by the Community Board.

- St Michael & All Angels on an Eco Quiet Nature Garden. The Church want to maximize the use of the churchyard by making a 'Quiet Garden' behind it for people to enjoy and contemplate the beauty and nature around them. This will include a bench to relax on, a small water feature, Buddliea and a variety of wildflowers and other plants.

Pre-applications – the following continue to be discussed and have been moved as proposals for 2024/25:

- Stokenchurch Scouts on a proposed pond renovation project.
- Working with the Environment team at Buckinghamshire Council on Carbon Literacy training for Town and Parish Council's, groups and organisations (this is an action group initiative in conjunction with the High Wycombe and Denham & Gerrards Cross Community Boards). This training will provide an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

- Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council on a Wildflower project on Chipps Hill.
- Chiltern Society on a Cycling Signage proposal.
- Great Kingshill Village Hall on an energy efficiency lighting project.

The Action Group continue to pursue their spreadsheet which highlights potential areas and objectives where it is felt the group could encourage further applications.

Chairman: Cllr Robert Carington