

# Chippenham and Villages Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum

## NOTES

25 January 2024 – 7:30pm – 9:00 pm

Meeting: Online via Teams – Link in e-mail

### 1. Welcome and introductions

(NM) Cllr Nick Murry, Chair  
(KM) Cllr Kathryn MacDermid, Wiltshire Council  
(RG) Ros Griffiths, Wiltshire Council  
(KS) Karen Simpson, Wessex Water  
(JM) Jacky Macqueen, Wiltshire Climate Alliance  
(AW) Adam Walton, Corsham Climate Action  
(GW) Graham Watson - Kington Langley Parish Council  
(LO) Laurence Cable, Cycle Chippenham  
(KS) Wessex Water, Community Connector

### 2. Apologies

(CW) Cate Watson, Chippenham Town Council  
(LY) Louisa Young, Wiltshire Council

### 3. Chair's Announcements

(NM) shared the latest findings from the [Copernicus Climate Change Service](#) highlighting December 2023 was the warmest December on record globally, ending a year in which the seven month from June to December all broke temperature records, making 2023 the warmest year since records began.

(LC) shared a recent article about the headlines on tipping points being too negative and more positive reporting would drive better behaviour change.

### 4. Update from Community Groups

#### **Wiltshire Climate Alliance Green Open Homes event 9 to 17 March**

(JM) Shared her personal journey on retrofit having undertaken carbon literacy training.

[Wiltshire Climate Alliance](#) was organising a [Green Open Homes event 9 to 17 March](#) to provide an opportunity for residents who have made energy saving home improvements to open up their homes and share experiences.

Visiting a home was a great way to find out about the reality of getting solar panels, insulation, triple glazing, or new heating options without talking to a salesman. Residents could have a good look at the technology, ask the home-owner whether

# Chippenham and Villages Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum

## NOTES

the installation was a hassle, and find out how much they could really save on their energy bills as a result.

It was highlighted that 42,700 homes in Wiltshire require loft insulation and 30,000 households in Wiltshire and Swindon live in fuel poverty.

[GOH](#) was a successful national model where detailed plans were in place to help homeowners to get involved. WhatsApp tours were an option if residents preferred to facilitate a tour remotely. A media pack would be developed with Wiltshire Council's Climate Team.

Assistance was sought with:

- promotion of the event and the [WCA home improvement page](#)
- identifying homes with retrofit projects
- volunteers

(RG) offered to help promote the event to Area Board Environment Leads through the Engagement and Partnership Managers working across the county. (NM) suggested the Zero Chippenham PV scheme details and thermal imaging camera be added to the WCA website. (LC) suggested targeted promotion of areas in Chippenham with a higher proportion of houses with solar panels.

### **Cycle Chippenham**

(LC) shared a map highlighting local projects and achievements that had made a tangible difference e.g. barrier removal, new cycleways, way finding signage. These projects were the result of a community group working proactively with local members, councils and organisations such as Bath and West Community Energy. Several projects had been delivered through the Area Boards Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG).

The paths from the new Rowden Park Development would be continued and fully connected with money from the Developer.

### **Wessex Water**

(KS) confirmed the Refill point was reopening in the entrance to Borough Parade and plans were afoot to re-invigorate the refill scheme working with the Town Quarters team. (KS) had spoken to Bristol Avon Rivers Trust who were trying to recruit River Fly monitors. Plans were in place to run another Yellow Fish Campaign and to engage with pharmacists ahead of an awareness campaign to promote safe take back of unused medication.

### **Zero Chippenham**

(NM) PV schemes were ongoing with the group applying for more thermal imaging cameras and resources to enable people to follow up with measures. A workshop was being planned supported by CSE looking at energy and water efficiency and

# Chippenham and Villages Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum

## NOTES

generation of renewables. The workshop was aimed at those not yet engaged in conversations and would take place at the Community Hub.

### **Zero North Wilts**

(NM) highlighted that work towards the community energy offer was ongoing, the group was looking to get a first share offer going for Sheldon School, a buy back of the solar being developed there and to establish a community benefit fund.

### **Corsham Climate Action / WCA**

(AW) shared information about a film taking place at Pound Arts on 6 Feb: Once You Know. Parliamentary candidates for the new Chippenham constituency would be joining in a climate discussion and Q&A

### **Engagement and Partnerships Team**

(RG) Updated the group that Louisa Young had been seconded to a new role in the Community Conversations Team and that she would be supporting the CCEEF in the interim until recruitment for a new Area Board Delivery Officer had taken place.

## **5. Update from Towns and Parishes**

### **Chippenham Town Council**

(KM) (NM) – The Sustainable Businesses event with Good Energy event was taking place Thursday 14 March 6-7.30pm. Eco-Future Fest was being scheduled for October and a new Tree scheme had been launched. [Residential Tree Scheme 2024 Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

### **Kington Langley PC**

(GW) A planning meeting had taken place for Red Barn Solar, it had been useful to hear residents views. The Parish was planning to do a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of No Mow May. In contrast to last year the thermal imaging camera had been underutilised. (NM) suggested Zero Chippenham could make use of the camera.

## **6. Questions for Parish Councils**

Draft questions for Parish Councils were shared. The purpose of this exercise was to ascertain if any local activity was taking place, to increase engagement and get discussions going. Feedback received in advance of the meeting had suggested some of the language was too complicated and may put some parish councils off from responding.

Thoughts from the group included:

- It was important to distinguish between role of parish council in their own organisation e.g. buildings and land owned, and also the local area e.g. working with groups and partners, facilitating behaviour change and engaging residents on actions.

# Chippenham and Villages Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum

## NOTES

- Transport/Active Travel should be listed first as the biggest contributor of greenhouse gases in Wiltshire and where biggest change could be made and active travel should be highlighted - not just electric vehicles.
- Support notes/local examples could be included with local case studies e.g. neighbourhood plans, bio-diversity survey's, tree planting, PV schemes, EV charging, grants and support.

All agreed it was a useful vehicle for getting discussions going.

(NM) to produce a final version.

(RG) explained that the Climate Team had worked in partnership with CSE to organise workshops for town and parish councils last year to help them develop climate action plans and were planning to re-engage with those that took part in 2024.

(RG) agreed to speak with the Climate team to confirm what the take-up had been from the Chippenham Area and plans to communicate further with the parishes who participated.

It was suggested (NM) attend a future Chippenham Parish Forum to promote CCEEF.

### **7. Climate Change adaption**

(NM) flagged this as a future area of interest for the group. Wiltshire Council was working up a new Adaption and Resilience Plan so groups and parishes could start thinking about this in readiness for future consultation and building into Neighbourhood and local plans.

The Environment Directory project was ongoing however additional resource was required. One Chippenham had offered to host the Directory on the website.

### **8. Date for Next meeting:**

**TBC**