

Community Area Events

Since the climate emergency has been acknowledged by the council, the following environment themed events have been held in connection with eleven of the area boards, either

- as part of community area board meetings
 - in advance of community area board meetings
 - separate to a planned community area board meeting but with the engagement of area board members and community engagement managers.
1. Bradford on Avon area board held an environment themed meeting on 19 June 2019 which was attended by representatives of voluntary groups based in the community area. The event was successful in part due to the enthusiasm of one of the members of the area board and the support of the town council which has also declared a climate emergency.
 2. On 4 November 2019 Salisbury area board held an eco-fair, arranged jointly with Salisbury City Council which has also declared a climate emergency. This was followed by a climate change themed area board meeting at which Wiltshire Council and Salisbury City Council presented the work they are doing to tackle climate change. This was followed by a workshop to consider ideas on how to approach climate change as a community. Many of the groups which had stalls at the eco-fair were represented at the area board and engaged in the workshop.

On 26 February 2020 Salisbury City Council and Salisbury Area Board held a Climate Change forum, focusing on:

- improving walking and cycling in the city
- planting more trees in the city
- reducing food waste in the city

Outcomes:

- Recognise and increase public engagement through regular updates: at area board and City Council meetings, through press and social media, and by staging public events to highlight the work of volunteers and their projects.
 - Maintain and increase the volunteer base, generating more potential climate friendly projects.
 - Monitor the outcomes through presentations to the AB / SCC on those projects as they develop
3. 6 January 2020 - Melksham area board did not choose to hold a dedicated climate workshop, but instead had an item on climate emergency as part of an agenda that also included an update on kerbside recycling and a proposal for the community management of a network of public open spaces, among other

business. Although some questions were taken, there was limited opportunity to invite contributions from those environmental groups present, as time did not permit. There is some interest locally in this agenda, including from Melksham Town Council which has declared a climate emergency and has a high profile tree planting initiative.

4. South West Wiltshire area board had an agenda item on eco-friendly communities with presentations from Wiltshire Council and local initiatives and groups on 28 November 2019. The agreed intention following that meeting is to appoint a champion or set of champions to research, produce and maintain a directory of local recycling/reuse/repair outlets and initiatives, and to look to organise future events on this theme.
5. Amesbury area board invited groups to have stands and provide information during the 30 minutes set aside for networking in advance of the area board meeting on 21 November 2019. There was a presentation from Wiltshire Council in advance of a climate emergency workshop jointly facilitated by a member of the area board and a representative from Extinction Rebellion. Over an hour was allocated to this in advance of the standard area board agenda. Twelve themes emerged from the workshop and the area board is planning to consider two themes at each of the next six area board meetings.
6. Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade area board held an environmental fair in advance of an environment themed meeting which ran in parallel to the standard area board agenda on 27 November 2019. This comprised a number of community discussions on environmental issues including reducing carbon emissions. The event was led by a Royal Wootton Bassett environmental group who worked with the community engagement manager to ensure the right links were made and groups invited. The group continues to lead the work on climate change in the community area, retaining their links to the council and others through the community engagement manager.
7. Southern Wiltshire area board had an agenda item on community based eco-projects on 20 November 2019, titled 'the village to the world via Wiltshire'. This reflected the view of the area board that local projects contribute to the global response to the climate emergency as well as being worthwhile in their own right. There was a presentation on the work of Wiltshire Council followed by presentations from a range of local environmental groups. A local champion has been recruited to produce and maintain a directory of recycling/reuse/repair projects and initiatives, to use as a focus for future events and work
8. Warminster area board held a community area climate forum on Thursday 9 January 2020 in advance of a standard community area board meeting. This was arranged by the chair of the area board working with the community engagement manager and a small number of local volunteer groups. The agenda was a mix of

alternating presentations and workshops and a significant number of people attended. The subsequent area board agenda was not environment themed and the majority of workshop attendees left before the area board meeting started. During the climate forum, it was agreed that the results of the forum would be circulated and attendees would be encouraged to meet again as a smaller group to discuss any actions that could be taken locally to help towards Wiltshire's climate change goals.

9. Devizes area board held an environment themed meeting with presentations from Wiltshire Council and Warm and Safe Wiltshire. Local environmental groups had been invited to present the actions that they are taking in response to the climate emergency. Due to previous items overrunning and pressure of time, this item was cut from the agenda. The chairman apologised and said that the agenda for the next area board meeting would allocate the majority of time to this item. The environmental groups have offered to work with the community engagement manager to design the agenda. This meeting had been scheduled for 16 March 2020 but was cancelled due to emerging advice on COVID-19.
10. Chippenham area board held a meeting on 3 February 2020 which was preceded by an eco-exhibition and displays which had twenty different community groups, schools, local businesses, local authorities and external organisations exhibiting. The area board agenda included a presentation from Wiltshire Council on work in response to the climate emergency which was followed by a workshop which was run by Zero Chippenham. Many people involved in the exhibition stayed for the meeting and participated in the workshop.
11. Westbury area board held a meeting on 6 February 2020 at which there was a presentation by Wiltshire Council on the response to the climate emergency and the target to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. This was followed by a roundtable discussion to identify local action to ensure Westbury contributes to the goal of seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. It was agreed that the results would be circulated to all attendees and people would be invited to form a local Climate/Air Quality Group to identify any local actions that could be taken to address any of the points raised.
12. Pewsey area board had committed to holding an environment themed event during spring 2020. This had been scheduled for 4 April. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, it had to be cancelled but they are looking to reschedule it during 2021. Pewsey are currently establishing a Community Energy Network.