

**Climate Emergency Working Group**

**Recent minutes March 2022**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

Present

Chair Caroline Smith

David Hare

Mike Smith

Alison Newton (joined meeting later).

Agenda

1. Draft the policy for the Green Infrastructure Plan.
2. Review the Climate Emergency Action Plan and update where we could.
  - 1) Draft policy wording was formulated (see below) and will be sent to P&R for approval/amendment. Once finalised, this will be presented to full Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March along with the initial Green Infrastructure Plan – the latter to be updated annually.
  - 2) Coming from item 2 above, it was decided to write an e-mail to the Town Clerk regarding questions on some of the actions to get updated information from the Officers' perspective on how the plan is going. Some helpful responses were received, and we have also arranged a meeting with the Town Clerk on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of March to get a more detailed update. We will present a verbal update on the Action Plan at the next P and R meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. It should be noted that the updated Action Plan should go forward to inform the full Council on an annual basis as detailed in the Action Plan.

**Minutes of the meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Present

Chair Caroline Smith

Alison Newton

Mike Smith

Apologises David Hare

Agenda

1. To identify a new member following the withdrawal of Andrew Mickleburgh.
  2. Reviewed the replies to our email from Jo Friend and update the action plan with the answers.
  3. University update.
  4. Agreed the Green Infrastructure plan policy and when agreed by P and R we will be able to start on the actions within the plan.
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- 1) The WG acknowledged the really useful and significant input from Andrew. It was agreed to approach Councillor Al Neal to join the working group. Other suggestions are welcome.
  - 2) The Climate Emergency Action Plan was reviewed in the light of written responses from the TC. An updated version will be available after the meeting between Officers and the WG on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> March.
  - 3) Recent conversation with the University indicated that the student that had been interested had chosen a different subject with his research as we were unable to provide access to Officers/energy bills etc and it had proven too difficult to find early adopters of renewable technologies in Earley to gain meaningful user experience. Dr Mohreb was keen to maintain links and we will need to work across the summer to determine what could be possible. Previous work by this MSc cohort of student was largely around building assessments and this could prove a useful additional (and relatively free) source of advice on our buildings to complement the EPC and DEC updates that Officers are actioning.
  - 4) A draft policy wording was further discussed and is reproduced below. This needs adoption by P&R for presentation to full Council for resolution – as advised at the previous P&R meeting, the Policy is brief and refers mainly to the Green Infrastructure Action Plan which is of course a live document:

*Draft ETC Green Infrastructure Policy*

*Following on from the Early Town Council Declaration of a Climate Emergency in Feb 2021 and in addition to the Climate Emergency Action Plan, ETC commit to the following:*

- *Within the limits of allocated resources, ETC will sustain and enhance and extend the Green Spaces that ETC is responsible for – both existing and future acquisitions.*
- *Maintain a Green Infrastructure Action Plan that details activities under appropriate headings of:*
  - *Providing a high quality, nature rich green infrastructure.*
  - *Funding.*
  - *Community and wider engagement.*
  - *Any additional headings as deemed necessary.*
- *Details of actions will be reviewed annually and recorded in an updated Green Infrastructure Action Plan.*
- *The ETC Green Infrastructure Action Plan will be circulated to Full Council each March.*
- *This policy will be reviewed on five yearly intervals.*