

**STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING**

**14 October, 2019**

**Notes pages 1 – 4**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Cleeve	J Fradgley
Curtis	
Dyer	

Ms Rachel Jones, Chief Executive, ACTON Energy.

Mr Gavin Callard, Area Arboriculture Manager at Warwickshire County Council joined the meeting at 11.00am.

Clerk: J Mayes

Apologies: Councillor Coles and Councillor Warren Howles.

1. Approval of Notes from Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Noted.

2. Opportunities and challenges for reducing carbon impact on the community

Councillor Fradgley as Deputy Chair welcomed Rachel Jones, Chief Executive at Act On Energy to the meeting. She explained that the committee were gathering information to assist the Town Council in making decisions on how to tackle the climate change emergency. The Town Council has some areas of influence, works in partnership with the District and Warwickshire County Council and can also provide information to residents or lobby other agencies on the climate change emergency.

Rachel Jones gave an overview of Act On Energy, which was established by Stratford District Council 21 years ago in response to issues raised by climate change and was then registered as a charity. It works with local authorities across the West Midlands. The principle area of work focuses on fuel poverty, there is little funding available for work on climate change. However by upgrading fuel efficiency the carbon footprint is reduced. The target is to have homes in Band C fuel efficiency by 2030. There are 5000 homes in fuel poverty across the District.

A Councillor asked how fuel poverty is defined. Fuel Poverty is defined as having low income and property with low energy efficiency. The work of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), established by the Government has been refocussed on fuel poverty and the money for this comes from energy suppliers. The Local Authority is able to define its own criteria of fuel poverty and Stratford District Council has defined this as individuals on a low income but not necessarily receiving benefits. In conclusion Councils will need to look at policies going forward and how to decarbonise the grid.

The Deputy Chair noted that the Town Council is in a position to be able to influence and can circulate documents to public about improving fuel efficiency.

There was a discussion about the opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint at the Town Hall and it was agreed that the Council will need to set up a long term strategy looking at the best option.

There was a discussion about PV panels and Ms Jones highlighted some work undertaken by Wychavon Council where energy came from PV panels. She recommended speaking to Jason Savidge at Stratford Energy Solutions for further advice. Councillors referred to a storage facility used by the Town Council where the roof could be used for PV panels. Ms Jones highlighted the work of iChoosr, who offer advice to people on the installation of PV panels and offer solar panel buying schemes. A Councillor asked what information on PV panels is available to businesses. Rachel Jones referred to an organisation, Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) based in Worcester that offers support to businesses to become more environmentally friendly and save money on energy costs. She recommended speaking to Chris Atkins who runs the scheme in Worcester. Councillors considered the possibility of talking to the Town Trust about this.

There was a discussion about ways the carbon footprint at the Cemetery could be reduced by using alternative electric vehicles or tools for maintenance. It was suggested that the Town Council should consider a strategic policy that would apply to all purchasing, in short, medium and long term with the aim of reducing the carbon footprint. Councillors also considered the way the land at the Cemetery is managed and it was suggested that it was best to approach the Wildlife Trust for advice on the way the land is managed.

In summary part of the work of the Town Council on tackling the climate change emergency should be to inform people about why action is being taken.

### 3. Discussion with Gavin Callard, Arboriculture Area Manager, Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Fradgley introduced Gavin Callard, who is the Arboriculture Area Manager at Warwickshire County Council to the meeting. He highlighted various schemes in Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and the Evesham Road in

Stratford-upon-Avon where trees have been planted and emphasised the importance of the right tree being planted in the right place. Councillors should also be aware of the possible constraints when planting trees; location of underground services, position of CCTV cameras for example.

There is an opportunity to engage with residents of the town and plant trees where people would like shade. The trees that are planted need to be able to cope with changing temperatures and be more tolerant of drought conditions.

The Deputy Chair reported that the Town Council have taken over the community orchard at Bishopton. It was agreed that it needs to communicate with local residents about using orchards, for example harvesting fruit. If the Town Council can develop a protocol for managing community orchards this information could be shared with the District Council.

A Councillor suggested that should re-examine the green policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and investigate who owns the green land and how it could be better managed by community groups.

It was agreed that biggest challenge is identifying costings and the affordability of a strategic plan to tackle the problem. The National Lottery has established a climate emergency fund and it was suggested that should consider ways to apply for funding from this.

Rachel Jones highlighted work being undertaken by Cornwall Council on dealing with climate change emergency and agreed to share link to work with Councillors.

The Deputy Chair thanked Rachel Jones and Gavin Callard for their time.

### Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 10.00am in the Town Council.

*The Deputy Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.50am.*