



Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency Report on progress to the November 2020 Parish Council Meeting.

Executive Summary

Kempley Parish Council move forward towards carbon neutrality by 2030 by taking the following actions:

1. **Baselining our current carbon emissions** - Explore with the Forest of Dean and other Parish Councils the most effective way to base line current community carbon emissions;
2. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes** from our residential and farming community, either through online Parish Council supported Zoom sessions and when possible open farm / house programmes;
3. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** that will support carbon reduction through open online sessions on the Parish Council Zoom account at which we invite key speakers to promote the uptake and use of existing grant programmes for our business, farming and residential communities;
4. **Promote the full uptake and use of superfast broadband** with Fastershires (who have grants available for this purpose) in order that our communities can take full advantage of the new infrastructure that is opening up the internet to Kempley, in order that we can fully exploit the opportunities it offers to reduce carbon emissions.

None of the above actions will have impact on the Parish Council budget. They will require support from our communities, but they all potentially bring cost benefits to our business and residential communities.

Background

Kempley Parish Council recognised that we are now in a Climate Change Emergency Position at our meeting on 26th September 2019 and agreed to:

- Support the efforts of the Forest of Dean District Council to make the district carbon neutral by 2030
- Develop and implement a Parish Climate Emergency Policy and Strategy in line with the action plan developed by the Forest of dean; and
- Invite Ms Charlie Leaman (Carbon Reduction Co-ordinator, Publica) to address a public meeting on the issue of Climate Change.

Since that date the covid-19 emergency has affected our ability to move this agenda item forward with the urgency it needs. Nevertheless, we resolved at our meeting on 2nd July 2020 that:

- an open invitation be made to parishioners and other interested parties to set up a steering committee to advise the Parish Council on measures that could be taken to assist the Council in reducing or mitigating the carbon footprint of the village in line with the Paris Agreement;

- That the group, once formed, be invited to recommend its top three suggestions for action by the Parish Council by the November 2020 Council meeting.

The invitation to parishioners and other interested parties to join this working group was issued via a Mailchimp in August and the terms of reference for the working group were agreed at our September 2020 meeting. A further Mailchimp was issued in October with details on the Forest of Dean meeting for local councils along with a link to the excellent Royal Society of Arts, Commerce, Manufacturers and Commerce (RSA) Climate Change Video. The link to the video is as follows:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUh-TXKIdiE&t=2s>

It is with regret that I have to confirm that no volunteers have yet come forward to help make our working group a reality. Whilst disappointing, with the current pressures' parishioners are under this is perhaps understandable but should not hold the parish council back from taking further action and continuing to encourage parishioners to come forward and get involved in helping our community respond with positive action to the current unfolding crisis.

Partnership working with the Forest of Dean

In line with our original resolution the Parish Council has actively supported the Forest of Dean as it seeks to move the District to a carbon neutral position by 2030. We have had representatives at three online meetings with the Forest of Dean on the:

- 29th July, an inaugural meeting to discuss the setting up of the Forest of Dean Climate Emergency Community Partnership (at which a number of our parishioners took part) – a key action in the Forest of Dean Rapid Action Plan (RAP) ;
- 23rd September, a second meeting to explore the preferred structure and function of the Forest of Dean Climate Emergency Partnership; and
- 7th October, a day long workshop for Parish / Town Council in the Forest of Dean to explore the role such organisations could take to support the Forest of Dean in encouraging local communities to reduce carbon emissions and to help the Forest reach carbon neutrality by 2030. A total of 10 Councils (roughly 28%) attended out of the 36 that exist in the Forest of Dean

The Parish Council has also linked with Linton and Gorsley Parish Council who successfully set up a Climate Change Working Group in December 2019 to identify the top three items that the Linton Parish Council could undertake to move to carbon neutral. For each recommendation they are exploring:

- The benefit to the climate / environment to be achieved
- Any negative impact or loss of amenity
- The investment and operational costs and any related savings
- The Implementation steps (with corresponding recommended owners).

In addition we have been invited by West Dean Parish Council (who have a Climate Emergency sub-committee working on local projects with local volunteers) to join up with all interested PC/TC/PM to explore ways we can all support one another on projects across the District to take local action on the climate and ecological emergency

The Way Forward

The Parish Council now has an excellent resource base from which to draw ideas on the way we as a Parish Council can help our community move towards carbon neutrality by 2030. We clearly have a leadership role to motivate our community to get involved and recognise the scale of the challenge that is emerging.

We often think of climate change as something that will happen long into the future caused largely by activities from the industrial revolution. Neither is true. Over half the increase in carbon in our atmosphere has been emitted in the last 25 years and climate change is now affecting our lives. If our children and grandchildren are to avoid catastrophic climate change it is the responsibility of our generation to start moving to zero carbon.

Whilst the UK has made a good start in that direction the easy wins have already been made. The next 52% of emission reductions now need to be achieved by all of us changing our behaviours and adopting low carbon options for the supply of our heat, power, transport and food. All these changes can save money for our business farming and residential communities.

For a rural community like ours four areas are crucial for action to both save money and save carbon. They relate to:

- Powering our homes and businesses;
- Heating our homes and workplaces;
- Travel and transport; and
- Farming, the food we eat and where it comes from.

Powering and Heating our Homes - Our Government is now encouraging us to change with grants to reduce our carbon footprint from heating and powering our homes. Homeowners in England, including landlords, can get up to £5,000 to pay part of the cost of energy saving measures like insulation. Low income households can get 100% of the costs of work covered up to £10,000.

https://greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk/?utm_campaign=green_homes_grant_2020&utm_medium=ppc&utm_source=google&utm_content=search-051020&gclid=COWaq46i0uwCFRJFGwodOAYB5A

We need to make sure our parishioners are some of the 600,000 households who could save up to £600 a year on energy bills by applying for these grants. Installing energy efficient home improvements cuts emissions and will reduce carbon emissions.

Travel and Transport - Further grants are available to help us reduce both our costs and our carbon footprint from travel and transport <https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants> These grants cover support for electric cars, motorcycles, mopeds, vans, taxis and large vans and trucks.

Farming and the Food we Eat - In 2019, the NFU set the goal of reaching net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the whole of agriculture in England and Wales by 2040 see

<https://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/nfu-unveils-its-plan-for-british-farming-to-delive/>

Critical to this goal is setting up farm systems that allow decisions to be taken that understand the carbon impact they will have. Conducting farm-level audits through a carbon calculator can be helpful for Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation see; <https://www.nfuonline.com/nfu-online/environment/carbon-calculators-review-member-briefing-14012020/>

In addition, the **NFU's Net Zero: Farm Status Indicator** has also been designed to provide an introduction to carbon footprinting. It focuses on three pillars of activity that the NFU has identified as being key to helping farmers and growers tackle the issue at farm level:

1. Boosting productivity and reducing emissions
2. Farmland carbon storage
3. Coupling bioenergy to carbon capture, utilisation and storage

It aims to provide a quick and easy guide to the practical measures you can put in place on your farm to reduce your agricultural greenhouse gas emissions see:

<https://www.nfuonline.com/cross-sector/environment/environment-must-read/net-zero-nfu-farm-status-indicator/>

In Kempeley we have a range of pioneers who have been very active in reducing their carbon footprints in both the residential and farming communities. We therefore have a wealth of experience on which to draw, ranging from earlier pioneers with:

- renewable energy and systems to reduce energy need in new homes such as:
 - wind power and anaerobic digestion in our farming community;
 - solar, heat source pumps and insulation programmes in our residential community;
 - Passivehaus Standard new build; and
 - The use of bioLPG from renewable sources.
- Electric vehicles;
- Off grid electric storage and smart tariffs; and
- The development of local low carbon food supplies.

We have also taken a lead in bringing superfast broadband to Kempeley with over £150,000 of investment for the first two programmes that have benefited local businesses since 2015 and will benefit both residential and farming locations in the north of Kempeley by December 2020. This programme will be completed in 2021. Superfast broadband supports home working and efficiency changes in farming all of which reduce the communities carbon footprint.

Based on our experience it is therefore suggested that Kempeley Parish Council encourage our communities to move forward towards carbon neutrality by 2030 by:

- **Baselining our current carbon emissions** - Explore with the Forest of Dean and other Parish Councils the most effective way to base line current community carbon emissions;
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- **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes that will support carbon reduction** through open online sessions on the Parish Council Zoom account at which we invite key speakers to promote the uptake and use of existing grant programmes for our business, farming and residential communities;
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Martin Brocklehurst

Chair Kempeley Parish Council - 26th October 2020