

**Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency**

**Report on progress to the January 2021 Parish Council Meeting.**

**Executive Summary**

Kempley Parish Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at our meeting on 26th September 2019.

We agreed at our November 2020 meeting that Kempley Parish Council would move forward towards carbon neutrality by 2030 by taking the following actions:

1. **Baselining our current community carbon emissions**
2. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes**
3. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction**
4. **Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband [**to drive change in the way we work, travel and shop to reduce carbon emissions].

**Progress Report**

We have made the following progress on our four key target areas;

**Baselining our current community carbon emissions –** We have registered our interest in a new tool being jointly developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE – Bristol) and Exeter University to allow Parish Councils to baseline community carbon emissions. This will be our best way to measure carbon emissions from our community and we will monitor its progress through testing to ascertain when this tool can be used in Kempley.

**Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes** - We have joined forces with 9 other Parish and Town Councils\* to share best practice. We have agreed to take part in a **Local Communications Pilot** being led by the CSE that will highlight actions that can be taken by local people to reduce carbon. Monthly themes are being promoted and communication materials is being provided that we can use in Kempley Parish Council communications. The first two themes are:

**December 2020** – Insulation of Homes

**January 2021**– Land Management and Connecting with the Land

**Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction –** We are in discussions with partner Parish Councils on setting up a joint ZOOM conference to promote existing UK based grant schemes that can be used by local businesses, farms and residential property owners to reduce carbon and save money. We will announce our ideas once the current pressure created by the COVID-19 pandemic subside. In addition, we are looking to support an EU Horizon 2020 project – AURORA (see below).

**Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband –** Since our Novembermeeting installation of fibre optic cables to premises in the norther end of Kempley by Airband has started. Trenching work between Bridges Farm and Kempley Court is complete and we await installation of aerial fibre optics (delayed by the need to install new telegraph poles – scheduled for 30th January 2021), splicing in of the new cables, commissioning and final offers for property connections. For the rest of the village, we await briefings from Gigaclear in the spring for installation 3Q 2021. Once installation is underway, we can begin offering training events on how to get the best benefits from the new systems and understand how we might reduce carbon emission as a consequence.

**Partnership working with the Forest of Dean -** In addition to the abovea consortium of European Universities has invited the Forest of Dean District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy to take part in a bid to the EU Horizon 2020 Programme “Achieving a new European Energy Awareness” (AURORA). If the bid is successful it will lead to an investment of about €500,000 in the local area to support pilot schemes in the Forest of Dean that will in particular support the establishment of a community photo-voltaic scheme (circa 200kW) and to support local participating people to move to **Near Zero -Emission Citizens** with a citizen science programme targeted at electricity, heating and mobility that will provide a personalised reporting package for their use. This research package could provide a major boost to the work of the FDDC to support its stated drive to achieve a near carbon neutral Forest of Dean Community by 2030 over the next 4 years (see attached summary for details). The pilot will be one of 7 pilots across the European Union and the United Kingdom

Local Parish Councils are being requested to offer a letter of support for this project bid which I commend to Kempley Parish Council.

Martin Brocklehurst

Chair Kempley Parish Council - 26th October 2020 (1)

* **Annex 1 -List of participating Parish Councils**

West Dean Parish Council

Newland Parish Council

Westbury on Severn Parish Council

Lydney Town Council

Coleford Town Council

Cinderford Town Council

St Braviels Parish Council

Linton Parish Council

Kempley Parish Council

**Annex 2 AURORA Project - Note this is a document still being revised**

**AURORA: Achieving a new eUROpean Energy Awareness.**

Since our energy systems are pivotal in decarbonizing Europe, they are at the heart of the Green Deal. To ensure for this green transition to be fair and inclusive, so that no one is left behind, citizens will need to be empowered in energy-related matters, which poses a crucial methodological challenge. Civil society often lacks the skills and knowledge to fully understand the impact that energy consumer have , which results in major environmental impacts and a vulnerability from the social point of view.

AURORA aims at an innovative long-term citizen engagement with energy-saving behaviours, empowering civil society to adopt a leading role in the energy cycle and to be real actors of sustainable change via the **promotion of citizen science practices** using a co-productionist framework for understanding and intervening in energy, through incorporating selected aspects of the relational and systemic engagement ecologies.

The goal of these demonstrators is to create open and diverse groups of citizens with a long-term commitment to turn them into **“Near Zero-Emission Citizens”** -adopting a labelling system similar to the applied in vehicles related to CO2 emissions or energy consumption in home appliances -. In this regard, participants will be trained to **monitor their energy consumption** -related to **electricity, heating and mobility**-, via an app where they will record data that will be translated to **provide personalized information about their environmental impact** Thanks to the use of artificial intelligence, the app will return **concrete and targeted** advice to the users on how to walk the path towards a major sustainability. Some of the requested interventions to assist the change will be also developed within the project, such as fabrication of low cost sensors to identify energy drains or creation of some infrastructures. One key aspect of the initiative, with a duly ethic management, is the collection of socio-economic data related to such energy behaviours for improving both energy policies to integrate a gender vision and energy transitions scenarios to include behavioural effects.

AURORA has to deal with a major challenge: how to ensure that such a large number of people will participating in the experience for a long-term as to transform them in ambassadors of such behavioural changes. In this regard, AURORA will foster the upgrade of established communities in Europe to energy communities. The energy communities will allow citizens to be part of the green energy transition understanding not only the environmental impact of their energy consumption but also how renewable energy production can help in the decarbonization of Europe, and certainly we aim to demonstrate this is the quickest way of reaching behavioural changes thanks to the community identity and social norms as driving change forces. With shares from €20 they will have a unique chance of be part of a community that will build a photovoltaic installation of around 200kW in each location. These shares will contribute proportionally in the “labelling” system of citizens so they will be able to compensate their monitored footprint linked to consumption habits with clean and affordable energy production. Beyond the sense of community of these actions, there is also a matter of awareness, education and promotion of the role of prosumers as to achieve the goals of the Green Deal. Allowing people to know how real installations work and how this reduce the environmental impact and the energy bill there will be a major chance to engage them in further individual actions as prosumers to generate radical lifestyles choices. Finally, the idea of locating such installations at public spaces links with a later assignment of the installations as demonstrators for further dissemination and research purposes, reinforcing the spirit of the Citizen Science Initiative.

* Concluding AURORA will enable citizens to have **a holistic vision of the impact of energy attitudes** on the environment raising awareness enough as to **promote changes in their consumption and lifestyle choices**