

**Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency**

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

**Executive Summary**

Kempley Parish Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at our meeting on 01st October 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*.*

***Current Position*** *- We await to receive feedback on this work.*

**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 four themes are:

**December 2020** – Insulation of Homes - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18v6xKti8lDbjtYCi6S7TgyR7vpjnvZ7v>

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

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1j2ju31iMffgJvsTuI6Mq5exyk56hVl-1>

**February 2021** – Reducing Food Waste

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18ub2dqSe-EeqQLC4E3eMyY0qgx-NtgPf>

**March 2021** – Local Travel

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17NZ1KazdXBO6VZ0UOJ4avjs7vf5Ely8B>

***Current Position*** *– We are now in a position to set out a series of Mailchimp communications based on these documents that will be appropriate for Kempley. We still need volunteers willing to help to put these documents together. To make progress we need to find volunteers to help with this process*

**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).

***Current Position*** *– No progress on the Zoom Meeting. The AURORA bid has been submitted with a letter of support from Kempley Parish Council (see below). We await to hear if the bid has been successful.*

*The Linton Climate Group Newsletter provides information on current grant schemes, see:* [*https://mailchi.mp/ea3b0ff75f03/green-grants?e=f91050adbb*](https://mailchi.mp/ea3b0ff75f03/green-grants?e=f91050adbb)

**Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband –**

***Current Position – Airband:*** *Since our January meeting installation of the main fibre optic cables infrastructure (Investment of over £100,000) in the northern end of Kempley by Airband has been completed. Final offers for property connections will start at the end of March 2021. This is later than expected, but businesses and residential properties now have the opportunity to connect to superfast broadband with speeds of up to 1000 MbpS.*

***Current Position – Gigaclear****; For the remainder of the village Gigaclear have confirmed they will attend the May Parish Council meeting and brief Cllrs on proposals 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 –**

***Current Position*** *– A consortium of European Universities with local partners the Forest of Dean District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy have completed and submitted an accepted bid to the EU Horizon 2020 Programme “Achieving a new European Energy Awareness” (AURORA). If the bid is successful it will unlock investment of about €500,000 in the local area. Funding will then support pilot schemes in the Forest of Dean that will include:*

* *the establishment of a community photo-voltaic scheme (circa 200kW); and*
* *support for 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 is designed to 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. The pilot will be one of 7 pilots across the European Union and the United Kingdom*

*Kempley Parish Council sent a letter of support for this project bid.*

Martin Brocklehurst

Chair Kempley Parish Council – March 2021

* **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