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**Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency**

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

**Summary**

The main areas of progress since our last Parish Council meeting in May are:

* Progress on the approval of the EU funded AURORA Energy Awareness Project. We have an expected start date in December 2021 (subject to contract approvals) and can expect to see benefit from the work undertaken by the Forest of Dean District Council as one of the lead partners in the programme ;
* A better understanding of the value of reducing residential carbon emissions;
* Progress developing the *Sharing the Benefits* communication campaign; and
* Progress on Superfast Broadband to Kempley.

**We would be able to accelerate progress if we could attract more volunteers to help.**

**Introduction**

Kempley Parish Council (KPC) declared a Climate Change Emergency at our meeting in October 2019. We agreed at our November 2020 meeting that the KPC 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 since our last meeting;

1. **Baselining our current community carbon emissions –**

Base line carbon emissions were reported for the village at our May meeting, using the Exeter University et al Community carbon calculator - [impact-tool.org.uk/](http://impact-tool.org.uk/)

These measurements are based on national data sets and do not reflect local activities already taken by local parishioners and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. We have many stories (yet to be told) of local parishioners taking substantial activity to reduce their carbon footprint. Farmers locally have installed a wind turbine and an anaerobic digester, both of which will produce renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Many households have installed solar heaters and solar panels as well as air source heat pumps. A number of our parishioners have also purchased electric or bi-fuel vehicles reducing their personal carbon footprints. We have as a community therefore started to reduce our carbon footprint.

These changes now need to be factored into the base-line carbon footprint for the village. In order to understand how these changes can be built into the IMPAC model we have written to Exeter University to open a dialogue and await their response.

We have also received a report “Decarbonising Homes – Consumer attitudes towards energy efficiency and green heating in the UK – Olivia Chapman et al; Nesta June 2021”. This report lays out the challenge the UK and our village faces to reduce carbon emissions from residential property. It estimates that:

* Domestic Energy use accounted for 21% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2019;
* The residential sector is the 3rd biggest emitter of UK carbon; and
* To get too net zero by 2050 – the UK’s legally binding target – each home will need to reduce its carbon emissions from heating down from 2,745 kg of carbon to 138kgs per year (based on 2017 figures).

In the NESTA survey work 85% of people agreed that climate change is one of the most important issues we need to address and 84% agreed that everyone will have to adopt energy efficiency

**Our aim therefore over the next few months is to build up an understanding of what has already been achieved with examples from existing residential properties in Kempley and factor that into the IMACT model. Once we understand the journey people are on, we can show case examples of what can be achieved and what the costs and benefits are.**

1. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes** –

**2.1 Sharing the Benefits**

The Parish Council has asked Bob Earll and Mark Warrilow to develop an initiative with Kempley residents. The *Sharing the Benefits* initiative will explore resident’s response to the climate, over-consumption, and nature emergency. These conversations will take place over the rest of 2021.

**2.2 The Forest Climate Group - Joining forces with local Parish Councils**

9 Parish and Town Councils now meet on a bi-monthly basis to share best practice and to pool ideas on joint projects. The Group meet at the 7th June when Chris Blight talked about Dyfra and its work and will meet again at the end of July /August. It is an excellent forum to share our experiences. Across the UK organisations are also sharing their experiences and a good example is a Trello Board[[1]](#footnote-1) for Local and Parish Councils set up covering Climate Engagement – Best Practice

see <https://trello.com/b/71rrSkH3/climate-engagement-best-practice>

**2.3 Joining Forces with the Forest of Dean District Council**

**Climate Emergency Community Partnership** - We continue to work closely with the Forest of Dean District Council who declared a climate emergency in 2018. We await the formation of the Climate Emergency Community Partnership that is expected to be active in the Autumn of 2021.

**AURORA EU Horizon Europe** - Kempley Parish Council has supported the District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy as partners in the EU Horizon 2020 funding bid for project AURORA. This European wide Energy Awareness Project bid to support efforts locally to move to carbon neutral has passed the first stage evaluation by the EU. The Partner Contracts are expected to be signed in July and the full contract between the EU and the lead Partner shortly thereafter. The project is provisionally scheduled to start in December 2021 and a full press release with all the details will be issued as soon as contracts are agreed. This project will be a major boost for local initiatives to move to carbon neutral.

1. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction**

We intend to monitor what UK Government schemes may become available to support carbon reduction programmes. Project AURORA will, however, offer the Parish Council a chance to get involved in this EU funded research project once it begins in December 2021.

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

**Current Position**

* 1. **Kempley Airband Scheme –** This programme, supported by the County Council Fastershire scheme went live on January 27th, 2016, and brought fast wireless-based broadband to micro businesses in Kempley. It remains operational and offers businesses and a few residents broad band speeds of up to 40Mbps

**Kempley Combined Solution –** Works to install the fibre optic spine into the northern end of Kempley is now complete and participating businesses are connected and working. To quote one of the business users:

*“I can say that the service so far, with the number connected has appeared 100% available i.e., it’s been there when we’ve wanted to use it. Speed has been typically close to the 150 Mb/s band that we are paying for and sometimes, when I’ve tested it achieved 230 mbs. In summary we’re chuffed with the facility, and it seems to perform better than the level of service that we’re paying for”.*

Additional residential and farm businesses are now being connected and work was underway week ending 2nd July 2021.

Full details can be found in the following leaflet:

<https://kempleyparishcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200312_GD457_kempley-combined-doordrop_leaflet.pdf>

**Fastershire / Gigaclear**; For the remainder of the village Gigaclear have confirmed detailed design work is complete for their Glebe Orchard build (which includes Kempley). Validation work will commence shortly to look at the traffic management that will be required for the build and to ensure they can deliver against the detailed design. The forecast remains work starting in Q3 – though this is likely to be the back end circa September and may slip into the very early part of Q4. Gigaclear expect to delay an online Community Meeting till September 2021.

Once installation is complete, we can explore future events on how to get the best benefits from the new systems and understand how we might reduce carbon emission as a consequence.

**Martin Brocklehurst**

**Chair Kempley Parish Council – July 2021**

1. **Trello** is a collaboration tool that organizes your projects into **boards**. In one glance, **Trello** tells you what's being worked on, who's working on what, and where something is in a process. Imagine a white **board**, filled with lists of sticky notes, with each note as a task for you and your team. ... That's **Trello**! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)