**Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency**

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

**Summary**

Kempley Parish Council is recommended to approve the following resolutions:

1. **That Kempley Parish Council sponsor a briefing evening in the village hall during January 2022 on the topic of heat pumps to support a new Government Grant Scheme expected to commence in April 2022;**
2. **That Kempley Parish Council create a data layer on Parish Online to capture all carbon reduction schemes within the Parish and seek data from the owners on the expected carbon reductions that will follow; and**
3. **That the Kempley Parish Clerk write to Gigaclear/Fastershires seeking clarification on the impact of the bankruptcy of the installation contractor Utilities on the Glebe Orchard fibre optic scheme delivery dates as they affect Kempley.**

**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**

Progress on our four key target areas since our September meeting is as follows;

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

1.1 The base line carbon emissions were reported for the village at our May 2021 meeting, using the Exeter University et al Community carbon calculator - [impact-tool.org.uk/](http://impact-tool.org.uk/)

These figures are estimates based on UK wide average data and take no account of the works individuals are doing in Kempley to reduce carbon emissions.

**1.2 It is recommended that we now start to map carbon reductions that have been achieved in Kempley and to document the information on a data layer of the Parish Online System that is now available to the Council.** In this way we can monitor community progress.

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

**2.1 Sharing the Benefits**

We await the outcome from the work being undertaken by Bob Earll and Mark Warrilow in their *Sharing the Benefits* initiative, exploring resident’s response to the climate, over-consumption, and nature emergency. A more detailed report is expected early in the New Year.

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

Parish and Town Councils in the Forest of Dean continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis to share best practice and to pool ideas on joint projects. The last meeting was held on 21st October.

**2.3 – AURORA[[1]](#footnote-1)**

The kick-off meeting for this project will now take place in Madrid on the 14th & 15th December. A report on progress will follow in January 2022.

**2.4 Mapping Best Practice**

Creating a Parish Online Data layer for carbon reduction projects will allow KPC to illustrate the combined community effort to reduce carbon emissions.

1. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction** 
   1. Since our September meeting COP26 has taken place. The final outcome is not yet clear, nor are plans by the UK Government to support communities to decarbonise. The government has, however agreed to offer grants of £5,000 for the installation of heat pumps from April 2022 as part of a new £450 million scheme to upgrade domestic heating infrastructure.
   2. **To encourage Kempley residents to take advantage of this scheme it is recommended that Kempley Parish Council arrange a briefing evening on the topic of heat pumps and invite a presentation and Q&A by a local supplier and invite those with heat pumps to share their experiences. It is recommended that the event be organised during January 2022.**
2. **Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband –**

4.1 Full details on works to upgrade the broadband infrastructure for Kempley were presented to the September 2021 meeting. Since that date Utilities a key installation contractor for Gigaclear has declared bankruptcy. The impact on the schedules for the Gigaclear roll out of fibre optic to the premises for the remaining properties in Kempley is not yet clear.

**4.2 It is recommended that the Clerk write formally to Gigaclear requesting details on how the timing of works for the Kempley Parish will be affected.**

**Martin Brocklehurst**

**Chair Kempley Parish Council – November 2021**

1. Martin Brocklehurst declares a financial interest in the AURORA project as one of the core partners, KempleyGreen Consultants (KGC). The role in the project is to lead the external international dissemination of the overall programme and its results. Local initiatives are being led by the Forest of Dean District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Development. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)