



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO FULL COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Climate Emergency Committee
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Date	18th November 2020
SUBJECT	Climate Emergency – amended resolution, update and action plan

PURPOSE:

1. To remind Members that at the Town Council meeting held on 10th April 2019 the following resolution was passed-

That Todmorden Town Council: -

- Declares a Climate Emergency.
- Establishes a Climate Emergency Committee to respond to this challenge, that meets in public including cross party representation and the involvement of other relevant local groups with a strategic eye on reducing our carbon footprint year on year.
- Calls on the Government and Calderdale to provide the resources and powers so that our Town Council can make its contribution to the UK's Carbon Reduction targets.
- Requests the Climate Emergency Committee to report back to the Council on progress made in November 2019.

2. To provide an update to Full Council of the work of the Climate Emergency Committee - see Appendix 1
3. To take the opportunity to revisit this Declaration in the light of experience gained and to propose an amended Resolution as follows:

That Todmorden Town Council

- Reinforces its earlier Declaration of a "Climate Emergency".
- Works collectively as a community and with wider stakeholders, towards making Todmorden carbon neutral by the earliest practical date.
- Continues to call on the Government and Calderdale to provide the resources and powers so that our Town Council can make its contribution to the UK's Carbon Reduction targets.

- 3) To seek Members support to the Plan of Action that has emerged from the work of the Climate Emergency Committee and in doing so note the developing lobby role (Appendix 2)

BACKGROUND:

2. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This exceeds the 350-ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.
3. Climate change and sustainability are amongst the biggest issues of the 21st century and the effects of man-made and dangerous climate change are already manifestly occurring.
4. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.
5. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm. And these carbon emissions result from both production and consumption.
6. Unfortunately, current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.
7. In Todmorden, the consequences of inaction to address this emergency will include:
 - Increased risk of flooding, subsidence, and damage to buildings and infrastructure.
 - Health problems, particularly for children, the disabled and older people.
 - Higher energy and food costs.
 - Increases in social injustice and inequality.
8. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities;
9. Councils around the world, including many town and parish councils, have responded by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency. We want Todmorden to join this community.
10. We recognise the critical role that Councils, including Town and Parish Councils, have to play in delivering a zero-carbon future. The present Government have, in this Council's opinion, been inadequate at rising to the scale of the climate change challenge.
11. Together the Todmorden community can create innovative solutions to address many of the causes and impact of climate change. And many of these will grow and support a new cleaner and greener economic base for the Town.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. A budget of £5,000 remains for the 2020/21 financial year with a budget of £10,000 proposed for the 2021/22 financial year. These relatively modest budgets will enable the Committee to meet expenses such as engaging a consultant to help us develop a new Moorlands Policy and to cover the cost of other planned activities.

13. Whilst the role of the Climate Emergency Committee is not to give grants, but rather to act as an enabler, it would wish to support funds being made available to third parties as part of an overall application to provide seed-corn funding to lever in substantial funds for green measures.

14. It is envisaged that any grants provided by the Council to support solely local organisations in their Climate Emergency work, will be agreed by the Resources Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

15. That Todmorden Town Council

- Reinforces its earlier Declaration of a “Climate Emergency”.
- Works collectively as a community and with wider stakeholders, towards making Todmorden carbon neutral by the earliest practical date.
- Continues to call on the Government and Calderdale to provide the resources and powers so that our Town Council can make its contribution to the UK’s Carbon Reduction targets.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

16. Town Council is responsible for approving Policy.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

17. Refining this declaration will because of its cross-cutting nature, impact on other Committees at some stage in their future work.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

18. This declaration is aimed at reducing the impact of climate change in Todmorden through a combination of promoting achievable and realistic tasks as well as lobbying for more substantive change.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Committee Update
- Appendix 2 – Plan of Action

For further information, please contact Susan Miles or Colin Hill

APPENDIX 1

Update from the Climate Emergency Committee to Full Council – 18 November 2020

Introduction

The Climate Emergency Committee last provided an update to the Town Council on 6 November 2019.

As with other committees, the scheduled meetings of the Committee were cancelled during the Covid19 lockdown and any urgent business conducted through the Emergency Committee. Since September 2020, when the normal schedule of meetings was resumed, there have been 2 formal Committee meetings (23 September and 11 November 2020). There have also been 4 informal meetings held (12, 19, 26 October and 2 November 2020).

The Committee has been undergoing a data gathering exercise to establish a direction and action plan. Robin Gray of Slow the Flow presented at the formal meeting on 23 September 2020. He talked about the work that Slow the Flow has been doing, together with the National Trust, at Hardcastle Craggs (where they have introduced 'leaky dams' as natural flood management) and Mytholmroyd ('opportunity mapping' where opportunities for natural flood management are being identified. The aim is to create a 'blue/green' network to absorb and contain flood water). Mr Gray is a landscape architect with knowledge and skills in moorland regeneration (using sphagnum moss, amongst other things). Mr Gray presented at the formal meeting on 11 November about Moorland regeneration.

At 3 of the informal meetings members received informative presentations from 8 local organisations. The purpose of this was to find out what local organisations are doing in relation to climate change and to see if there is scope for Todmorden Town Council to collaborate. The focus of the consultation meetings was to see what TTC can practically do locally (within its powers) to alleviate climate change. The presentations were:

1. Anthony Rae: Friends of the Earth
2. Catherine Benn: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
3. Sarah-Jayne Robbins: Todmorden Flood Group
4. Ginny Harris: Calderdale Green New Deal
5. Mary Clear: Incredible Edible
6. Cllr Mike Potter: Ryedale Council
7. Finn Jensen: Blackshaw Environmental Action Group
8. Dr Nick Green and Diana Tremaine: Todmorden Learning Hub

Detailed minutes of each of the presentations are available if required.

The top priority identified for action from the presentations was that of flooding, including the need to update the Moorlands Policy. This and other proposed actions are listed in the accompanying report and action plan where the Climate Emergency Committee is recommending that the Town Council adopts a revised Climate Emergency Declaration and notes the proposed plan for action.

APPENDIX 2

Plan of Action

Todmorden Town Council intends to deliver a number of innovative and bold initiatives to reduce our town's carbon emissions. The priorities are:

1. To alleviate flooding by updating the Moorlands Policy to encourage local activities such as 'leaky dams' and attenuation ponds to 'slow the flow' and to seek CMBC agreement to include a Moorlands Policy as part of its policy framework for when determining planning applications.
2. To work with Calderdale MBC to seek to address the impact of existing planning permissions on the potential for local flooding.
3. To inform and educate residents through enhancements to the TTC website to include information on climate emergency initiatives and support programmes they might benefit from; local, regional, National and International. This is to include practical information about what can be done locally, such as encouraging recycling/upcycling rather than buying everything new.
4. To increase awareness of the opportunity to apply for small grants (from the Resources Committee) for local climate emergency initiatives.
5. To reinforce within the Neighbourhood Plan the priority of walking and cycling and to lobby Calderdale MBC to increase such importance in the Town's transport strategy
6. To continue to work with:
 - other parish and town councils and other governmental agencies across Calderdale and West Yorkshire to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies and plans.
 - local organisations across Todmorden that are also working to combat the climate emergency to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.
7. To lobby:
 - a. Calderdale MBC (and other authorities relevant to Todmorden) to:
 - i. Lead the way in being one of the first authorities to identify the Climate Change risk and to work towards reaching zero global warming by 2050 by commissioning work to deliver this ambition.
 - ii. Invest in solar, ground and air source heat exchangers and wind power generation across its property portfolio.
 - iii. Actively develop a district heat network, and Municipal Energy Company, and an Energy from Waste Plant, which will turn local waste into low carbon electricity and heat for the area and reducing the risk of fuel poverty.
 - iv. To use the latest energy saving technology including new LED streetlights in their role as the Highways Authority,

- v. Achieve a 60% reduction in corporate carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency, better building, fleet management and integrating new technologies.
 - vi. Ensure that any future Todmorden Local Plans place a mandatory requirement for any residential development of one or more dwellings and other development involving new building or extensions exceeding 100m² to:
 - (a) Optimise design, layout and orientation of development to minimise energy use.
 - (b) Meet at least 20% of the development's ongoing and future energy demand from onsite renewable energy sources, the balance to be met from other renewable energy sources.
 - b. Request that the West Yorkshire superannuation fund immediately withdraw 1/3 of its total investment in fossil fuels and transfer the funds into low carbon investments: further request that it reduces its investment in fossil fuels to zero by 2030.
 - c. Request that West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the bus companies increase the rate of transition to ultra-low emission vehicles and to provide the necessary infrastructure and awareness to achieve this.
 - d. Write to the Westminster Government asking it to provide the powers and resources for councils at all levels to make the 2030 target possible.
8. To consider in due course a date for Todmorden to become zero carbon and to then propose this to the Town Council so the Climate Emergency Declaration can be amended.