

Item 7b. Climate Emergency Officer Forum Meeting Report

Summary

Calderdale Council marks its 3rd anniversary of declaring a Climate Emergency.

There has been press coverage on this, so I propose that Todmorden Town Council's CEC considers doing the same to mark our declaration anniversary, to help further raise the profile of the CEC's work to date and proposed actions going forward.

This would be particularly instrumental in the light of a recent event organised by Calderdale Extinction Rebellion and Calderdale Green New Deal, where a march was held to call on Calderdale Council to start delivering on their climate emergency promises.

Whilst this concerns the actions of CMBC, the event is indicative of some public dissatisfaction in regards to progress being made by local authorities on addressing climate change.

One of the issues they had was with the lack of apparent action since the making public of the Emissions Reduction Pathway report, which Calderdale commissioned a consultancy firm to produce. It therefore appears all the more important that the public be made aware of what strategies are being implemented by local councils to address climate change.

A comprehensive communications plan would therefore be beneficial to ensure a strategic approach to conveying this to the best possible effect.

Sphagnum Moss projects, biodiversity and carbon targets

Calderdale Council received a National Lottery Climate Action Fund to support the Sphagnum Moss project.

Moorland restoration and redevelopment of local peatland ecosystems is something that aligns with both Todmorden and Hebden Royd Town Council's Climate Emergency Action Plans, therefore important to look to getting involved

with in the mid-to-long-term, particularly if we are to achieve our yet-to-be-decided **carbon-zero target date**.

CMBC's carbon-neutral target of 2038 could serve as a useful benchmark as to what realistic target we as a town council can resolve to work towards.

The restoration of peat moorlands also ties in with projects that aim to **improve biodiversity**.

There was discussion of concerns over significant declines in certain bird species, namely the Twite, and that some of these 'red list' species may be facing extinction if nothing is done to counter this decline. There has been collaborative work between CMBC and Wakefield Council on the issue of biodiversity. Further to this are the following focal points:

- Nature Recovery Strategy
- Energy Saving Trust -research piece
- LAEP – Local Area Energy Plan
- LEAR – Local Energy Asset Representation
- Decarbonisation scheme
- Hydrogen agenda (injecting the gas network with hydrogen)
- EV charging - demographic data
- White Rose Forest -government funding
- Calder Green Programme -biodiversity and natural habitats.
- Green and Healthy Streets
- Accessible -zero-carbon target plans based on the Emissions Reduction Pathway.

- Climate Working Party – cross-party group members and external organisations -Friends of the Earth, Slow the Flow, NHS, etc.
- A proposed combining of the Ecological Emergency and Climate Resilience into existing Climate Emergency Action Plan agendas.

2022 -25 Climate Action Plan (CMBC)

- Positive vision for Calderdale -creation of more green jobs, equity and addressing the fears/concerns of non-action.
- A need for more effective data measures, as the Emission Reductions Pathway (ERP) report is 2 years out of date and not sensitive/relevant to current local issues.
- Making the ERP report more accessible and understandable by re-wording it from the technical language.