

**NOTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING
RE: CLIMATE EMERGENCY
HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER, 2019
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

Councillor Y. Tennant (Vice-Chairman in the chair)

Present

<i>Jonathan Tunstill</i>	<i>Barnes Walker Ltd.</i>
<i>Susan Sunderland</i>	<i>Barrowford in Bloom</i>
<i>David Chew</i>	<i>East Lancashire Ornithologist Club</i>
<i>Susan Nike</i>	<i>Friends of Barrowford Park</i>
<i>Jane Wood</i>	<i>Friends of the Earth</i>
<i>Keith Chadwick</i>	<i>Friends of Walverden Park</i>
<i>Alison Cross</i>	<i>Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</i>
<i>David Penney</i>	<i>Greenfield Local Nature Reserve</i>
<i>Beccy Murrell</i>	<i>Goldshaw Booth Parish Council</i>
<i>Gill Taylor</i>	<i>Harwes Farm</i>
<i>Walker</i>	<i>I Love Nelson</i>
<i>Paul Hartley</i>	<i>In-Situ Organisation and Engagement</i>
<i>Alison Plackett</i>	<i>Keen Follower of Green Space Issues</i>
<i>Mushuq Hussain</i>	<i>Marsden Heights</i>
<i>Sylvia Godfrey</i>	<i>Pendle Extinction Rebellion</i>
<i>Alison Cross</i>	<i>Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership</i>
<i>Andrea Smith</i>	<i>Pick Up For Pendle</i>
<i>Andrew Walker</i>	<i>Roughlee Booth Parish Council</i>
<i>Deborah Gaskell</i>	<i>Trawden Forest Community Centre, Library and Shop</i>
<i>Richard MacSween</i>	<i>Unison</i>
<i>Margaret MacKenzie</i>	<i>Unite Union</i>
<i>Margaret Taylor</i>	<i>Waterside Millennium Green</i>
<i>Roger Wormwell</i>	<i>Waterside Neighbourhood Action Group</i>
<i>Councillor Tom Whipp</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council/Barnoldswick Town Council</i>
<i>Councillor David Whipp</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council/Colne Town Council/Friends of Ball Grove</i>
<i>Councillor Alice Mann</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor Ken Turner</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor Jonathan Nixon</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor Sheila Wicks</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>

Officers in attendance:

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Gill Dickson</i>	<i>Policy Officer, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services, Pendle Borough Council</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Colin Carter, Tony Greaves and Ken Hartley).

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1. POSITION STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and following introductions there was a brief discussion on the Council's position statement regarding the climate emergency.

The Council had recently signed a Climate Emergency declaration at its last Full Council meeting. By doing this it had joined over 200 other councils who had pledged to take local action on climate change. This would be an opportunity to review the Council's approach to climate change and consider priorities for future action.

A Climate Emergency Working Group had also been established and they had agreed at their last meeting that this meeting be convened. The Group would be developing an action plan and it was interested in hearing the views of others on what they were doing and what could be done to achieve a net carbon neutral Borough.

A local schools summit was also planned for early December.

2. DISCUSSION

The Vice-Chairman opened up the meeting for discussion. A variety of issues were raised/discussed which included:

- The Council was looking to plant more trees with the help of funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. The River Ribble Catchment Trust and The Fort Vale Foundation had expressed an interest in working with the Council to plant more trees in the Borough. Currently there was 8% coverage of trees in the Borough compared with the recommended coverage of 20%.
- Reference was made to areas within the Borough where planting had already taken place such as Walverden Park, Alkincoats Park and Barnoldswick.
- It was suggested that herbicides and pesticides no longer be used; encourage people to weed more and make more use of roadside verges to aid biodiversity.
- It was felt that more consideration should be given to landscaping schemes in relation to planning applications. It was explained that this was already being done and officers worked with developers to provide the best scheme for an area. Conditions regarding landscaping schemes were included on the decision notices for the relevant applications.
- Tree planting was already being carried out within the Borough but more could be done. Local schools had taken part as well as Friends Groups and various community groups. Tree nursery's were already being planted by some schools.
- With regards Lancashire's omission from the Northern Forest it was explained that a meeting was scheduled for early in the New Year to make a case for it to be included.
- The Woodland Trust would be launching another round of applications for people to request trees from them to be planted by individuals, schools, community groups etc.
- Maintenance of the trees was also an important issue to consider as well as the soil condition.
- The introduction of more charging points for electric vehicles, particularly on the outskirts of the Borough, was suggested.
- Consider introducing alternative forms of energy within Council buildings but also encourage others to do the same i.e. new developments.
- With regards energy utilities people were usually drawn to the cheapest tariff which wasn't necessarily the greenest option. More education was needed in this area.
- The work of volunteers was acknowledged particularly with regards to litter picking and planting schemes.

- Poor insulation, particularly in the terraced houses in the Borough, was considered to be an issue. External insulation/cladding could be used but how this looked could be an issue visually but also from a planning perspective (particularly within a Conservation Area).
- Marsden Heights Community College had its own Eco Group which focused on climate change issues. The school also worked with its feeder primary schools on climate issues as well. It was acknowledged that not all schools had this resource.
- Traffic issues were discussed which it was reported was a particular problem within the rural villages of the Borough as residents, by virtue of where they lived, were wholly dependent on their cars to get to work and school etc. Car sharing was suggested but it was also acknowledged that there were wider implications across the Borough. Public transport also needed to be improved to make it more accessible and economic for people.
- Encourage land owners to plant more hedgerows but also not to cut them back too often.
- Put more pressure on Waste Management at Lancashire County Council to have a more robust view to recycling.
- Encourage people to use less heating by turning down the thermostats and to put on more layers.
- Reference was made to population growth and the management of population decline.
- Out of season foodstuffs should be discouraged and less meat should be eaten.
- Reference was made to the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer for Pennine Lancashire which the Council was a member of. One of their actions was to look at how planning policies could be regulated re: fast food take-away outlets.
- Education on many levels was needed to raise awareness of issues contributing to and affected by climate change issues.
- There was also a part to play by the Government in relation to changes to various policies and raising awareness of the issues.
- Individuals also had a part to play and there was a need to change people's overall attitudes to things.

The Chief Executive summed up the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions to the discussion. The response to climate change issues was multi-faceted and there wasn't one solution at any level, the topic/issue was very wide ranging. He invited people to submit any further suggestions/thoughts on this topic in writing for consideration by the Working Group.

The notes of this meeting would be submitted to the next meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group for them to consider which would help them produce an Action Plan. It was noted however, that this may take some time to do as it would have to be done within existing resources.