

The Climate Crisis and The Parish Council

Context:

Prior to the Covid -19 pandemic we had begun to make some small steps within our community to address the growing climate crisis. These included the following;

- A climate Awareness week (Planning for which was complete) See attached document . (We should set a provisional date for this)
- Plans to arrange a community litter pick
- A card drop issued to all residents (would suggests this includes things that householders can do quite simply (See attached document)
- Regular feature in the newsletter on Climate Change.

During the current pandemic it may be considered difficult to undertake community events, however now is a good time to get planning.

In addition to the above I would like to propose the following action plan as a way forward in the short term.

1. All members of the PC to bring themselves up to date with the Climate Crisis. (I can arrange a session on this with a visiting speaker) and to acknowledge the need to make this an urgent priority for action.
2. Visit other PCs to share expertise (Lots to be learnt from Woodbridge in particular as a “transition town” Risby Parish Council have set up a wildlife project. Ide PC in Devon have made significant progress (See attached documents)
3. Establish a formal Climate Emergency working group with the following remit:
 - Write a Statement detailing the PC approach to the Climate Crisis.
 - Write a statement detailing the PC approach to Bio-diversity loss.
 - To plan action, events and to work with other groups and organisations in the community. (I have made a connection with Thurston Community College through Assistant Head Dr Jean Wheeler regarding broadening the scope and membership of the proposed youth council to include issues such as “Young People and Climate Change” I will be meeting with her at the end of September.
 - Forge links with “The Hive’ Bradfield a local organisation who actively support local groups and councils and have established a Climate crisis/bio-diversity loss committee. I have links with this group and know that they would be excellent to work with.
<https://www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk/key-groups---councils.html>
 - Add a section on the Climate Crisis to the Thurston PC website.
4. Explore the possibility of developing a recycling centre of glass, shoes, textiles etc. The centre in Ixworth raised over £3000 for the village hall.
5. Work with community centres such as “The library” “Thurst Café” to promote eco friendly practice.

6. Investigate the establishment of a community repair shop.
7. Investigate the possibility of renovating the railway building as a centre for community action on the climate crisis. (CIL funding?)

I have attached the following documents for consideration.

The planning document for the awareness week planned for earlier this year.

Parish and Town Councils Act on CO2 “Ways to Tackle Climate Change” (Defra)

Climate Emergency Working Group Ide Village

20 Actions Parish Councils can take on the climate and nature emergency (Friends Of The Earth)

The Hive (Eco Forum PDF) For our information only at this stage as it is a working document

Link to the Risby PC wildlife project: <http://risby.suffolk.cloud/risby-wildlife-project/>

Link to Transition town Woodbridge <https://transitionwoodbridge.org.uk>

Hopefully the above will help to inform our thinking