

Henley in Transition

Notes on HIT 'Climate Emergency' Meeting held at 5.30pm on Monday 21st Jan 2019 in King's Arms

Present: Cath Adams, Dave McEwen, Ruth Tod, Ian Petrie, Liz Ware, Susan Mann, Peter Stone, Keith Allen, Charles Langler, David Dickie, Jackie Walker, Ed Atkinson, Patrick Fleming, Sally Rankin, Rebecca Chandler-Wilde, Ruth Gibson, Denise Keir, Catherine Notaras, Katrina Judge, Gerda and Don Barraclough

Apologies: Gill & Malcolm Dodds

Notes & Feedback from Climate Emergency meeting in Oxford last Thursday

- the latest information states that the situation is worse than predicted in the IPCC report published last October. This stated that we have 12 years to prevent catastrophic climate change.
- One of the things that has got worse since the IPCC report went to print is the warming of the permafrost. This appears to have now reached a tipping point which could mean the massive release of Methane. Methane is 28 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than CO₂.
- incremental change is no longer enough.
- Local councils can be very important in leading the fight for action on climate change by declaring a Climate Emergency which means that every council policy would be assessed against its carbon footprint.
- 200+ councils in 29 countries around the world have already declared a climate emergency. This includes 15 in the UK since last November.
- Zero Carbon by 2030 now needs to be the target.
- on 15 Feb schoolchildren in Oxfordshire are going on strike to protest against the lack of government action on climate change. This is part of a world-wide movement called School Strikes 4 Climate Action inspired by the Swedish Student Greta Thunberg.
- on 15 April Extinction Rebellion will stage a major demo in London with 3 clear demands. The government to declare a climate emergency, set out the actions they plan to take and appoint a Citizens Assembly to oversee the implementation

Actions Agreed by the Meeting

- lobby local candidates in the run-up to the May elections to seek their individual commitments to declaring a climate emergency
- HIT will seek ways of working together with South Oxfordshire Sustainability and other local sustainability groups
- meetings will be held in the community to explain the Climate Emergency and generate ideas of what individuals can do to make a difference
- Write 2/3 letters to the Henley Standard for publication this week NB The HS has now agreed to an 1500 word report in next week's issue - 8th Feb 2019

- Prepare a script for approaching HTC councillors
- Email all members asking them which candidates they would be happy to approach to discuss the script
- Email all members to ask for 5 suggestions for the most important ways that people can reduce their carbon footprint
- Contact Chris Church of Zero Carbon Oxford who spoke at the meeting in Oxford to see if he would address a meeting in Henley.
- Contact SOS - South Oxfordshire Sustainability - to agree co-ordinated actions
- Arrange for Ian Petrie to do a talk to members about Extinction Rebellion
- Circulate to members a List of the links from the meeting in Oxford
- Cath Adams to email a copy of the Green Living document to be forwarded to members who express an interest in preparing a plan
- Arrange a meeting in Henley about the Carbon Fee & Dividend Policy / Citizens Climate Lobby
- Arrange a series of public meetings in the community to discuss ideas of what people can do to make a difference
- Ensure that actions to address the climate emergency are included in the revised Henley-Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan
- The work of Polly Higgins and Mission Life force was brought to the attention of the meeting. Polly brought the term 'ecocide' to the world's attention and campaigns for ecocide to be added to the list of International Crimes against Humanity. <https://www.missionlifeforce.org/history/> Liz Ware will research further and report back.
- Agreed that a small group be set up to help take forward the above actions in relation to lobbying candidates and getting a Climate Emergency motion adopted by local councils. Ruth Tod, Susan Mann and Jackie Walker indicated their interest. Other offers of help with any of the above actions gratefully received.

Huge thanks to Don & Gerda for helping to draw up these notes and actions

Dave McEwen
Chair, Henley in Transition

27th Jan 2019