

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

To: All Members of the Environment Sub Committee

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONSED TO ATTEND
a meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE
to be held in
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET HILL, HUNTINGDON
on
THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2022 at 19:00

AGENDA

11. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda (see notes)

13. **ADDRESS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

To hear any address to the Sub Committee from members of the public and other members of the Town Council on matters within the responsibility of this Sub Committee

14. **MINUTES**

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Sub Committee held on 23rd June 2022 (M1)

15. **WILD ABOUT HUNTINGDON**

To receive information from Stephanie James on the Wild About Huntingdon project.

16. **ECO AUDIT**

To receive an update on the progress of the Net Zero Strategy

17. **ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS UPDATE**

To receive a verbal update on ongoing environment projects

18. **NEXT PROJECTS**

To receive and discuss a report on future environmental projects (to follow)

19. **DATE AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

TBC



**PHILIP PEACOCK
TOWN CLERK**

28th October 2022
Town Hall
Market Hill
Huntingdon
PE29 3PJ

This meeting will be serviced by the Town Clerk – 01480 410383
--

Copies for information to:

The Members of Huntingdon Town Council, Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk.

Notes

A. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

(1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.

(2) A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it

(a) relates to you, or

(b) is an interest of -

(i) your spouse or civil partner; or (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners and you are aware that the other person has the interest.

(3) Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -

(a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;

(b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);

(c) any current contracts with the Council;

(d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;

(e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;

(f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or

(g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

B. Other Interests

(4) If a Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote.

(5) A Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -

(a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Council's administrative area, or (b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Environment Sub Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall on Thursday 23rd June 2022, following the Town Council meeting.

Present: Councillors D Cole (Ex-Officio); J Cole; A McAdam (Ex-Officio); S McAdam; A Norton; G Shiels; P Pearce; and S Sweek (Chair).

In Attendance: Councillors M Baker; M Kadewere; P Kadewere; P Kennington; and K Webb.

2 members of the public.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Mayor asked for nominations for the election of Chairman. It was proposed and seconded that Cllr S Sweek be appointed as Chair of the Environment Sub Committee for the ensuing year. With no further nominations, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr S Sweek as Chair of the Environment Sub Committee for the local government year 2022/23.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Brockett.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman asked for nominations for the appointment of Vice Chairman. It was proposed and seconded that Councillor J Cole be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Environment Sub Committee for the ensuing year. With no further nominations, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr J Cole as Vice Chairman of the Environment Sub Committee for the local government year 2022/23.

4. **TERMS OF COMMITTEE**

It was advised that the terms of committee were the same for all of the Council's committees and it was for Members to decide on the following:

- i. Whether the Environment Sub Committee was open to members of the public to attend. It was agreed that members of the public would be able to attend.
- ii. Whether the Environment Sub Committee should appoint any co-opted members for specific items that fall under the responsibility of the

committee. It was agreed to co-opt members when and if it was required.

- iii. Whether all agendas and minutes should be kept/marked as 'Private and Confidential'. It was agreed that the agendas and minutes would be made available to the public.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

6. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Environment Sub Committee meeting held on 22nd April 2021 (M1). It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve and adopt these minutes.

7. **ADDRESS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

A Member indicated that they wished to speak, and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

Chris Jordan informed Members that while he welcomed the environmental actions the Council had already taken, it was disappointing that the Environment Sub-Committee had not met for a year, and that projects previously discussed by the Sub-Committee had not yet been done.

It was explained that the Council had been operating on a reduced meetings calendar following the COVID-19 lockdowns, but that the normal meetings calendar was now back in place.

Members agreed that there was a lot of work to be done. It was noted that internal meetings for various environmental projects had been ongoing, and it was hoped that the new Communications Officer role would help to improve the council's communication when projects were ready to be shared publicly.

Mr Jordan noted that he was looking forward to the upcoming Eco Fair event, as well as the update on the eco audit, and hoped to see the Sub-Committee be more active in the coming year.

John Morris from the Hunts Walking & Cycling Group asked if the Town Council had declared a climate emergency. It was explained that the Council had not declared a climate emergency, as it was felt that the council was already working to address environmental issues regardless of making the declaration.

Mr Morris also asked Members what was being done to encourage active travel in the town and noted that he was disappointed that there was no mention of walking and cycling routes in the HTC Corporate Plan. It was noted that the Corporate Plan was focused on projects under the remit of the Town Council, and issues such as cycling infrastructure and footpaths were managed by other authorities so were not something HTC could control.

Members thanked Mr Jordan and Mr Morris for their comments, and it was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

8. **ECO FAIR**

The Corporate Officer gave a verbal update on the upcoming Eco Fair event taking place on 16th July 2022:

- 8 stalls had been confirmed for the event, with an additional 2 to be confirmed.
- The HTC Estates Team would be displaying some of their relevant equipment, including the composting machine and electric vehicles.
- It was hoped that Murketts would attend to display an electric vehicle, but it was noted this was currently still being arranged.
- Mike Addis from the Huntingdonshire History Festival intended to provide a Lego world map activity at the event.
- A member of the Hunts Cycling and Walking Group had suggested the inclusion of a bike servicing stall at the event, and also suggested reaching out to the police to see if bicycle marking kits could be available at the event.
- It was explained that promotion would increase in the lead up to the event across HTC's website and social media. Posters had been displayed in the noticeboards around the town, and banners would also go up in the weeks leading up to the event.

A Member asked if there was any availability for additional stalls. It was noted that there were limited places left, and it was requested that if anyone knew of any groups that may be interested in having a stall, that they forward them on to the Office.

A Member suggested that the Hunts Cycling and Walking Group may wish to have a stall, and it was noted that they were welcome to. Mr Morris noted that it was too short notice for them to have a stall at the 2022 event, and noted that they would like to be invited to attend future events.

9. **ECO AUDIT**

The Corporate Officer informed Members that the Net Zero Strategy report had been received during the current meeting. It was explained that the report would be reviewed by the Office and circulated to Members. It would also be

arranged for a representative from Energise to attend an upcoming Environment Sub-Committee meeting to present the report to Members.

10. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as 25th August 2022.

It was requested that this meeting be brought forward if possible, following the receipt of the eco audit.

CHAIRMAN

To: Environment Sub Committee

Date: 3rd November 2022

**Environment Projects
(Report by the Corporate Officer)**

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Environment Sub Committee was formed in 2019 to both reduce HTC's own carbon footprint, and to promote sustainability and eco-friendly projects throughout Huntingdon.
- 1.2 So far, the main focus of HTC's work has been internal, including reviewing products used across HTC sites, reducing waste and increasing recycling, and the upcoming audit/net zero strategy.

2. DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to discuss and suggest future projects and priorities for the Environment Sub Committee. Some suggestions for areas to consider are set out below:

2.2 Community Engagement

Engaging with residents and local groups to find out what they want from the Environment Sub Committee. This could include:

- Social media campaigns
- Surveys
- Consultation events
- Focus groups

2.3 Partnership Working

- Huntingdon In Bloom
- Huntingdonshire District Council
 - Climate Strategy and Action Plan
 - Waste Minimisation Team
- BID Huntingdon
- Local businesses / community groups
- Schools

2.4 National Projects

- Refill Scheme
- Friends of the Earth – Climate Action Plan for Councils (Appendix 1)

2.5 Other

- Supporting / opposing relevant policies/legislation
- Researching grant funding availability – both for internal projects and to support other local projects
- Planting – trees, wildflower areas etc.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To discuss future priorities for the Environment Sub-Committee

Contact Officer:
Hayley Burns
☎ 01480 410380

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

FOR COUNCILS

A 50-point plan to tackle the climate and nature emergencies and coronavirus recovery.

Foreword

The news in 2019 was dominated by coverage of the climate and nature crises, and the risks they pose to our lives. More than 240 councils declared a climate and nature emergency in response, committing to cut their greenhouse gas emissions as fast as possible and do what they can to help restore nature.

But since then, our lives have been dominated by the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently the cost-of-living crisis. The government has set out its plans to “level up” the country – tackling longstanding geographical inequalities. Councils are on the front line of all these issues.

But the climate and nature crises haven't gone away. Acting on them can't be put on the back burner. Fortunately, many of the measures needed to deal with the climate and nature emergencies will also tackle inequalities and benefit our health. These include:

- **Improving our housing** so that everyone can afford to keep warm in winter and buildings can withstand rising summer temperatures.
- **Increasing good quality cycling and walking infrastructure** to improve health and reduce carbon emissions and air pollution.
- **Increasing the amount and quality of urban green spaces** to restore nature, benefit wellbeing and provide connecting corridors for wildlife.

Due to the sheer scale of the inequalities that exist, inequalities that are at risk of increasing as energy bills and food prices rise, a joined-up approach to tackling these crises is vital. For example:

- **People who are most marginalised** – both in the UK and across the world – have done the least to cause climate breakdown but are the most affected by its impacts.
- **People on lower incomes**, and particularly people of colour, suffer most from the lack of green space in our towns and cities. The same communities are also more likely to face fuel poverty and suffer more from air pollution, despite being less likely to own a car.
- **Young people's** future is most at risk from climate breakdown and the decline of nature, and they've been disproportionately impacted by the economic impact of COVID-19, with high levels of unemployment.

This 50-point plan will help councils address the climate and ecological emergencies at the same time as tackling inequalities and boosting local economic recovery in a way that's green and fair. For further information on each of the themes in this plan, see our [Explainer Guides](#).

What our council will do:

Putting our climate and nature at the heart of decision making.

Our goal is to ensure that the climate and nature emergencies are a dealbreaker in all our decisions so that we can drastically cut emissions over the next 10 years, and that inclusive engagement with citizens ensures that the changes made are sustainable. We will...

Tick

1	Check whether all our decisions would help to meet national and local net zero carbon targets, improve air pollution and protect and restore nature, as well as deliver on COVID-19 recovery.	
2	Identify both a councillor at cabinet level and a lead officer as Climate and Nature Champions, who are required to publish an annual independent and audited public report on progress in meeting climate change and nature targets.	
3	Use additional decision-making approaches for complex or contentious choices, such as representative citizen assemblies or citizens' juries, participatory mapping, and budgeting, etc.	
4	Set interim and measurable targets for our council to rapidly grow the green economy and achieve climate and nature goals.	
5	Align all our council statutory and non-statutory plans, policies and guidance with our climate, nature, and green economy goals, including areas such as procurement and infrastructure development.	
6	Review and improve how we involve citizens in our existing decision-making processes.	

Raising money

Our goal is to have sufficient resources to invest in the changes needed to restore nature and meet climate goals, so that our council can reap the dividends and deliver our fair share of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. We will...

Tick

7	Introduce a workplace car parking levy and/ or similar initiative to fund and encourage sustainable transport, particularly measures that allow people to travel safely to work, such as segregated cycle ways.	
8	Raise money using bonds, such as Community Municipal Investments (CMIs), for low-carbon infrastructure, particularly measures that speed up carbon emissions reductions and increase resilience to the pandemic, such as energy efficiency and converting roads or car parks to public green space.	
9	Use legal and planning mechanisms such as Section 106 agreements, the Community Infrastructure Levy, and other mechanisms to fund climate actions and nature restoration projects.	
10	Implement licensing of the private rented sector to cover the enforcement costs of ensuring compliance with minimum energy efficiency standards (applicable in England only).	

Protect the most vulnerable

Our goal is to ensure that those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are properly supported and protected. We will...

Tick

11	Identify the most vulnerable people in neighbourhoods most at risk of extreme weather events and fuel poverty, and with the least good quality green space. Target climate change, nature and pandemic adaptation policies, actions and spending to these people and areas.	
12	Ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable communities are also represented in council decision making and council-citizen deliberations	

Buildings

Our goal is to ensure all homes are well insulated to a minimum of EPC level C, to eradicate fuel poverty as fast as possible, and to install our fair share of the 1 million eco-heating heat pumps that need to be fitted in the UK each year. We will...

Tick

13	Retrofit council-owned properties with heat pumps and high levels of insulation where possible, starting with homes most at risk of fuel poverty.	
14	Help owner-occupied homes be more energy efficient. For example, by supporting energy companies to provide fuel-poor or vulnerable households with insulation.	
15	Rapidly enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector and encourage landlords to insulate homes to a higher EPC level.	
16	Require through Local Plan policies that new housing development is zero carbon by 2025, including incorporation of renewable energy in the development, using low carbon materials, and building to extremely high energy efficient standards, (higher than current national standards) using the Passivhaus standard or similar.	
17	Enforce compliance with energy efficiency standards set by Building Regulations and with Local Plan policy during construction and renovation, and ensure verification of energy efficiency performance on completion.	
18	Require all the council's own housing, plus housing built-on council-owned land, to be extremely high energy efficient standards, using the Passivhaus standard or similar.	
19	Develop a heating and energy efficiency strategy for the area, including providing skills and training to increase local employment, and tackle fuel poverty.	

Transport

Our goal is to significantly and rapidly increase the proportion of people that travel by cycling, e-bikes and walking, as well as public transport when safe to do so, in order meet World Health Organisation's air pollution standards and climate goals. We will...

Tick

20	Enable a rapid shift to electric vehicles by installing electric vehicle charging points.	
21	Prioritise transport investment in cycling, walking, trams, and public transport, with a priority of installing segregated cycleways on most roads, increasing space for pedestrians, and introducing a 20 mph speed limit in urban areas.	
22	Put in place Clean Air Zones, with charges if needed.	
23	Reduce car use through measures such as promoting car-sharing, re-regulating bus services and constraining road space.	
24	Require all taxis and buses to be electric.	
25	Deliver a rapid transition of the council's own fleet to electric vehicles.	
26	Require an electric vehicle or bike to be used for deliveries to the council and encourage greener deliveries across the area by setting up an area-wide distribution centre.	
27	Introduce differential charges for parking permits or other car-related charges.	
28	Reduce the need to own and use a car by requiring that the location and design of new developments be accessible by safe cycling, walking routes and good quality public transport, and situated close to key services.	

Energy

Our goal is to enable and support the growth and use of renewable energy, ensure energy is not wasted, and prevent the development of new fossil fuel extraction. We will...

Tick

29	Significantly grow renewable energy generation by identifying suitable areas in the local plan and/or by issuing a new Supplementary Planning Document.	
30	Switch street lighting to well-designed and well-directed LED lights.	
31	Reduce energy used by the council in our own estate.	
32	Require the installation of renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps in council developments and within private and public sector developments.	
33	Support the development of renewable energy and energy storage, including by providing skills-training for local workers and encouraging applications for new installations.	
34	Oppose fracking and other fossil fuel extraction, and where opposition to fracking has been overturned, support peaceful protest. (Applicable in England only.)	
35	Divest all investments from fossil fuels, including any pension funds, and invest in renewable energy projects instead.	

Waste

Our goal is to be a sustainable consumption and zero-waste area, where all waste is minimised, recycled or reused as part of a circular economy approach. We will...

Tick

36	Aim to send no waste to landfill or incineration.	
37	Use food waste according to the food waste hierarchy of prevent, reuse, recycle. Ensure remaining non-recyclable biodegradable waste is used to generate biogas.	
38	Adopt circular-economy waste policies in relevant plans and contracts.	
39	Promote community sharing and reuse to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption.	
40	Ban the use of single-use plastic in council offices and premises.	

Influencing others

Our goal is to encourage and support other entities with their contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency and COVID-19 recovery. We will...

Tick

41	Ensure the Sub-national Transport Body strategy is in line with carbon budgets. (Applicable in England only.)	
42	Use council memberships of Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure all their decisions are in line with the rapid growth of the green economy, climate reduction pathways and nature restoration plans. (Applicable in England only.)	
43	Provide particular support to small and medium-sized enterprises to access funds and expertise, so they can continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic contributing to carbon pollution reduction, nature restoration and the growth of the green economy.	
44	Use influence with others, for example with schools to ensure the buildings are zero-carbon, the environment is central to teaching, and purchasing is green (eg, meals follow the official Eatwell Guide on healthy eating and most menu options are plant-based, with less and better meat or fish as other options).	

Land use and nature

Our goal is to ensure everyone has access to nature in nearby green spaces and to restore nature to help draw down carbon pollution from the atmosphere. We will...

Tick

45	Double tree cover on council-owned land, update local planning strategies to significantly increase tree cover across the local authority area, and ensure existing trees are properly protected, in order to store carbon, support nature, aid flood protection and deliver mental health benefits.	
46	Protect existing local green spaces, the green belt and locally designated nature sites and ensure public access to local authority owned green spaces, including golf courses.	
47	Manage council-owned land and road verges to increase biodiversity and draw down carbon pollution, including through reduced pesticide use and increased planting of wildflowers.	
48	Develop new good quality green spaces in areas which fall short of recommended minimum levels (2 hectares of green space within 5 minutes' walk), particularly in areas where people have less access to private gardens.	
49	Produce a nature and ecosystem restoration plan to reverse and restore habitats, species, and ecosystem quality and function, in addition to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	

Campaigning

Our goal is to make our voice heard by the UK government and secure increased devolution to local level and increased democratic control. We will...

Tick

50	Declare support for the “Blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level” produced by Friends of the Earth, local government associations and others, which aims to secure more regulatory powers, fundraising powers and finance to deliver our aspirations.	
----	---	--