



**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY
ACTION GROUP WAS HELD ON
TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2022 AT 7.00pm
At The Eric Payne Community Centre**

Present

Cllr Steve Blackman, Cllr Kathrin Foster, Cllr Alison Leask, Cllr Andrew Foster
Cllr Susan Juned (Key note speaker)

In attendance

Mrs Wendy Sherwood, Health & Wellbeing Coordinator; Mrs Bronwen Bunting & Mr John Bunting, Church Street Properties, Alcester & Bidford Rotary, U3A; Mr Nick Dearing, Alcester War Memorial Townhall; Mr Andrew Deeks, Mr Richard Osborne, St Nicholas Church, Alcester United Charities, Mrs Fiona Flear, Friends of the Museum; Mr Ian Flear, Alcester Country Market; Mr Steve Keeling, Bleachfield Street North Allotment Association; Mrs Nina Knappman Citizen Advice South Warwickshire, Mrs Karen Buckthorp Alcester Academy; Mr Stephen Godfrey Baptist Church, Mr Ashley Downing (resident); Cllr Diane Frances Great Alne Parish Council, Mrs Julie Rodgers, Mr Glyn Rodgers (Wixford residents).

1. Apologies / Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Emma Randle, Cllr Erick Wilson, Cllr Kathryn Cargill, Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess, Cllr Wendy Mills, Mrs Diana Jackson (Litter Free Alcester); Mrs Siobhan Knights (Launch Events, resident), Mr Christopher Wright (St Nicholas Church); Mr Luke Payton (St Benedict's Catholic High School); Mr David Ebbs (Alcester South SNT); Mrs Jane Vance (Girl Guiding Alcester & Avon Villages District); Mr Mike Clark (Alcester Bunting and Lights, Alcester Scout Hut Management Committee), Cllr Piers Daniell (Warwickshire County Council)

Cllr Blackman: **Introduction**

Cllr Steve Blackman welcomed the attendees to the meeting and introduced the evening, by expressing delight that ATC had finally declared a climate emergency at the full council meeting on June 7 2022. Cllr Blackman briefly outlined his background and discussed a couple of projects he was involved with including "the Friends of Oversley Wood Group".

It was noted that climate action can seem pretty daunting especially when looked at from a World perspective, and especially when faced with antipathy and often negativity from others. The good news is that there are positive things everyone can do!

The purpose of this meeting was outlined as to begin the process to collate and coordinate actions, to help to provide support and resources for more actions to be taken. It was noted that throughout the area many people, groups and businesses are already taking actions, we want to give our residents the confidence and knowledge to help everyone develop what they are already doing and to take additional small manageable and enjoyable steps to help in the battle to save our precious planet.

2. Groups represented

See above **In attendance**

3. Introduction to Cllr Susan Juned, Key Note Speaker

Cllr Kathrin Foster: Cllr Susan Juned – Stratford on Avon District Councillor representing Alcester Cllr SJ has been involved in Climate Change for over 30 years and most recently proposed the Climate Emergency Motion at Stratford District Council in July 2019, was Chair of Act on Energy, voluntary Director of a charitable company, Heart of England Community Energy that runs a solar farm outside Stratford for community benefit, trustee of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

4. Key Note speaker Cllr Susan Juned: Action on Climate Change

Cllr Susan Juned laid out the changes to our temperatures and how it affects local life, bio-diversity etc. She explained the importance of starting to be a leader or community champion for Climate Change Action and the importance of deciding what we can and can't influence at local level. Communication is a major factor in any action taken, i.e. communicating co-benefits for residents' health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of flooding, reducing the cost of living. Cllr Susan Juned provided the attendees with many examples of good practice and starting points for next steps to be taken.

5. Ideas and thoughts from individuals and groups attending

St Nicholas Church Mr Andrew Deeks and Mr Richard Osborn: aim to be NetZero by 2030 in line with all Church of England churches, influencing behaviour change in the congregation and community, Steps taken so far: audit lighting and change to LED lighting, switch off unnecessary lighting, reduce time of outside lighting being on, seal doors, change energy contracts to suppliers using /investing renewable energy

Alcester Country Market

all local produce, minimising the impact of transport, reducing carbon foot print of products

Alcester Town Council

Repair Café – reuse and repair items instead of replacing them

Community Fridge – to reduce food going to landfill

Community allotment planned

Citizen Advice South Warwickshire

Mrs Nina Knapman – a holistic approach is advisable to enable residents to reduce energy costs and not choose between heat or eat

Cllr Susan Juned explained that 13% of households in the region are affected by fuel poverty now.

A general discussion took place regarding opportunities to plant trees, increase bio-diversity, encourage walking and cycling short distances around town. The question was raised where the bike racks from the Hight Street have disappeared to when BT installed Broadband.

6. Next Steps, Resources and Communications

Cllr Kathrin Foster:

Establish working group

Alcester Town Council website has now got a section for Climate Change Action to communicate actions, plans, meeting agendas and minutes

Continue to promote the Repair Café and Alcester Community Fridge

Establish other ways of communication with residents such as Newsletter, mailing list, social media etc.

Engage with all groups in Alcester to draw up an action plan.

7. Closing Remarks and Thanks

Cllr Kathrin Foster thanked everybody who attended and contributed to the inaugural meeting.

Minutes will be distributed via email and published on alcester-tc.gov.uk

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 August at 7.00 Venue TBC

The meeting was then closed by Cllr Kathrin Foster and Cllr Steve Blackman