



**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY
ACTION GROUP WAS HELD ON
TUESDAY 30th August 2022 AT 7.00pm
At The Eric Payne Community Centre**

1) Present

Cllr Steve Blackman, Cllr Kathrin Foster, Cllr Erick Wilson, Cllr Andrew Foster, Cllr Wendy Mills
Mrs Wendy Sherwood, Cllr Susan Juned (SDC), Mr Nick Dearling, Mr Richard Osborne, Mr Steve
Keeling, Mrs Nina Knapman, Ms Jane Bowen, Mrs Anne Blackman, Ms Vivien Pierce-Jones,

1. Apologies / Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Mark Cargill, Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess, Cllr Vaughan Blake, Cllr Mike Bowe, Cllr Alison Leask, Mrs
Siobhan Knights (Launch Events, resident), Mr Luke Payton (St Benedicts Catholic High School);
Andrew Deeks, Cllr Piers Daniell (Warwickshire County Council)

2. Election of Chair of the meeting

Cllr Steve Blackman was elected to chair this meeting

3. Appointment of scribe for minute taking

Unable to appoint a scribe

4. Areas where we can make changes

A) Put Climate and nature at the heart of decision making

Cllr Steve Blackman said: This really should go without saying, however, we need to ensure that
Climate Action is a standing agenda item on Full Council Meetings as soon as possible. Cllr Susan
Juned added Climate Action needs to be an item in connection with all other agenda items, i.e.
planning, facilities etc. Nina Knapman described Climate Action as "over – arching" all council
business and all present agreed with this.

Cllr Steve Blackman added we need to ensure that councillors who hold a portfolio for a specific area
think about Climate Action, and come up with ideas and actions to put into the "Climate
Action Plan" . For example, "Allotments" need to be looking at water usage,
composting, preventing the use of bonfires. A best practice notice board was suggested by Steve
Keeling. We also need to encourage and re-establish a community allotment. In addition, joining
things easily up like the Community Fridge with Allotment holders who have surplus produce.

B) Neighborhood Development Plan

When this document was worked on and published, Climate Action was not the
priority it should be. ATC need to ensure that the Supplementary Planning Document by SDC, which
is guidance only, is at the heart of planning of new developments and upgrades in Alcester and to be
used for all planning decisions.

Buildings

We need to be looking at the buildings used and owned by the ATC with a view to
their efficiency in terms of Climate Action Planning. Looking at the use of energy in
Lighting and Heating. The use of resources including paper and materials etc.

We need to be looking ahead to how we can fund improvements such as solar
panels on the EPCC etc. , to make the buildings sustainable in terms of energy use, conduct survey
of lighting in ATC buildings in order to change to LED.

Consider bulk buying for ATC and community groups (provision of energy, solar panels etc.) Cllr
Susan Juned as trustee of Act on Energy to look into this.

C) Transport

Much more exploration of Alcester's central place in the Avon and Arrow

Greenway project. Cllr Erick Wilson gave background information to the project and the status. Routes around Alcester are currently described as "leisure routes" which have low priority, needs to be changed to Activity Route - route to schools and commuting.

Ensuring that Alcester is a place where cyclists are not only welcomed, but encouraged and supported.

Find locations of appropriate, accessible cycle racks close to the high street

Business, Nick Dearling suggested There is insufficient provision for leaving a bike whilst in the Town. The location needs to be near the shops, for convenience. There is a crossing near the old Barclays Bank. The first car-parking space to the left of the crossing (as walking through the passage) could be raised to pavement level and the bike stands, from storage, erected on them. This would help with the cycling initiative, stop cyclists from blocking shop & window fronts, clear the pavement of bikes and give a signal to the Town that Alcester is becoming bike friendly.

Road safety is an issue, Safer routes to school, WCC needs to change priorities from Cars First to vulnerable road users first (i.e. pedestrians and cyclists)

Find out where the bike racks from outside Spec Savers have gone.

Need to look closely and public transport and volunteer transport opportunities in the area and how it links to other towns and villages

D) Waste

There are not enough bins around town and no recycling bins at all. Approach businesses to sponsor bins. McDonalds for example could sponsor and manage a bin on A46 near Oversley Services roundabout.

We need to support the community in success of the new SDC 123 waste scheme by providing solutions to perceived problems and issues as they arise. For example, the recent "Outcry" over maggots in the food waste!!!!

As a town, we need to be more proactive in fighting the scourge of fly tipping by ensure everyone knows how easy it is to report it effectively.

Need to ensure there are sufficient bins in the right locations, and that they are emptied regularly.

Need to fully support Litter Free Alcester, next litter pick 12th October

Need to fully support the repair café.

Need to fully support the Community Fridge etc.

Nick Dearling mentioned TerraCycle (terracycle.com) that will recycle blister packs if we set up a drop off point in pharmacies or health centre and become a member.

E) Influencing the Community

Publicity.... Need a more accessible ATC Website, Vibrant and relevant social media, Poster campaigns etc.

Better Use of "traditional media" Such as the Stratford Herald

Involvement of schools and other groups, i.e. Scouts/Guides.children are brilliant at putting pressure on parents to take action. Options for badges, good mention or awards etc.

Climate Action Day to involve lots of relevant parties such as Severn Trent , Forestry England, English Nature etc etc.

5. Aims & Objectives of the group

Cllr Kathrin Foster handed out a blank template for participants to add short term / quick wins that we can achieve. See appendix.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 8th November 7pm at EPCC in The Depot

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