

---

# Briefing Note

## Climate Change Action Group

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The Change Action Group has continued to meet to discuss its priorities and has agreed a set of four policies that it recommends to the parish council for adoption. This briefing note lists the policies together with suggested action and examples. (Appendix 1)

### **2.0 Policy Plan**

2.1 The priorities of the CCAG have been incorporated into four policies that will cover:

#### Policy 1 Planning

The issue that most concerned the group was the way in which planning laws, regulations and practices could impact on decisions made by the parish council. This policy affirms the council's commitment to assessing and commenting on planning applications in ways that take account of changes in planning law, the Cornwall Local Plan and the emerging Menheniot Neighbourhood Development Plan.

#### Policy 2 Leadership

The council should lead the way among its stakeholders by working to best practice and consulting with them where appropriate.

#### Policy 3 Influencing

Where the council has no direct control over the implementation of a policy, it will use its position as the first tier in local government to influence and persuade other stakeholders.

#### Policy 4 Resources

The council has limited financial resources and reserves but will commit to supporting solutions that are workable, sustainable, affordable and proportionate, with the capacity to involve everyone in the parish to tackle the issues around climate change.

### **3.0 CCAG recommendations**

3.1 At their meeting on 30 March 2021, the group agreed to ask the parish council to support the policy plan and consult on it with residents. It also asks that the council should maintain its support for the group until such time as it may transition to an independent volunteering group.

3.2 The group has identified a list of immediate priorities that it would be willing to lead on (Appendix 2).

### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 There is no statutory or regulatory requirement for the council to make a response to the climate emergency called by Cornwall Council. However, this council has already declared an emergency and facilitated an action group.

4.2 Agree to consult with residents on the four policies. Because of restrictions during the pre-election period, this should not commence before May 6.

4.3 Agree to fund the design, production and distribution of a parish newsletter to promote the council's consultation and recruit volunteers for the project work.

4.4 Agree to reconsider the draft policies together with any feedback from the consultation at its June 17 public meeting with a view to adopting them.

Author: John Hesketh Parish Clerk

Date: 9 April 2021

## Climate Change Policy Actions & Examples

### **Policy 1 Planning**

1. The council will discharge its duties as a consultee in the planning process to comply with all aspects of the Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030 and its subsequent iterations.
2. It will apply all policies contained in the Menheniot Neighbourhood Development Plan that relate to climate change.
3. It will incorporate new policies arising from the Cornwall Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD), and other documents as they are adopted

1. The current system of receiving planning applications, producing a Weekly Planning Report, inviting applicants to attend the public meeting and publishing maps and drawings exceeds the statutory minimum requirements for a consultee.
2. The system of Planning Index, created by the parish council, will continue to evolve to include new policies contained in the NDP.
3. Parish council will continue to act as an active consultee in the production of new policies, and their application within the parish.

### **Policy 2 Leadership**

1. The council will demonstrate leadership across the parish by working to best practice in all aspects of the management of its estate and assets.

1. All administrative functions have been reviewed and amended to reduce carbon emissions and recycle where possible.
2. The parish council is digital by default.
3. Use of water across council properties is managed by mechanical means to minimise waste.
4. Electricity is sourced from renewable tariff.
5. Lanterns in council managed light fittings (car park at Bowling Green) is energy efficient and regularly maintained.
6. The council will consult on alternative methods to manage weeds and ground management as part of its biannual contractor review.
7. Council will adopt a voluntary pledge to reduce individual carbon emissions and promote actions across the parish.
8. Council will recognise and reward individual people or voluntary groups who are making significant contributions to mitigating the impact of climate change.

### **Policy 3 Influencing**

1. Where the council has no direct control over issues that may impact on climate change, it will use its best endeavours to influence other parish stakeholders.

1. Council will review its grants and donation policy so as to encourage the adoption of climate friendly practices among applicants.
2. Council will review the tenancy agreement of its allotment holders in order to enable them to sell surplus produce at local markets, so reducing food miles and encouraging local production.
3. Council will work with stakeholders (for example, local school, playgroup, church, parish hall, Old School Trust, farming community) to encourage a joined up approach to issues that impact the whole of the parish.

#### **Policy 4 Resources**

1. The parish council will establish an annual budget for projects that can mitigate the impact of climate change and support movement towards a zero carbon environment.
2. The funding will be drawn from reserves and determined in November as part of the council's annual financial review.

1. The council already has a working system for receiving and assessing applications for grants and donation. Using this as a template, the council can quickly set up an equivalent system for climate change projects. Consultation will be needed to agree criteria for awards.
2. The council's reserves are finite and so there will need to be a limit to the annual budget. If the climate change fund mirrors the existing funds, then there is scope for quick decisions on low value donations, and sufficient separate funding for larger projects that may need substantial financial support.

2.5 Any plans and actions arising from these policies must be workable, sustainable, affordable and proportionate, with the capacity to involve everyone in the parish to tackle the issues around climate change.

# Immediate actions

### **Summary**

- Policies submitted to next parish council meeting on 15 April 2021 for endorsement and consultation (consultation cannot begin until after election day on May 6)
- Clerk can run planning training session to explain how new policies are used in decision making.
- Schools want to be involved (and must be involved)
- Group can continue work as part of the parish council if desired
- Terms of reference may be changed to include environmental issues and allow project work.
- Funding available immediately for small projects (subject to council T&Cs)
- Group keen to start small projects quickly.
- Plans and actions need to be promoted to all residents.

### **Projects**

- Newsletter
- Wilding advice
- Hedgehogs
- Encouraging wildlife
- Dog mess posters (school)
- Workshops for residents to make bird boxes
- Growing plants in school polytunnel
- Encouraging parents to take an active role (making space for children in their own garden?)
- Wildflower planting in Trelawney gardens
- Veggie seeds to give away
- Community orchard
- Fourgates green patch

### **Next steps - short term**

- Newsletter – content to be agreed
- Funding for newsletter to be included on agenda for public meeting
- Inclusion in possible parish public event on 26 June.