

SYRESHAM CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Syresham Parish Council took the initiative to form the Climate Change and Environment Committee (the CCEC) in January 2022. It realised the importance of each parish and each individual playing a part in a phenomenon that is not only affecting us and our children, but future generations too. Our part may be small, but it is nonetheless of great importance in the total scheme of things.

After an initial, and very successful brainstorming session, the committee decided that our actions must be carefully thought out to achieve the greatest affect. We appreciated that we needed to encourage people to change their behaviour, rather than demand that our residents change the way they live – we do not have the desire or the right to do that.

With that in mind, we decided to initially concentrate our efforts on organising a Climate Change Fair in September 2022. The aim of this event was not only to publicise and highlight the importance of Climate Change and the Environment, but also to assess the feelings and opinions of our residents with regard to these issues. The committee worked extremely hard to persuade organisations to take part and were very pleased to welcome a number of stallholders, including Climate Action-West Northants, Sustainability West Northants, Greenpeace, Northamptonshire Beekeeping Association and RSPB. We were delighted that the children of the school produced a fantastic display of posters and a large number of older children came along to the fair. They talked to the stallholders showing great maturity and interest with regard to this subject and contributed to our 'Tree of Comments'. Members of the committee also worked extremely hard for the entire day of the fair and certainly contributed to a successful village event.

Following the fair, the members of the committee met to assess all the interesting comments and suggestions made. Based on these suggestions and our own ideas, we devised a Plan of Action for 2023. During 2022 members of the CCEC also attended courses and sought the advice of people highly qualified in the field of climate change and the environment.

The **PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2023** is as follows:

GENERAL

- CCEC to lobby West Northamptonshire Council to make it a planning requirement for new industry in our area to have solar panels installed.
- CCEC to check that it is part of the WNC Local Plan to have charging points installed in new homes and if not lobby them to do so. **Update: CCEC looking at the WNC Local Plan.**

LOCAL

- Recommend to Syresham Parish Council Village Design Statement Committee that a policy on car charging points is included in the forthcoming updating of the VDS. **Update: The PC had been informed and taken note of this.**

- Contact Grand Union Housing to see if, as part of their Sustainability Policy, car charging points can be installed in The Pound. **Update: GUH has been contacted. They have acknowledged our communication and we await a reply.**
- Support and encourage the Village Hall Trustees to install car charging points in the village hall car park. **Update: the issue is an item on the Village Hall agenda.**
- Contact Grand Union Housing to see if they would consider a planting scheme/improvements to biodiversity as part of their Sustainability Policy. **Update: GUH have been contacted. They have acknowledged our communication and we await a reply.**
- Contact Climate Action – West Northants (CA-WN) to see if we can borrow the home thermal efficiency monitoring kit that they have available. **Update: CA-WN have been invited and agreed to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in May and to bring the kit to demonstrate.**
- Contact Janet Jackson, Lecturer in Environmental Science at the University of Northampton- CCEC to ask PC to invite her to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. **Update: she has been contacted by the PC and has agreed to speak.**
- Give more support to ABILITY – a local bus service that not only provides essential transport, but also organises trips and excursions and has buses available to hire. **Update: CCEC has contacted ABILITY and have leaflets ready to distribute to every household in the village.**
- Consideration of rewinding of grass verges in the village. It was felt that this could be a contentious issue, but the CCEC agreed to advise the PC to leave the left hand verge on Main Road uncut, except for a 1m swathe and to leave the area under the lime trees on Abbey Road to rewild. **Update: the PC have agreed to this.**
- The CCEC will ask the PC to take part in ‘NO MOW MAY’. **Update: the PC have agreed to take part and only essential areas such as the swingfield, the cemetery and areas that could prove hazardous to drivers will be cut during the month of May. The PC have agreed to publicise this and will invite residents to take part.**
- CCEC to trial a small wildflower meadow on part of the bank in the Swingfield. The committee realises that there is a great amount of work involved in order to make this a success and will invite residents to help. **Update: a date has been arranged and volunteers have been requested to come forward to help.**
- The CCEC will check with WNC to find out their views on solar panels. The committee will then make recommendations to the VDS updating committee based on the local plan information. **Update: still to check**
- The CCEC will check with WNC to find out their views on Wind Turbines. The committee appreciates that this could be a contentious issue and there have been lots of negative comments about them. **Update: still to check**
- Consider setting up a Repair Shop or a Repair Café. **Update: this is presently being considered.**
- Declare a Climate Emergency in Syresham. The CCEC to look into all the issues related to this and ask the PC whether they wish to do this. The debate on whether the PC should declare a Climate Emergency was centred around whether it was necessary to make the declaration and not whether the Climate Issue is critical.

Please note that WNC have NOT declared a Climate Change Emergency, but have instead decided to sign up to the UK100 NetZero Pledge. **Update: The PC declared a Climate Emergency at its March 2023 meeting. In doing so the Council is acknowledging that it needs to act on the causes and impacts of climate change. The CCEC will continue to prepare policies and action plans to support the Council in addressing climate change.**

- Organise the Annual Village Litterpick. **Update: litterpick done.**
- Prepare and distribute a leaflets advising residents of what they can do to help. **Update: this leaflet is in the process of being printed and will be distributed very soon**
- Hold another Climate Change Fair on Friday 22nd September from 11 am till 6 pm. **Update: various organisations have already agreed to attend. CCEC to continue to work on this.**
- The CCEC to invite the school to help with the wildflower trial and to support them in any initiatives they are taking. **Update: the school have been invited to help and the PC is endeavouring to find a suitable place for the school to plant a tree as part of the Stowe Blossom project.**
- Ask residents for further ideas, comments and suggestions.

We very much hope that residents will appreciate the great amount of work that has already been done by the CCEC and the research and work currently going into further projects. The committee is fully aware that there is plenty more to do and that this is just the start. Please support us as we continue to play our small but crucial part in helping to SAVE OUR PLANET.

Get in touch with us with your ideas via the Parish Clerk: parishclerk@syresham.com 01280 851178.

Climate Change Committee members:

Cllrs Chris Munsey, Jenny Haycock, Dot Dunkley and Ian Draper.