

Leek Town Council Climate Emergency Group

Report of the meeting held on Saturday 16th January 2020

Present: Town Councillors Benefer (Chair), Cawley, Swindlehurst (Lynn) Swindlehurst (Matt), District Councillor Porter, Alison McCrea, Mark Johnson

Apologies: Teresa Pattison, Gill Povey, John Crimes

Minutes of previous meeting (Saturday 12th December) noted and agreed. Councillor Cawley noted that he was continuing to maintain contact with the Bee Unit at DEFRA.

Councillor Swindlehurst (Matt) said that the Party in the Park – scheduled for June 14th – needed risk assessments for all participants by the end of February. Councillor Cawley said he would draw up a list of potential participants associated with climate change activity and contact them.

The possibility of a marquee to provide all-weather capabilities was discussed. Cost was identified as an issue; Councillor Porter raised the possibility of funding from District level. Commercial sponsorship was identified as a possibility; Councillor Swindlehurst (Lynn) said she would contact AOE as a possible sponsor.

Councillor Porter explained the work that was being done on creating a Green Infrastructure Map of Staffordshire Moorlands; there was a good chance of this being ready for display at the event.

Alison McCrae suggested the possibility of more suitable planting programmes in Brough Park – eg Alders in boggy areas.

Councillor Porter said the planting programme at District level was being examined in order to make it more wildlife-friendly and that this was a multi-year schedule. It was agreed that in regard to Brough Park it was: important to involve the Friends of Brough Park; possible to involve the Woodland Trust (Councillor Swindlehurst (Lynn) to facilitate this); and useful to arrange a meeting of all concerned parties (including relevant officers) to walk the park to ensure unanimity of purpose.

The chair and members of the sub-committee thanked Councillor Porter for coming to the meeting and welcomed the opportunities for further co-operation between the different levels of local government in the Moorlands, as well as with other engaged parties.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the sub-committee would be held at 11am on Saturday 1st February in the meeting room of the Roebuck, Derby Street.