

Leek Town Council Climate Emergency Group

Report of the meeting held on Saturday February 1st 2020

Present :Councillors Benefer (chair), Cawley, Coleman, Swindelhurst (Lynn), Swindelhurst (Matt), Andrew Abraham, John Crimes, Mark Johnson

Minutes of last meeting (January 16) noted and agreed.

Councillor Cawley said that the DEFRA's Bee Unit had been sent minutes of previous meeting.

Councillor Swindelhurst (Matt) said that the Safety Advisory Group was scheduled for 4th March and that information on the numbers and types of stalls for Party in the Park needed to be available to process in time for risk assessment at that meeting. Councillor Cawley said that an initial list of potential outside stallholders had been drawn up and this was about to be finalised and circulated, with responses requested by the end of the month. Councillor Swindelhurst (Lyn) said that AOE had asked for details of likely participation in Party in the Park. She noted that the company had a trailer which they used to highlight their activities in waste and recycling. She also said she would contact Mark Forester about progress on the Green Infrastructure Map by SMDC.

Councillor Swindelhurst (Matt) outlined plans for the VE Day celebrations and said that the aims of the Climate Sub-Committee were being borne in mind, with themes such as the use of allotments during the war.

Andrew Abraham outlined the range of past exhibits that local beekeepers had used including live and model hives.

It was agreed that the Town Council should be recommended to press for more action and accountability on issues such as pollution monitoring at SMDC level.

JC noted that it would be useful to monitor what was happening with the revamped Leek Show.

Other sites that the town council could address for more environmentally-friendly management were identified, including Birch Gardens. Responsibilities for sites such as these were sometimes confused, and it was agreed that ideas should be developed to streamline arrangements. Andrew Abraham identified Birchall playing fields as a key site where margins could better be used for encouragement of pollinators.

Sources of potential funding such as Severn Trent and Moorlands Partnership Board were noted.

Councillor Cawley agreed to contact District Councillor Taylor on gaining more information on the ownership and management of the Rudyard railway walk. The importance of improving links with other towns, particularly Biddulph, was raised, and it was agreed that Councillors Abberley and Yates should be invited to the next meeting.

The question of improving planting in Brough Park was raised again.

Councillor Swindelhurst (Lyn) raised the question of pesticide use in the Town, including local government spraying and on allotments.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Saturday 29th February.