

Leek Town Council Climate Emergency Group

Notes of a meeting held on Saturday 29 March 2020

Present: Councillors Benefer, Lyn Swindlehurst, Matt Swindlehurst, Sue Coleman, and Mark Johnson

Apologies: Alison McRae, Bill Cawley, Andrew Abrahams, Teresa Pattison

Members expressed disappointment with SMDC's lack of consultation with stakeholders on the plans for Brough Park.

It was agreed that the group should seek to get some input in future, especially with respect to opportunities for planting trees and re-wilding. There was criticism of District Councillor Porter for his failure to consult with local councillors and others in developing a coordinated plan for Brough Park and other areas of the Moorlands. District Councillor Phil Taylor would be approached to take this issue up at full council. Councillor Benefer agreed to write to Councillor Porter on behalf of the group to ask as to when the previously agreed "walk of the park" to identify suitable areas for planting and rewilding would take place.

In discussing Party in the Park, it was reported that positive responses had been received from Borderlands, the RSPB and WoodlandsTrust.

In discussing links with Staffordshire Moorlands Climate Action, there was an opportunity to consider the use of Vegware as biodegradable packaging and to cooperate in the launch of a Water Refill scheme whereby a sign in local pubs and cafes restaurants would inform the public that they could get their water bottle filled without any expectation that they buy something.

In discussing future strategies, it was agreed that local scientists in areas of climate change and biodiversity be approached to act as Special Advisors to the group so that any proposals made could be seen to be supported by expert opinion and peer review.

It was noted that the District Councillor's Pollution Officer would be invited to the Town Council's April meeting