

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	17 March 2021
Agenda Item	13

To consider action on climate change

Many of those who understand the science of climate change have stated recently that climate change is the next emergency, and that it is much larger than anything related to the current pandemic. EALC recently held a Climate crisis conference, which was attended by Cllrs Atkinson and Fincken. This online conference considered many aspects of Climate change, and this report is an attempt to capture the main points raised.

Awareness raising

- HTC as a leader in the town should aim to raise awareness of issues surrounding climate change, and should work with others already in the field. These include other local parishes, and organisations such as ECO Colnes, who already have a hub in Halstead.
- HTC might consider forming a climate action group together with other organisations in Halstead.
- HTC has fairly recently started a newsletter which goes on the website. The next one could be devoted to Climate change
- Messages on climate change action and reduction in our carbon footprint could be put on the HTC website, and articles published in the Halstead Gazette
- Small schemes such as crisp packet recycling, and the use of reusable coffee cups, should be encouraged
- A community energy scheme could be introduced to encourage residents and HTC to find a provider that uses renewables. BDC can advise on this
- HTC should declare a Climate emergency. ECC and BDC have already done this.

Council property

- HTC already has plans underway to install electric charging points in Chapel St car park
- Electric charging could also be installed in Butler Road car park and at Courtaulds Sports Ground
- The next HTC van should be electric
- Solar panels should be installed wherever possible on council property – at the Empire and Queens Hall
- Any new projects such as the Community Centre should also have solar panels and ground source heat pumps, and if possible a zero carbon energy bill

Other council initiatives

- Wherever possible HTC should buy green/buy local/ buy in bulk with others

- We should encourage cycling and walking routes
- We should always consider the best outcome not just because it is financially the best, but because it is the best for the climate
- When considering planning applications, environmental aspects and carbon footprint should always be considered

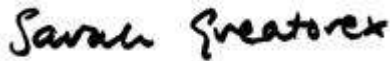
Celebration of HTC initiatives in place

- Community Fridge – set up to reduce food waste
- Halstead in Bloom
- The River improvement group
- The green space at Courtaulds

What we already have in place is to be celebrated.

Recommendation:

1. that HTC declares a climate emergency and puts into action as many as possible of the suggested initiatives.
2. That HTC adds to its Financial Regulations (under point 3.6) and Standing orders (under point 17.d.vii) the statement :
“All contracts undertaken by HTC will, in addition to cost, consider the carbon footprint, and the impact on climate change of the proposed action”
3. That HTC measures in all consideration of planning the impact on carbon footprint and climate change of the recommendations it makes.



Sarah Greateorex
Town Clerk