

TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 30 September 2019

REPORT OF: CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RECMOMENDATIONS TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree and adopt the proposals contained within the report and implement as soon as reasonably practicable.

1. PURPOSE

- To reduce carbon footprint and reduce our carbon output to near zero by 2025; this is to do our part to reduce climate change and at the same time to protect the environment in all our actions. We would endeavor to protect the wildlife in our area with immediate effect. This would mean not doing anything that would make it harder for the wildlife to live in the area but make it more sustainable and protect wildlife in line with other wildlife charities.
- Dawlish Town Council (DTC) will only use products and services that are sustainable.
- We would also inform others where appropriate in our town of why we have declared a climate emergency and offer help where we can.
- Where we need other authorities to act, we recommend that DTC write to them with our recommendations. We would then follow up on their reply.
- We would also follow Teignbridge District Council (TDC) and their carbon action measures, and their **Eco building** changes to planning when approved, but not later than 2025.

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- Each committee can take on the area that comes within their remit with assistance or guidance from the working group, and others with expertise if needed.

NB: We have tried to make the suggestions as practical as possible rather than some undefined aspirations.

2. PROPOSALS - DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A short letter to all **local businesses informing** them why DTC and TDC have declared a climate emergency (many do not know we have done so) and at the same time giving them a few ideas. Things like **carpooling** and **energy saving and environmental protection** ideas. The purpose is to inform and to encourage but not to tell them what to do. We deliver it by hand and talk to them if possible.

2. SCHOOLS INVOLVEMENT.

Schools are a big part of the community. Encouraging their own efforts and explaining why we (DTC) are taking climate action.

We could ask the responsible person in schools to see if the children would like to design an anti-litter poster with wildlife pictures for their school, which we would be involved with, by way of judging them and the top three get a certificate from our council and presented to the children by one or two of us.

At the same time, we acknowledge that schools are already doing more than many others in this area.

3. **Taken from TDC action group:** that we at the Manor House put up a poster in each room that is hired, saying, '**we have declared a climate emergency**, and leaflets are available in the reception area explaining a little more.' We would produce a leaflet with more info and ideas on what they could do to help.
4. We could ask the local papers if we could have some ongoing articles in the paper about why we and others have declared a climate emergency.
5. Any alterations and modification to the Manor House and Riverside centre, including windows, lighting and fabric, should be as energy efficient as possible, subject to approval of the Conservation Officer.
6. **Solar Panels.** Start the process to find out if we can put **Solar Panels** on the roof of the Manor House and the possibility of the Riverside Centre, with battery storage, by filling in the form for listed buildings at TDC. If approved, going on to get quotes on price and generation details. Also, investigating if there are any special grants available from Government, TDC or Devon County Council (DCC). If approved, get them installed as soon as possible.

NB> We have already spoken to the listed buildings officer, and she said - if we

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can fix the panels to the in-ward facing side of the roof, it may be possible. This is why we need to go to the next stage of filling in web form.

- 6a. **Building Eco survey.** To have solar panels, it's sometimes necessary and part of the rules to make sure both buildings are insulated to current standards and that the Manor House has double glazed windows on the rooms that are more often heated. And that repairs are made to the windows that are badly fitting before or during insulation. This survey should be carried out as soon as possible.
- 6b. Where it is **not** possible to double glaze due to building design, we look at the cost-effectiveness of thermal blinds. (When windows are replaced in the future due to wear and tear, we could get quotes for wood, if UPVC is not permitted, with double or triple glazed windows).
7. We strongly advise all users of the Manor House and Riverside Centre not to use **single use plastic Cutlery/Plates/bottles**.
8. **When the energy contract ends**, for our buildings, we look for new suppliers that guarantees at least 70% to 80% of their electricity comes from renewable generation.
9. Before getting a new heating system, and working with the old system, we make sure that in rooms that are not used when the heating is on, that someone is responsible to turn the room thermostat down to low (1-2) in the unused rooms. For rooms being used, we try a setting no more than '3'. We also put a little sign by the thermostat saying, 'do not adjust the setting higher than 3, without asking the caretaker/duty officer.' Or ask the hirer to take responsibility to turn down all radiators in that room, to mark 2, when the meeting finishes.
10. **When a new heating boiler and system is needed**, they need to be highly efficient in type, with thermostatic electronic Zone controls.

When the time comes to replace the Gas boiler, we should investigate using a combined heating system together, such as 'ground source heat pumps,' and or, 'air source heating pumps.' This could mean that a smaller conventional boiler can be used and save money to offset cost of additional heating systems. At the end of investigation, a report can be given for the best combination of all the systems and how much CO₂ could be saved. Even all electric could be considered if we can have a large enough solar system installed to help run it. (Plus 12 Kh watts)

Please Note: *All electricity heating will probably be the only heating systems allowed after 2025, in new buildings.*

11. We investigate water collection from roof for flushing the WCs.
12. We do an **appraisal** to see if we are doing the **best recycling system** and mark

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bins clearly.

13. Dawlish Town council investigate **installation of 1 or 2 Electric fast charging points** (type 2) in the rear car park, which would be a pay for point. At the same time, we enquire if there are any grants for such work from government or councils. Possibly only for staff and councilor's and those that hire the rooms as an incentive to hire, can users charge. The decision on who can charge their car is left to a future full council meeting.

3. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE COUNCILS DIRECT CONTROL

1. We also ask DCC and TDC if they would install any electric charging point in Dawlish car parks and streets. (This has been muted at TDC climate meeting already).
2. **Knowing that dropped litter is only a part of the pollution in the sea and on land, we think we could still do more by updating our litter signs.**

We write to TDC and (in the absence of bigger fines and more wardens,) we suggest a new type of litter signage for Dawlish, with new Eco approach with wording and pictures alongside of the existing single sign boards. And or, take up TDC and Dawlish coastal officers' new campaign with the **Keep Briton tidy group**. (They have a new **path sticker** with sea background design, on a larger signs).

We should seek funds from TDC in the first place to pay for new signs. The Resorts Officer has given us a price of £86.00 inc. VAT, for each sign, and possible 3 min. = £258. **Comment:** we both thought that the KBT sign was a bit expensive! But there are no extra fixing costs as it is stuck to the pathways.

We have done a little more preparatory investigating work for **our own sign**; unknowingly very similar to KBT, which could be sponsored by local Businesses and DTC and TDC, or if no sponsors come forward that DCT to pay for them.

Cost of our **own sign** on plastic with a metal back, (best type) including artwork (if free) and print PDF transfer, would be: £43.00 apx. each, plus any fixing to wall or post. This is less than the KBT sign.

PLEASE NOTE: recent on going up-date (Sept.19) is that TDC may now be looking to make their own new sign along the lines of our suggestion. This may be a case of **keeping our own options open** and waiting to see what TDC come up with to see if it's what we would like.

(See suggested poster for new sign if TDC do not follow through)

3. We ask TDC, to Investigate the possibility of **voluntary Beach wardens**, with marked tops saying:

Beach Warden.

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The Main function would be, having a seen presence not to drop litter, and to be of help to visitors. They would not have any powers but could have a hotline to our own TDC Wardens, and possibly the police, if it was to work.

4. Write to TDC: about working together with councils and the take-a-way shops to come up with better solutions to the mismatch of things like chips and Pizza boxes, coffee cups, which fill the bins very quickly; as they are very bulky and do not fit the bins.
 - 4a. At the same time, write to whoever is responsible to get the law changed, or voluntary - to mark all take-a-way packaging in big print: *'It's an offense to drop the container anywhere - BIN IT.'*
5. **We write to TDC and ask if any more trees** can be planted in the Manor House grounds, and also by DCC beside roads. We also ask TDC, to actively look if they can plant any trees and seek government grants which are now on offer. At the same time, we ask TDC if they would create a wildflower bed in the wider grounds of the Manor House. We could also put in plants that attract bees and insects in areas that we control. We would suggest if this is done, to look after the plants, that we restrict dog walking in all the Manor house grounds to - 'Dogs On Leads only;' with signs.
6. Write to DCC **asking them to promote cycleways** through Dawlish Parish.
7. We speak/write to TDC to promote and preserve better wildlife corridors and crossings, for safer road crossing to be mandatory as part of their Eco build. (Martin Heath, has technical details)

Councillor Martin Heath
Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group