

**QUESTIONS RAISED AT BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS
ONLINE MEETING – 30 JULY 2020 – CLIMATE CHANGE SESSION**

Peter Bloyce Old Basing & Lychpit: Will there be a Basingstoke Green Week this year?

Yes, although it is a greatly reduced programme with just a few outside events running. Whitchurch, Oakley and Overton are in the process of organising some too. The Green Market in Castle Square will not take place this year as social distancing would be impossible in that busy space.

The Green Week programme will also include details of some environmentally friendly local businesses and information on electric vehicles and charge points and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

Richard Carrow-Burghclere Parish Council: Climate Change action can be extremely complex and technical. Overton has a wealth of experience but even they acknowledge they don't have a full skill set. This needs a central government support package similar to Locality with Neighbourhood Plans, providing funds for experts/consultants to explore and bring projects to fruition.

We agree that a support package from central government would be helpful and we will look out for anything they develop and let you know. In the meantime, Overton will be producing a framework that other areas can follow on whole town/village energy schemes and BDBC will look to develop a toolkit with all the information we have or can find out for you.

If any towns/parishes have specific requirements, please come to us lucy.martins@basingstoke.gov.uk and sam.taylor@basingstoke.gov.uk and let us know. Tackling climate change is a huge area but as we move forward with input from yourselves we can develop a wide and relevant knowledge base.

Martin Slatford Baughurst Parish: How can we understand what our current carbon emission is, and the major causes. In this way we can identify what we could influence in its reduction

This is a very good question and a good place to start with any carbon reduction planning. We are currently investigating how to get emissions data at a parish level, to help shape specific actions. We will certainly advise you as soon as we have that information. Data on emissions at a borough level will be included in the upcoming Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy. Emissions from transport and residential energy consumption make up around 3 quarters of emissions so are good places to start for us all.

Cllr Chris Tomblin - Vice Chairman Bramley PC: it is very commendable to empower local communities to think outside the box to find ways to change our actions to reduce carbon. But .. currently the borough only generates 2% of power from renewables , If we do not embrace - challenge developers and government how are we going to get to zero in less than 10 years ? Or are we going to see massive carbon offsetting measures ...

We acknowledge that the national electricity grid is going to need to rapidly decarbonise for us to reach this target and so there is a role for us in lobbying, as well as ensuring the borough contributes to this decarbonisation. The Local Plan Update will play a role in the development of renewable electricity generation with further actions to be developed as part of the new strategy.

Alan Cox Ashmansworth: How can we move from oil based heating of our houses in villages without piped gas?

A good question without an easy answer but one that affects a large area of our borough. Electric heating will be becoming more and more energy efficient particularly if combined with solar PV and storage. Air to air source and ground source heating technology is improving rapidly as well and the government's Renewable Heat Incentive scheme can help by provide financial incentives to install these heating systems. The government's new [Green Homes Grant](#) scheme can also support the installation of heat pumps, alongside insulation measures, and is due to be available from September.

Although these measures can be expensive upfront, they can often offer long-term savings on energy.

The council will consider how it can support or co-ordinate the installation of low carbon heating throughout the borough in due course.

It is useful to know of local challenges and opportunities within specific villages/parishes so please do let us know about these.

Peter Bloyce Old Basing & Lychpit: Basingstoke will not reduce its carbon footprint whilst we continue to grow and increase the number of people.

While development and a growing population present challenges in reducing a carbon footprint we consider that it is possible. The carbon footprint of the borough has been reducing despite growth in the area. The upcoming Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy and associated Action Plan sets out how we can continue you this, although it will require action and buy-in from all in the borough, alongside national progress.

Marian Dain Ecchinswell Sydmonton & Bishops Green: Is there any funding stream for improving village halls?

Not that we are aware of at the moment, but something we will be looking out for if anything becomes available.

Cllr Roger Gardiner: What we need is a tool box and instruction manual. Any chance of this?

This is something that we are looking to develop, however, please let us know if there are areas that you consider you require particular support or guidance.

Alan Cox Ashmansworth: Even our small village has visits from repeated delivery vans each day, which is very wasteful.

The council acknowledges that tackling emissions from light goods vehicles will be important in reaching our net zero targets. Consideration will be given to any schemes or measures that can support this, however, local communities can also have a role in supporting residents to make

conscientious purchasing decisions, such as those that use electric vans for delivery, or lobbying for companies to make this switch.

Gary Whiteside Parish Councillor North Waltham: Can you lobby for more very energy efficient active transport systems and to link the villages adequately into such, also how to stop those emissions around schools to stop vehicle idling especially outside schools and real speed reductions. Many villages want max. 20mph on village roads so that they become safer and greener for all.

Individual towns and village can create their own campaigns on this with their knowledge of the local idling hotspots. Lucy can provide you with a range of resources developed by Hampshire County Council for you to run a campaign.

See the council's 'switch off' information on (<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/engine-idling>)

You will see that the council will now issue fixed penalty fines to drivers who refuse to switch off their engines.

Hampshire County Council are the transport authority and would be the people to go to regarding reducing speed limits.

Richard Carrow-Burghclere Parish Council: I'd encourage participation in Lucy's group!

Before lockdown we were arranging meetings with interested communities and were planning a community summit. We will be looking at how we can get this going again via remote meetings.