

Minutes



Climate Emergency Working Group – Meeting 2

6 November 2019, 18:30-20:30
Room 3, 8th Floor, Merton Civic Centre

Present: Working Group Chair
(**TB**) Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and the Environment

Working Group Secretariat
(**KH**) Katie Halter, LBM Climate Change Officer
(**DoH**) Dominique Hill, LBM Climate Change Projects Officer

Working Group Members
Organisation or community group included when relevant
(**AR**) Alice Rayner
(**CC**) Cecily Church
(**DaH**) Daniel Holden, Conservatives
(**FA**) Franki Appleton, Friends of the Earth Merton
(**JG**) Jenifer Gould, Liberal Democrats
(**KM**) Katie Meech
(**KG**) Kelly Gunnell, Haydon's Road North Community Group
(**LM**) Lily Marcel
(**MN**) Mehmood Naqshbandi
(**PM**) Pippa Maslin
(**R**) Rose, Young Resident
(**TC**) Toby Costin, Crew Energy
(**TW**) Tom Walsh, Sustainable Merton

Apologies received from:
Benedict Woodward, First Mile
Richard Hackforth-Jones
Nick Golson, Deen City Farm

Item	Actions
<p>1. <u>Introductions and welcome to new members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TB introduced two new members: Daniel Holden and a young resident, Rose. 	
<p>2. <u>The Climate Action Plan process and how the Working Group can input</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KH provided an overview of the Climate Action Plan process and the working group's role (see <i>Note on the Climate Action Plan process attached</i>). - Group discussion on identifying and prioritising actions for the action plan. The group agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The template in Annex B of the Note on the Action Plan process should be used as a template for actions lists being developed by the sub-groups; o Actions should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, Time-related); o The cost of implementing actions should be considered; o The cost of not doing something should also be considered/ quantified where possible; o Where there are resourcing gaps between aspirations and realistically achievable actions, other sources of funding should be identified; and o Data/ information sources should be recorded by sub-groups to develop evidence base and record relevant case studies. - TB highlighted the uncertainty around budgets due to the election. - MN recommended that opportunities to collaborate with other boroughs should be considered. - DaH noted that an Equality Impact Assessment will need to be carried out on the action plan so the sub-groups should consider potential impacts on vulnerable groups. - FA suggested having a consensus meeting to feedback and agree the final draft of the Climate Action Plan. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TB provided an overview of the scrutiny process. 	
<p>3. <u>Updates from the Green Spaces sub-group</u> <i>See Green Spaces Sub-Group Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KG presented the Green Spaces sub-group update. - So far, the group has focussed on tree planting and met with the relevant staff at the Council to understand the current situation. See slides for overview of current situation, key obstacles and opportunities, preliminary recommendations and next steps identified by the sub-group. - The group recommended that the Council develop a tree strategy - this was recommended at 2012 scrutiny but hasn't happened yet due to limited capacity. The group noted that tree wardens should be involved or consulted when the tree strategy is developed to ensure that they support it. - TW highlighted that there are a number of groups outside the council planting trees every year but that this planting isn't recorded. The big issue with planting more trees is after care. - Recommendations made during the meeting, in addition to those provided on the slides, included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o to include policies in the Local Plan to require tree planting as part of developments; o to include a tree strategy within the open space strategy; o to combine the existing separate data bases by moving all tree data over to Easy Tree; o Closing the enforcement gap and holding housing associations to account around tree protection and planting; o Using CAVAT (Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees) to assess the value of mature trees to secure funds for the council to plant more trees through Section 106; o Identifying tree opportunity pockets – e.g. using small sections of brownfield sites which can't be used for housing for tree planting; o Drawing inspiration from case studies like 	<p>TB to raise this with Chris Lee.</p>

<p>Hackney’s parklets and ‘Green the Grid’ in Southfields; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Having competitions between neighbourhoods to encourage local residents to look after their local trees. <p>- FA highlighted that the Woodland Trust has gifted 400 trees to Friends of the Earth Merton who have approval from the Council’s Green Spaces team to plant them with training from Jane Plant (tree warden) but would need to commit to looking after them for 3 years. Recommended developing a group/ network of tree carers, beyond the tree wardens, to look after the trees for 3 years after they have been planted – need to understand what the time commitment would be for this. Flagged the importance of engagement for this.</p> <p>- The group discussed the carbon offsetting potential of tree planting outside the borough but noted that this doesn’t provide the same local adaptation benefits.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Discussion: Agenda / date for second meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group agreed that the next working group meeting would be held on 4th December from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and that each sub-group would provide a short update on progress to date. 	
<p>5. <u>Any Other Business</u></p>	