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## **AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF STRADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP**

The group's main function is to monitor, advise, engage, and promote environmental matters by the sharing of ideas and expertise internally, sideways within the Stradbroke parish, and within the P&TC (Parish & Town Council) network and upwards with SALC, Mid Suffolk Council, for liaison with Suffolk County Council to influence UK Central Government, in order to implement effective change for adaptability and mitigation: reducing our overall impact on the environment with the ultimate aim of being **carbon neutral**. Only laws and regulations on national scales (leading to international action, of course) will make the vital changes we need for this imminent emergency, now and for the coming generations.

### **(1) The Group's role within the parish of Stradbroke:**

- the initial aim is to re-train all of our thinking by asking the question “How can what an individual or an organisation is doing in Stradbroke be done in such a way that it reduces its impact on the environment?”
- Implementation will need a spreadsheet created that can be added to as and when identifying ways of answering the question above.

(a) ‘Internally’ – for implementation to be effective there will be a need for the SPC Climate Change Group (CCG) to look at every aspect of the working of SPC asking the above question and making recommendations to SPC in order to achieve effective results. This will require input from the whole council. The SCCG recommendation to the August meeting is to confirm that every working group and committee of the SPC needs to assess ways of reducing its impact on the environment with the eventual aim of being carbon neutral. *See appendix below.*

(b) ‘Sideways’ – for implementation to be effective there will be a need to engage with the whole community of the parish. At this stage it is still important to raise awareness of the climate change emergency. We need to reach all our community from the young to the old. It is recommended that the CC group is open to all in the parish who express an interest, over 16. If we get interest from younger people we should research ways to include them in taking part, (e.g. via their schools). Our welcome will be promoted in SPC meetings, Stradbroke Monthly and via social media, word of mouth, etc.

We propose this Terms and References paper is published at our Stradbroke Annual Parish Meeting or other time and a letter (email) be sent to all groups and organisations including schools, churches, businesses) asking for involvement and ideas from the community as a whole. Members of the community will be asked to join the working group. Regular zoom meetings to receive presentations to pool ideas and gain support will be arranged and face-to-face meetings, as required. It is proposed a public event organised by the group would be organised for a later date.

## **(2) SPC Climate Change's role within Stradbroke and beyond:**

**Sideways** – to work together with other P&TCs to encourage all to set up their own climate change groups. This will be done primarily with SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) who will be setting up a forum, and using their advice, knowledge and connections in order to form networks of P&TCs who can share ideas and expertise with NALC and in turn with Central Government. MDSC have declared a climate emergency and are implementing schemes and support across the area. We will be liaising with them to help Stradbroke and in turn a councillor from SPCCCG, the Clerk or the Chair—as appropriate—could attend MSDC combined information meetings, if invited, to raise the issue and share ideas and experiences to help other Suffolk residents and businesses work towards being carbon neutral.

**Vertical** – to communicate directly with MSDC or SALC to encourage and be part of the setting up of networks of P&TCs and a forum of sharing ideas and expertise. The aim would be to support NALC and county councils to lobby central government and organisations in the public sector and businesses and organisations in the private sector to implement change. It is recommended that the CCG's aim for Stradbroke is to research thoroughly the methods to become carbon neutral. Categories for this should include:

### **1. Domestic and Business Energy use**

#### **Transport**

1. to inform and help to enable the change from carbon fuels to electricity and hydrogen, eg. Need for more charging points (EVs)
2. to promote better, safer and more practical pedestrian and cycling networks to encourage more cycling and walking.
3. to lobby for less single car use (especially fossil-fuel run vehicles) by promoting the return of public transport in the area and/or expansion of funding for community buses so they are used by the general population, not just, for example, the elderly. Eventually it is hoped all vehicles would be EVs. (Neighbourhood Plan review).

#### **Heating and Electricity**

Aim to become carbon neutral: research and recommend the best ways for this, including researching what other groups, such as Community Energy England (CEE), Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF), etc, are doing.

- encouraging the switch to renewable, non-green washing tariffs. . If MSDC lobbied non-green washing energy companies on behalf of the Stradbroke community asking that tariffs be set so that it is no longer more expensive to choose non-greenwashing renewable energy tariffs, those on low incomes will also be enabled to choose green tariffs. (If MDSC are choosing non-greenwashing energy for their own buildings, this deal may be possible.)

- encouraging the switch from oil for heating and encouraging the installation of alternative energy generation, such as solar (and wind power for farms, small-holdings, etc). Awareness and implementation of hydrogen power would hope to follow. If electricity were cheaper more people would opt for electric heating (under floor too, as efficient).

- Promoting LED use for all lighting.

## **2. The Circular Economy. Reduce, Re-use, Re-cycle.**

There are many schemes, such as in Frome, with successful initiatives such as repair stations, tool “libraries” that we could investigate.

## **3. Housing**

- encouraging existing homes to become more energy efficient.
- all new homes should be carbon neutral and old homes should be supported in reducing heating loss.

Making recommendations at planning application for reduction of carbon footprint and environmental/wildlife protection, if not yet mandatory. (Neighbourhood Plan review)

### 4. Plastics and becoming plastic-free:

- (a) Audit of water availability where bottles can be refilled by visitors.
- (b) Support village groups already promoting non-use single-use bags and look at ways to prevent this use by residents generally.

### 5. A progressive tree planting programme.

Trees are an effective natural form of carbon capture over time. SPC should work with residents, MSDC, NT, British Tree Council, Woodland Trust, DC, etc, identifying available grants and support. Fruit and nut trees provide food for birds. (Neighbourhood Plan review)

### 6. Management of flood alleviation in planning. (Neighbourhood plan review).

### 7. Habitat and protection of wildlife in respect of parish assets, residents’ gardens, green spaces, hedgerows and roadside verges.

- Review PC assets and assess what can be done.
- Comment on new-build planning and development.
- (Neighbourhood Plan review).
- Liaise with residents, land-owners, Sports and Community Centre, Leisure Centre, allotments, SCC Highways and other groups, including national, to provide habitat for sustainability of insects including bees/butterflies/hoverflies and other pollinators/birds/hedgehogs, badgers, amphibians, etc. Publicising groups such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Wild East (which has a scheme of citizens pledging 20% of their gardens/land to wildlife-friendly habitats and/or wilding), giving links, etc.

**Appendix Questionnaire for SPC suggestions, if proposal above is accepted:**

**The CC is looking for councillor suggestions.**

With regard to the Group's Work within the Parish of Stradbroke:

a) Internally:

(i) What could be done within my committee/s to reduce harmful environmental effects? (If you are in a committee this might be up for discussion when you next meet.)

(ii) What could councillors do in a practical way to promote reduction in environmental damage/help the working party? (This is not a personal pledge as we all have different responsibilities!)

b) Sideways:

(i) What can each of us do to communicate ideas in this paper to others in Stradbroke?

(ii) Other suggestions, eg. national groups/useful links

If each councillor could send TW one or two suggestions in the categories above to me in the next two weeks, I can prepare our spread sheet of aims and progress in time for the next meeting

Thank you everyone.

TW July, 2021