

FINAL Climate Emergency – A Plan for Thorverton

1. In its report of 2 May 2019, “Net Zero – the UK’s contribution to stopping global warming”, the Committee on Climate Change set out a number of areas in which carbon use might be significantly reduced so that net-zero might be reached in the UK by 2050. These covered some areas such as aviation, shipping and industry, where we can have only limited impact in Thorverton (although even in these areas we may be able to play some part as consumers and through lobbying pressure). It also gave other areas such as waste reduction, transport, land use, agriculture and forestry, building efficiency and health benefits, where we may well be able to develop local plans to make reductions.

2. At a forum in July on what actions local councils might be able to take in Devon, participants were given presentations on the actions being taken in Totnes and in Ide. The main points to emerge from these presentations which might be of help for Thorverton were the need to:

- i. set up a small working group of enthusiastic villagers who would be asked to come up with ideas, both strategic and specific, about steps that could be taken;
- ii. ask the working group to report back to the Parish Council regularly and for the Parish Council to take measures in line with the recommendations of the working group;
- iii. consider how funds such as s.106 might be used to pursue some of the changes (for example by creating more open spaces, a community garden or orchard);
- iv. describe to the community how much is already being done (for example tree planting at the Millennium Green). We are not starting entirely from scratch;
- v. tell people about some of the simple things that they might be able to do (such as using recyclable water bottles and using energy efficient light bulbs);
- vi. emphasise the community benefits of working together to try to address a problem affecting all of us. This is an opportunity to bring the community closer together;
- vii. be ready to measure, preferably starting with some kind of baseline survey;

3. At the July meeting of the Parish Council we agreed that we should see what other Devon councils are doing by way of drawing up plans. At the forum for local councils it became clear that progress is very variable, but that each council would benefit from making its own plan, tailored to its own particular circumstances. Meanwhile, John Spivey is convening an inaugural meeting of a Thorverton Climate Action Group for 4 September.

4. It is recommended that we take the following actions:

- a) Indicate that the Parish Council is fully committed to significantly reducing carbon use, in line with the targets adopted by Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council.
- b) Support a Thorverton Climate Action Group with the remit of:
 - i. drawing up specific proposals under strategic headings;
 - ii. gathering ideas for reducing carbon use which could be shared with the community;
 - iii. discussing with existing village groups (WI, School etc) how they might help promote some changes;
 - iv. proposing ways of publicising what is being done and what more could be done;
 - v. proposing ways of measuring our baseline position, such that the position could be measured again at regular intervals;
 - vi. reporting back to the Parish Council each month.

*Neville Lane
24 August 2019*