

**ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
PROPOSALS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING (not minutes)
held at 2:00pm on Thursday 10th March 2022**

The **Climate Change and Environmental Committee** of Ashington Town Council make the following **proposals (in bold)**:

Public Participation

The meeting welcomed members of the public with comments on items relating to Pension Divestment, and Beekeeping (to be included in minutes).

Action Plan

This is a working document with many items ongoing and carried out continually by officers. Other items from the Action Plan will be brought forward as proposals to the Climate Change meeting agenda, as prioritised.

It is proposed that the remaining five **tree planting schemes** considered by the group, are placed in an order of priority/preference, and brought for approval to a future meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee, subject to capacity to deliver the schemes. All members to email Stephen Humphrey will priority/preference.

Northumberland County Council Climate Change Champions

A verbal report of local work and initiatives was received from Cllr Brannigan (to be included in minutes). The report was noted, and it was requested that written reports be received for future meetings.

Wildflower Planting

It is proposed to defer this until plans from Groundworks Green Recovery Challenge are progressed, and the Council's tree planting schemes.

Annual Competition for Ashington Schools

It is proposed that the Council launch a school poster competition to support the preparation of beds on Station Road, with 'Work in Progress' signage and a sustainable planting theme, including the benefits of sustainable planting. It is proposed that Sharon Parmley and Cllr Michelle Brannigan progress the scheme after the Easter holidays.

Keep Britain Tidy/Great British Spring Clean Campaign: 25th March – 10th April 2022

It is proposed that the Council launch and support litter picking in the following areas, on the following dates and times:

1. **Peoples Park – Tuesday 29th March: 10:00am - 11:30am**
2. **Wansbeck River – Wednesday 30th March: 2:00pm – 3:30pm**
3. **Paddock Wood in North Seaton – Thursday 31st March: 10:00am – 11:30am**
4. **QEII Country Park – Friday 1st March: 2:00pm – 3:30pm**
5. **Hirst Park Flower Park – Saturday 2nd March: 10:00am – 11:30am**

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Beekeeping

It is proposed that the Council's Climate Change Group investigate sites that may be suitable for bee keeping, and to agree to add this to the Climate Change Action Plan. Stephen Humphrey and Cllr Lang to contact Newcastle and District Beekeeping Association.

Water Butts on Allotments

It is noted that the office will continue to encourage the use of water butts on allotments, in a more persuasive and educational way.

It is also noted that a more universal approach to the management of allotments will be brought forward, with separate allotment associations coming together, and that environmental efficiencies can be part of the agenda. Stephen Humphrey to progress.

Northumberland County Council Pension Scheme Divestment

A proposal to agree to recommend that the Council lobby Northumberland County Council to divest pension funds away from fossil fuels was heard, but not supported.

Working At Home Policy

A proposal to agree to recommend that the Council's Personnel Committee consider the introduction of a 'Working from Home' policy to reduce the need for officers to travel to and from work was heard, but not supported.

Groundwork – Green Recovery Challenge Fund Project

It was noted that work would be starting on Groundwork's Green Recovery Challenge Fund Project on the River Wansbeck. It was noted that the Climate Change Group would continue to receive updates and any opportunities for involvement.