

## **COUNCIL - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

### **CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Members will remember that a very successful 'Futures Fair' was held in February 2020.

Sadly, this was the last major action of the working group that was formed as a result of the Council signing the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration.

That event was planned to raise awareness in the community and to inform the working group as to how to develop its plans.

The plan as it stood last year is attached to this report.

Although Covid has temporarily enabled the Council to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through the partial shutdown of The Watermark, it has also prevented further long term actions to be implemented due to the urgency of the pandemic and the strain that it has put on the Council finances. There has though been an opportunity to work on some of our mitigating factors, with tree planting and biodiversity improvements progressing well. Other issues such as Active Travel have been impacted in various ways and that work, led by Graham Wilson and PL:21, has adapted well to the issues and opportunities that Covid has presented.

The pandemic will therefore greatly affect our plan and may require us to think differently about some of the original proposals, add some new ideas, and may mean some of our original proposals are now not so important, or will have a much lower impact.

Therefore, the Mayor and Cllr Lannin have agreed to reconvene the working group so that work can recommence as we emerge from lockdown.

Councillors are invited to share briefly now their suggestions for changes or additions to the plan, taking into account the above. The Mayor and Cllr Lannin also invite members to an informal meeting (date to be advised) to discuss any more detailed ideas to be considered as part of the plan.

The Mayor will then call a meeting of the Climate Action Working Group which consists of outside groups and individuals, to update the community action plan with the aim of detailed planning and fully costing of some of the larger projects for potential funding bids or for consideration at the next Council budget process later in the year.

Jonathan Parsons  
Town Clerk