

## Climate Change Ideas Forum – Ideas Received and ECDC Response

In autumn 2019 East Cambridgeshire District Council declared a climate emergency. We acknowledge that we have a significant role to play in protecting and improving the environment for future generations and want to encourage residents to be part of our progress in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 we launched the Climate Change Ideas Forum. Members of the public wishing their ideas to be considered for the Council's first Environment Plan were encouraged to submit their ideas by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.



A total of 202 responses were submitted by members of the public these related to a number of broad themes, this positive response demonstrates both the huge interest the public has in environmental matters and the wide and diverse ideas and suggestions people have to put forward. There were lots of great ideas and we are deeply grateful to those that took the time and effort to submit an idea for consideration and for their generous support.

The following pages summarise the ideas received and the Council's response thus far. The Ideas Forum remains open for any new ideas the public may have, all those received from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 will be considered for the next iteration of the Council's Environment Plan.

## Cycling / Walking / Cycle Ways / Paths

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Cycle provision from Little Downham to Ely through the leisure village which was originally planned. Cycling provision on the bypass from Broad Street through to Stuntney.
- Improving and clearing of current cycle paths and promote education campaign to encourage their use. Discourage short distance car use by parking charge. Trial car-free day in Ely centre.
- Better footpaths and cycle ways, wider pavements.
- Open and upgrade more paths with sufficient lighting. New housing estate at Kings Meadow but the street lighting and pathway down Prickwillow Road is shocking and does not encourage people to walk. Also the path off Merivale Way which would link the bottom of Clayway has half a path and never finished.
- All new major infrastructure should have a cycle path alongside it. Consider better lighting on rural roads so people feel safer cycling in winter.
- The NCN route 11 between Soham and Ely requires a specially designed off-road bicycle such as a mountain bike and is impassable on all other types such as road bikes, hybrids, cargo bikes etc. Tarmac cycling route between Ely and Cambridge. Tarmac cycling route between Soham and Burwell to aid onward cycling into Cambridge.
- Basically copy the Cambs City (cycling and walking) scheme.
- Please could we have a cycle path that runs alongside the river from Ely to Cambridge.
- Introduce an Ely Cycle Scheme across the district installing a cycle rack for hiring bikes outside every train station, on the model introduced in Cambridge and London. Install generous bike racks at new developments rather than car parks.
- The path between Little Downham and Ely is narrow with no real verge between the path and the road.
- Improve cycle routes around the area as it is really dangerous, more cycle routes will reduce traffic and healthy, reduce carbon emission.
- Working with the County Council to create strategic cycle routes to Ely and the Station from surrounding villages.

### ECDC Response

- The District Council has recently consulted with residents to identify key cycling and walking routes and improvements. The suggestions above were added to the consultation feedback for consideration by the Council.

## Education/ Communication

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Promote all initiatives and get local people with experience involved.
- Education campaign encouraging residents to switch to eco-energy providers. Food waste - education on what goes in the green bins.

## Education/ Communication

- Creation of a proactive working group combining residents and council employees. Where ideas, best practice from other areas can be exchanged and an action plan formed, tracked and delivered.
- Closing streets for street parties and kids to play out (someone at the local volunteer centre on Forehill is already looking at this). Regular market stall advice clinics to encourage/inform how everyone can help/change lives. Marketing campaign starting with 10 easy things people can do in their own home/lives to make a difference e.g. recycling/wildlife/gardening/repair opportunities.
- More communities need delivery drop boxes for parcels – save returning when not in.
- Recycling - the district has a good record for recycling - which should be applauded - but continued education is necessary as some people still do very little.
- Residents should be made aware of potential effects of rising sea levels on region.

## ECDC Response

- To foster a “Think Zero” culture throughout the Council it is essential that staff are educated on climate change issues and understand the impact their service, behaviour and attitude is having on the global environment. This will enable officers to recognise how they can facilitate change and assist in meeting the objectives of the Councils EnvPLan.
- The Council has identified a training programme for all staff and members on climate change issues and introduced a compulsory action for Council service lead officers via their annual service delivery plans to identify how their service can mitigate climate change and/or boost the natural environment directly or indirectly i.e. education campaigns to facilitate change with residents and businesses across the district.
- From 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 the Council introduced a Carbon Impact Assessment procedure, a new assessment which requires Council decisions to be assessed for the carbon implications of the decision being made (except for Planning decisions as the process for assessing such impacts is already regulated by Government, as set by legislation).

## Grants / Insulations

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Support for residents (and land owners) to upgrade the insulation in their properties to the highest standard (B or A). Would also help alleviate fuel poverty in the region with a large elderly population.
- Grants for loft insulation.
- Grants for local communities to turn community facilities, shops etc. into green assets where they produce local energy and are working towards being carbon neutral or negative.
- CLTs and start up grants have been great. Maybe similar small grants £5k and under should be offered to community groups as seed funding for projects just like ours  
[www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk](http://www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk) .

## Grants / Insulations

### ECDC Response

- The council provides a free home energy advice service to residents to improve the efficiency of their homes. It continues to explore every opportunity to identify any potential funding for renewable energy schemes, this includes working in partnership with other agencies and councils.
- The Council is working with Palace Green Homes , the Council's commercial property and development company, to establish a new sustainability policy for the company; this will then inform how it can progress its development schemes in the most sustainable, yet viable, way
- Participation in the Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility Scheme is helping to reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty throughout the district.
- Grant applications to the Council are asked to explain what steps are being taken to make a project environmentally stable.

## Licensing

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Taxi drivers not to leave their engines running whilst sat on the rank to reduce carbon emissions.
- Promote electric vehicles for taxis by waiving their licence fee or other incentive.
- Give licence incentives to shops offering sustainable initiatives.

### ECDC Response

- The Council's licensing policy seeks to protect our local environment.  
In addition to the age limits and testing requirements of vehicles to ensure that the mainstream fleet remains modern, and therefore, benefits from lower emission levels, it states that through education and raising awareness of environmental issues, such as, better and more frequent vehicle servicing or switching off engines when stationary or idling it can reduce the environmental impact considerably. To this effect, questions on environmental impact are included in the knowledge test for all new applicants.

## Parks and Open Spaces

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

## Parks and Open Spaces

- Reduce the number of grass cutting areas - letting specific spaces grow into meadows (seeded with wild flowers) lots of other councils are doing this with positive results.
- Stop/reduce the use of weed killers which are harmful to wildlife.
- Designated areas of hedging that are allowed to grow wilder- again.
- Maintain all scraps of green space and verges - for benefit of wildlife and pollinators.
- In terms of a local paper much better /informed articles on climate change trees etc. Good for East Cambs people to be reading.
- The council should identify land for re-wilding, there is already desire by local groups such as Eco Ely and Ely Extinction rebellion to undertake tree planting and woodland creation projects. This could help create legacy woodlands and sequester carbon.
- Encourage people to engage with nature/gardening/wild spaces as people are more inclined to protect things they love.
- Promotion of local produce and promotion of local businesses.
- Regenerative agriculture - enhancing and sustaining the health of soil by restoring its carbon content, avoiding the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilisers.
- Promote collection of leaves in autumn by households to make own compost.
- Zero tolerance of planting non-native plants and use of peat by contractor for the Council and by the Council.
- Community greenspace to be available for community gardens/communal food growing. Wildflower verges (where safe to do).
- Heat pumps in parks. See <https://www.wearepossible.org/heat-homepage> for more information.
- Employ a bee keeper, allow farmers to keep bees on their land which the bee keeper can look after. Sell the honey that is made. Encourage the planting of bee friendly hedgerows and more wild flowering across the district to encourage bees.
- Using materials that are reclaimed from previous buildings would be a big help in reducing air, water and land pollution. Could also use building materials from recycled glass, wood, metal or plastic reclaimed from waste products and made into something new.

## ECDC Response

- The Council works with wild life groups and residents to increase habitat and biodiversity and has established wildflower habitats on some of its open spaces.
- The council has committed to undertake a thorough appraisal of the Council's land assets, and determine whether a programme of tree planting and/or meadow planting can take place on any of it. If so, the programme will commence during the 2020/21 winter and spring planting season.
- The council is signed up to and supporting the Doubling Nature campaign and the [Local Nature Partnership](#) whose living landscape vision is to safeguard existing wildlife sites and restore the natural environment.
- Future Parks Accelerator Lottery Funding - The Council is a member of the [Local Nature Partnership](#). The partnership was chosen as one of only ten projects, nationally, to successfully receive funding from a prestigious multi-million-pound initiative. The funding is to be used to secure the future of the county's parks and green spaces so that they can continue to play a vital part of the community, a place for wildlife to thrive and for people to meet and play, by identifying sustainable sources of investment, building community ownership, sharing best practice and developing vital management skills.

## Parks and Open Spaces

- Kennet Community Land Trust has been designed using Garden Village principles.

## Planning and Development

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Give priority to planning with carbon zero homes.
- Build the housing in a more sustainable location near to shops, schools and sustainable transport options e.g. on the southern side of Ely.
- Make sure developers carry out their commitments to biodiversity and implement good quality SUDS systems and biodiverse landscaping on their sites - do spot checks.
- Name bus stops obvious places i.e. Anglesey Abbey Stop not Bottisham Road etc. Make it really obvious where you are i.e. Sainsbury's Tesco etc.
- New builds - They need solar panels, rain water collections, triple glazed windows and recycling solutions inside (build-in kitchen units).
- Let more planning permissions be granted to build houses in industrial and brown field sites within town areas, instead of opening up the greenbelt areas.
- Planning permission could require provision for the capture of renewable energy in one form or another - eg solar panels, wind turbines and should require provision of water recapture.
- (new homes have) No triple glazing, no photovoltaics, no passive-house levels of insulation, no air pumps, no MVHR, barely even any rainwater recycling. Just really cynical little boxes, designed to be as profitable as legally possible to build, with no thought for the long-term running costs, expressed either in carbon or pounds and pence.
- Ultra-energy efficient housing and low/net zero carbon housing development should be provided through ECDC own trading company.
- Only build where employment / transport / suitable infrastructure are available - building large developments. Remote villages is not sustainable for future generations. The local plan emphasises building in the key towns - Ely, Littleport and Soham, because the infrastructure is either in place, or will be (Soham railway station).
- No new home should get permission without renewable energy, electric car charging point, dedicated cycle paths in every new estate, and well-lit all weather bus shelters supporting an integrated public transport system.
- Next Local Plan should place an emphasis that homes, jobs and facilities are planned in the round, either as part of mixed use developments and/or with the good active travel options. Ely Leisure Village is a great example of how the Council has removed a community facility from the city centre and places it on the edge, where is only accessible by car.
- Prevent new houses and commercial buildings from being built which use fossil fuels for heating.
- Neighbourhood Plans and Parish Plans can identify steps how to make communities greener and reduce carbon – e.g. transportation infrastructure.
- New housing should have water-saving devices built-in. Existing housing stock needs help to buy and install rain-water butts/tanks.
- Use legal and planning mechanisms such as Section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy and other mechanisms to fund climate actions and nature restoration projects.

## ECDC Response

## Planning and Development

- The preparation of two Supplementary Planning Documents are well underway, one on the Natural Environment, which is due to be adopted in at the end of September 2020 and the second on Climate Change for adoption at the end of March 2021. Both documents will lead to wide-scale benefits to both the climate and the natural environment.
- Through planning policy the Council favours sustainable development, we secure energy and sustainability measures on all developments of 5 dwellings or more and we seek BREEAM “very good” build standard on non-domestic developments greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup>.
- ECDC are working with Palace Green Homes , the Council's commercial property and development company, to establish a new sustainability policy for the company; this will then inform how it can progress its development schemes in the most sustainable, yet viable, way.
- The Council are in early discussions with three Parish Councils who are willing to assist with the development of a template for a parish-based Environment Action Plan that can be used to encourage Parish Councils to come up with their own targets and projects.

## Renewable Energy

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Build on-shore windfarms to prevent energy loss from cabling.
- No solar farms on Fenland - the best soil in the country to be used for agriculture.
- Support for renewable energy schemes in district.
- Promote/subsidise solar/wind power on individual homes. Reduction in Council Tax for people who have solar panels.
- Areas that are on oil boilers are less green than gas. Therefore putting in plans to switch all oil users to geothermal would benefit the environment.
- Other Councils (such as Edinburgh City Council) have developed very successful community solar and wind schemes. As one of the sunniest and windiest parts of the UK we are well placed to do this here <https://edinburghsolar.coop/> , <https://brightonenergy.org.uk/><https://drumlin.coop/>
- East Cambridgeshire District Council should make it an urgent priority to divest from fossil fuels and stop funding the climate crisis: <https://gofossilfree.org/uk/fuelling-the-fire/> .
- Harvest and burn the methane to generate electricity. This technology is available and is already in use elsewhere in the world.
- Legislate so that all new builds or substantial extensions with generally South facing roofs must have solar panels fitted. Roofs of commercial buildings should be used preferentially for solar farms.
- To "store " excess solar energy, use it to electrolyse water to hydrogen and oxygen, storing the hydrogen for power generation overnight...same for excess wind energy instead of turning off the turbines.
- Burn rubbish to generate electricity!!! But do it properly, like they have been doing for years in Sweden.

## Renewable Energy

- Let smaller solar and wind renewable energy be part of and support local communities. Local ownership of renewables could see the weakest and poorest alleviated by power allowances (free or very cheap electric heating).
- All existing large (publicly used) buildings should be incentivised locally and nationally to install solar panels. If more buildings were to house more panels, we could generate more renewable energy without using up valuable farming land.
- Move to 100% clean energy across the Council and its trading subsidiaries. Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon. Establish an East Cambridgeshire Climate Change Partnership, involving councillors, residents, young people below voting age, academics and other relevant parties, to prioritise carbon reduction.
- Fund insulation schemes and shift to homes heated mainly by electricity, provided by the UK's vast renewable energy resources. Instead of importing dirty energy, the UK should be powered by a home-grown renewables sector, providing jobs and clean energy at affordable prices for homes, heating, transport and industry.
- Help and support for community owned solar farms and onshore wind farms. Small scale, co-operatively owned like Reach Solar Farm Help with planning permission, funding, publicity, finding suitable land and helpful landowners.
- Green deals for renewable energy home improvements. Sensor street lighting (solar), light pollution is decimating insect life.
- All new Council homes and buildings to be carbon neutral or negative. Renewable energy production on Council Buildings.
- Incentivise or make it easier for local land owners to install solar or wind farms that would generate enough power for their local village.
- ECDC taking initiative to be at forefront of trialling new technologies, including electrolysis of hydrogen using solar PV and carbon capture and storage mechanisms, and showcasing for others to learn from.

## ECDC Response

The Council has committed to

- Review its entire electricity and gas contracts and, where practical to do so, will seek to amend to 100% renewable electricity tariffs and 100% carbon off-set gas tariffs.
- Appraise the impact of its streetlights and consider the options to move to LED lighting, if feasible, taking account of the carbon savings, financial savings and public opinion of doing so, including consideration as whether dimming of lights is practicable and safe during certain low-use hours (note: most street lights are not under the control of ECDC).
- Complete an energy opportunity assessment for The Grange and identify measures that can be taken to reduce consumption and/or generate renewable energy and deliver at least one of the measures identified within a year.
- Complete an energy opportunity assessment for E-Space North to identify measures that can be taken to reduce consumption and/or generate renewable energy and deliver at least one of these.

## Renewable Energy

- Together with Cambridgeshire County Council, we are developing ideas to design an energy system to deliver net zero carbon emissions from energy use in East Cambridgeshire by 2050.

## Single Use Plastics

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Water fountains for public use.
- Refill station at Ely Markets. Incentives for returning bottles like at train stations for rail tickets or recycling points which generate vouchers for local stores.

### ECDC Response

- The Council's purge on plastics campaign and action plan is helping reduce the Council's use of single use plastics and to encourage residents and others across the district to do the same.
- Ely Markets' Bring Your Own campaign is helping to raise awareness and reduce the Council's use of single plastics by market traders and customers.
- ECDC has signed up to the global organisation <https://refill.org.uk> and offer a Refill Station at The Council Offices, this is another small positive step towards preventing plastic pollution at source.

## Transport

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Promote Electrical vehicle (EV) use with charging points in car parks and dedicated parking spaces. Ensure that EV options are looked at for all ECDC vehicles and convert to these as soon as possible.
- Give priority to bus contracts with electric buses.
- Install more electric charge points in Ely.
- Electric buggy hire from Waitrose for those with disabilities.
- Review bus services regarding access to train station; ensure areas of higher density housing have an hourly minibus/bus to the station thus promoting train travel.
- Extend free bus passes for local journeys.
- Better train service. More frequent bus service from villages to Cambridge and faster route.
- Free parking at angel drove car park if a train ticket bought.

## Transport

- Change the first train from Ely station to London which is currently 8:58 Sunday. This is compared to 6:00am from Cambridge on a Sunday, this means people wanting to get into the Capital early drive to Cambridge.
- Extend pedestrian only days in town to Thursdays and other days also.
- Ban Free all day parking in our residential streets and make them pleasant again, expand Park & Ride, greatly improve public transport with non-polluting buses for commuters from P&R and schools and colleges.
- Lobbying the train company servicing the Ely - Cambridge route to put on more carriages at peak times - it always busy and full - off putting for potential customers. Not supporting the expansion of the A10 and looking at better public transport - especially buses that are affordable and electric.
- Shuttle buses around towns.
- Negotiate more facilities to take bikes on trains.
- DO NOT expand the A10 - this will only encourage car use.
- Get rid of the car allowance given to council officers and replace with a shared car system using electrical vehicles.
- The bus from Newmarket to Cambridge via Burwell etc. should just run to Cambridge North. A late bus on a Friday and Saturday night could also be funded via parish councillors pooling precept and covering the cost - thus reducing car travel significantly.
- Car sharing and pooling schemes to be developed and encouraged for people travelling in rural areas into the city. Every morning there a streams of cars going from the same villages into the same places in Cambridge with just one or maybe two people in them.
- Parking info displays: digital display units to assist visitors or working people parking and to avoid unnecessary driving around the city to find a space.
- Commuting: using public transport should be encouraged e.g. by providing huge discounts on public transport by employers, or bikes at discounted prices for local employees.
- On Transport, installation of electric charging points in council owned car parks and a parking permit which favours electric vehicles would provide a big incentive to people looking at their next car.
- The Chatteris to Cambridge hourly service gave people living in villages along the A142 corridor the option of accessing their local Ely services as well as Cambridge without having to take their cars. Buses need to be fully accessible for wheelchair users, pushchairs and should also be able to cater for bicycles.
- Shared rural transport on a more frequent basis & guided cycle ways across from Ely, Soham, Wicken to Waterbeach & Cambridge.
- Fit for purpose public transport from surrounding towns into Ely i.e. Soham; 1a) should run early enough to make connections to train or bus services into Cambridge/Waterbeach by 7.30am; 1b) should run late enough to be able to work a full 8-hour day in Cambridge/Waterbeach and still make the connection back to Soham; 1c) should take considerably less than 2 hours to reach central Cambridge; 2c) runs in the evening and on Sundays.
- Could we have some sort of community car pool scheme? Make public transport more affordable so people choose to use this over cars.
- Introduction of a new Park and Ride scheme at Stretham and at Ely. More cost effective than widening A10. Money could be used to deliver Park and Ride scheme.
- Increase frequency and reduce prices of existing bus services. Also add more routes e.g. Ely - Wilburton - Cottenham - Histon - Impington.

## Transport

- The trains to Norwich only stop at Lakenheath on a Sunday if you ask the driver to stop there or wave to be picked up! Motorised traffic to be slowed to walking speed in built up areas with a priority of movement to pedestrians essentially making town zones pedestrian crossings.
- Pay As You Go carbon footprint charge for car travel. Tolls on selected roads and bridges.
- Roll out free bus travel for under 30s and invest in brilliant and cheap public transport options, while making it easier for people to cycle and walk wherever possible.
- Re-instate some of the closed railways in in the area.
- In order to encourage the take-up of electric vehicles the Council really needs to ensure that superfast chargers are installed in the city centre.
- Traffic free cycle routes and using canals for goods transport.
- Look at something for the dismantled railway line between Cambridge and Mildenhall, e.g. guided bus or light railway with a pedestrian and cycle path alongside as the West have got?
- Do something positive to reduce the number of private car and taxi journeys to and from the station during rush hour which cause so much traffic congestion and pollution by funding a proper local (electric) bus service.
- A car club for council staff – lease an electric vehicle or two for staff to use on external visits or a small fleet for villagers to use when travelling in to Ely station.
- Re-surface the roads in Ely to remove the bumps for cyclists.
- Car exclusion around schools. If children can get away from car use this has to bode well for the future.
- Use of electric vehicles - preferably across the whole council fleet.
- Reduce car dependency by providing mass-transit in all Cambridgeshire using old rail routes. Trains are overcrowded and expensive.
- Fix the pavements and potholes. Provide more electric charging points to encourage electric car purchase. Policing of illegal parking especially around Forehill area.
- Stop unnecessary engine idling by having strict time limits. In Sweden it is against the law to idle for more than 1 minute.

## ECDC Response

- The District Council has recently consulted with residents to identify key bus services to inform a detailed plan, which aims to increase the number and frequency of services to be presented to the Combined Authority in its county wide bus review.
- The Council is currently undertaking alongside ECTC and ECSS, the Council's wholly owned companies responsible for matters such as waste collection, street cleansing and maintaining public open spaces, a review and alternative options appraisal for its vehicle fleet, and set out a programme of how its vehicle fleet will become less carbon intensive, plus review our waste collection methods to determine whether more efficient route collections can be secured, thereby reducing vehicle fuel consumption (and consequently reduced CO2 emissions).
- The Council is working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to produce an Electric Vehicle Strategy for the area, which will consider provision in Ely and East Cambridgeshire.
- Two rapid electric vehicle charging points have been installed at The Hive car park.

## Transport

- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is considering options for mass transit in Cambridgeshire via it is Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM) project - <https://cam.consultationonline.co.uk/>
- Staff travel will be considered as part of the work looking at reaching net zero emissions by the Council by 2050.
- The Council promotes car sharing and pooling schemes such as Camshare, the free car sharing website for Cambridgeshire, on its website.
- Road and highway related suggestions will be forwarded to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority who are the local transport authority for the area.

## Trees

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Plant more trees along highways or small wooded areas on the outskirts of Ely.
- Ensure more trees are planted to counter the number of houses that are being built.
- Set targets for tree planting and biodiversity.
- Designated areas for planting more trees on an ambitious scale.
- Allow solar farms on grade 1 land that is worn out for 25 years to allow soil structure to reform and stop wind blow. This will protect agricultural land for the next generation.
- East Cambs council operate the same scheme that the cambs city council operates where a resident of East cambs could apply to get a free tree from ECDC for births or adoptions up to child of 5 yrs old.
- Reduce deforestation and replant new trees creating new forests.
- Could Barchams look at a Christmas Tree rental scheme.
- Support the Woodland Trusts " Emergency Tree Plan" for the UK. East Cambridgeshire could help by identifying with the help of the residents where more trees could be planted to increase our wooded cover in the district. Put funding in place to double tree cover and incentivise for nature-friendly farming. You need to introduce policy support for intensive insect populations – including our precious bees.
- Planning to plant wherever feasible to soak up CO2. Save mature trees form destruction in every planning application.
- Continue to plant more trees, invite landowners to participate and liaise with Woodland Trust.
- Not ordering the removal / destruction of a tree in Lode village - at the junction of Northfields and the High Street.
- Task parish councils to plant one tree for every resident in 2020.
- Plant 10 trees for every new house the district in line with new proposed guidelines from Woodland Trust.

## ECDC Response

## Trees

- The Council's Tree Strategy and conservation policies are helping to protect and improve the tree stock across the district
- The Council seeks to secure tree planting in new developments and promotes tree schemes by the Woodland Trust and others to encourage tree planting.
- The council has committed to undertake a thorough appraisal of the Council's land assets, and determine whether a programme of tree planting and/or meadow planting can take place on any of it. If so, the programme will commence during the 2020/21 winter and spring planting season.

## Utilities/Facilities

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Use energy efficient products throughout all council buildings - light bulbs etc.
- Council to sign up to a 100 percent renewable company for gas and electric.

### ECDC Response

The Council has committed to

- Review its entire electricity and gas contracts and, where practical to do so, will seek to amend to 100% renewable electricity tariffs and 100% carbon off-set gas tariffs.
- Complete an energy opportunity assessment for The Grange and identify measures that can be taken to reduce consumption and/or generate renewable energy and deliver at least one of the measures identified within a year.
- Complete an energy opportunity assessment for E-Space North to identify measures that can be taken to reduce consumption and/or generate renewable energy and deliver at least one of these.
- At the end of life all lightbulbs on Council premises are replaced with LED lightbulbs.

## Waste & Recycling

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- Reduce, reuse and recycle throughout all council buildings. Encourage paperless where possible and recycle as much as possible.
- To press forward with the incinerator in Waterbeach and use the steam to heat homes or power industry.

## Waste & Recycling

- Collect green bins weekly to encourage recycling and hopefully it will reduce the black bin bags. In a sheltered scheme of 36 residents we have 6 green bins which get full 4 days after the 2 week collection, so all the remaining recycle gets put into black bin bags.
- Explore the introduction of community can and bottle return schemes being introduced in Scotland and successful in Sweden - where people are paid a small amount for recycling glass/tins etc. See: <https://sweden.se/nature/the-swedish-recycling-revolution> .
- Access to recycling bins across town/village centres so it is possible to recycle when out and about - with very clear signage!
- More frequent collection of the food/garden waste bins as this may encourage people to put less food waste into black bags and decreasing frequency of black bag collections alongside this.
- A-Z of what and where to recycle. Make it clearer and easier -what can go in the bins and how e.g. small pieces of tin foil should be scrunched to make bigger or put into a tin or lids on plastic bottles.
- All homeowners should be told that they can lease more wheelie bins. Maybe put a sticker on the bin to remind people.
- There has to be a fundamental involvement of the community and a strong push to stop the littering in the first place. Litter is a blight on our towns and countryside which has a huge impact on all our lives and reflects very badly on us as a country.
- Develop a better waste and recycling collection system that means that more people recycle food waste rather than send it to land fill.
- Recognise and support local recycling initiatives such as eco-Ely. Reduced food waste - encourage schemes to share out of date food such as the Prospectus Trust shop in Ely. Ensure all fast food producers in the area are using recyclable packaging (NO POLYSTYRENE!!).
- Introduction of community compost sites where compostable waste can be placed and then left to decompose. This could be close to allotment sites to benefit those with plots.
- Let all residents know where each type of plastic waste can be recycled from drink bottles to washing tablet wrappers. Shops and households/parishes to be recognised for reducing plastic waste.
- Improve your Recycling provision if you can't then make it easy for others to provide it in whatever way is within your power.- make it a regulation that those who sell it have to take responsibility for receiving it back.
- Could we have wheelie bins, or something else that's reusable, for ordinary household rubbish rather than just putting bin bags into landfill.
- Replace black plastic refuse sacks with compostable ones.
- Clean up the rubbish from the A10. It is possible to have sign which require the traffic go around the area which the volunteers are working in along with yellow vests pick up sticks etc.
- Christmas wrapping paper. Use pieces of home printed old sheet to wrap presents that can be re-used year after year.
- Offer a second recycling bin for free, even if it's for a limited period.
- 1) Introduce black bins. This is cleaner as animals can't cut open bin unlike the bags so there is less litter. 2) reinstate the community recycle bins.

## ECDC Response

- ECDC continues to work independently and closely with other local authorities (RECAP) to ensure a clear message is relayed to all residents. The reduction of waste continues to be one of our top priorities.

## Waste & Recycling

- The council applauds the residents of East Cambridgeshire and although enormously proud of its achievement of one of the highest recycling rates in the county leading to a new target of 65% does not take this for granted. We are always looking at opportunities and different ways to make further improvements inline the Government's emerging Resources and Waste Strategy.
- Together with East Cambs Street Scene Ltd, the company wholly responsible for providing the Council's waste and recycling service, we deliver proactive educational waste and recycling campaigns, these include visiting various community groups and local events to encourage people to re- use, recycle more and reduce waste.
- We continually review the content of the Council's Waste and Recycling web pages to ensure it is useful, relevant and current and are in the early stages of developing an A-Z toolkit to aid residents' decision making when it comes to their disposal choices.
- The Council will work alongside the County Council when reviewing waste disposal methods.

## General Comments and Other Issues

### Summary of Comments/ Issues

- It will be important to work in partnership, working together across disciplines and across all land use and community interests, at all levels: partnership-led action and support for partners is going to be essential.
- 'Dim the lights' scheme - Turn down non vital light or off after 10pm in closed premises and unoccupied residential premises, with sensor triggers only for security.
- Build a big reservoir near Cambridge and generate electricity via solar panels, heat exchangers etc. Other benefits includes fishing, walking and cycling.
- Set a target for carbon reduction with a timeline and milestones.
- Review of pensions investments for climate impact.
- I am aware of big schemes to offset but would like a local scheme where we can calculate our carbon use and elect to offset on local tree planting and other projects we can fund.
- Supporting bio-diversity. Bird/bat boxes installed on public buildings and a scheme for residents to purchase low cost boxes for home use.
- 2050 is too late, the next ten years will be crucial in limiting the temp rise to 1.5 degrees.
- Urge East Cambs District Council to promote plant based food at its offices and events and to provide information on healthy plant-based eating via its website, services and local outreach activities (e.g. <https://nutritionfacts.org/healthkit/>).
- Incentivise the creation of food forests, agroforestry in all villages so people have access to free healthy food and it helps wildlife and the environment.
- Support local initiatives like Prospects Unwrapped and encourage more shops to follow their lead in banishing unnecessary plastic wrap and packaging.
- Road/street signs lighting to be solar powered.
- Nappy recycling encourage more environmentally friendly nappies.

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- Give better rates to high street shops and facilities (compared with those at the leisure village/hive) to encourage walking/cycling shoppers and enliven the High Street again.
- Some customers may need open doors left for them to allow easy access. But the amount of energy wasted that way by the shops is unacceptable. There are solutions that can help clients that need assistance - automated doors, or a buzzer.
- Work with County Council etc. to make plots of land available for community farms, small holdings (urban or on the edge of villages) etc. in the spirit of market gardens that used to exist.
- Adjust council tax to take in carbon footprint of housing ie large houses many cars etc Not punishing low-incomes people who cannot afford to take measures
- Put in place Clean Air Zones and charge polluters if necessary.
- Street lighting - consider turning off overnight (I live on Aldreth Road Haddenham and no-one walks on the pavement after 10pm).
- Produce a nature and ecosystem restoration plan to reverse and restore habitats and species and ecosystem quality and function.
- Rainwater/greywater harvesting/reusing in all council owned buildings
- Transition to electric/hydrogen cell bus and van fleets for council services
- Establish a positive vision for the climate and ecological emergency plan emphasising the benefits ie good local food, clean air, clean water, better health, closer stronger communities
- "How Low Can You Go" issue a climate emergency carbon emission allocation ( as a guideline) to each resident with an easy app so that they can track their progress in bring in down their carbon foot print over a year and tips on how to do it in the app.
- Support breastfeeding. Most mothers want to breastfeed. Let's let them!
- Count the value of natural resources: in carbon mitigation, water regulation, wildlife habitat and human need. Humans need green.
- Given the growth in technological innovation, can the concept of work from home actually be promoted so that all colleagues who are not frontline staff have an opportunity to work from home on a mandatory not optional basis. This would save millions of road journeys, lots of money and time.
- More promotion of green office, that is healthy plants everywhere to promote clean air given the printers and computers produce so many negative elements conducive to good health.
- Aim higher - one aspect of the meeting seemed to be making low targets and reaching them was better than making tough targets and failing.
- Encourage more 10k runs and half marathons eg like Lode go get more people active.
- I think that firework displays should be cancelled and some form of laser display should take place instead.
- Eat a lot less meat. Schools and council-run offices should offer meals mostly made up of high quality and nutrient dense vegetables, legumes etc.
- It might be possible to set up a 'Repair Shop' instead of a charity shop in an empty retail unit? (Repair Cafes already exist and might be a point of contact initially.) It could be staffed in the main by volunteers.
- Promote the Natural Cambridgeshire 'Doubling Nature' vision to all communities and relevant community groups, with ECDC leading by example and promoting best-practice examples to all residents, businesses and community groups.

## ECDC Response

## General Comments and Other Issues

- Officers have gone through all the suggestions submitted from the public and where we think we can do something and quickly we have included this in our 20 commitments for 20/21
- All suggestions have been either passed to the relevant service or the partner organisation who is best placed to take them forward. Many of the suggestions are still be investigated and we will continue to go through them and see what is feasible and which organisation is best placed to take them forward.
- A number of the ideas extend beyond the responsibility of the district council therefore we propose to put in place arrangements, by April 2021 (including a district wide partnership forum), to facilitate the preparation of a district wide Action Plan ('District-EnvPlan'). This Action Plan, which is prepared in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, will set out how we can cut our carbon emissions and boost the natural environment collectively across the East Cambridgeshire area.