

Climate Emergency

This comes as a result of work done by Parish Councillors in connection their Neighbourhood Plan Plus planning, our summer strategic planning and training event, and our “Climate Emergency – What Next” work following recent intergovernmental reports setting out the catastrophic consequences to our planet in failing to achieve 50% cuts in carbon emissions by 2030.

In line with the principal authorities and nearby local councils, Martlesham Parish Council declares a climate emergency. A climate emergency is recognising the serious and urgent problems caused, or likely to be caused, by the world getting warmer as a result of human activity increasing the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Declaring a climate emergency is a commitment to works towards maximising the reduction of carbon emissions and other outputs contributing to a rise in temperature.

What happens next?

A declaration of climate emergency has little meaning without an action plan. This declaration will ensure that climate change is a factor in all our decision -making processes and future decisions.

We have reviewed our actions and note that many of our activities, including those to improve the natural environment in and around Martlesham, currently mitigate the effects of rising temperatures and rising carbon emissions, but that further work needs to be done:

1. Land Management

- a. In the management of all land for which we are responsible, we will encourage appropriate tree and other planting and manage habitats to mitigate the climate emergency, encourage bio-diversity, and maximise carbon capture opportunities.

We will also develop a parish wide co-ordinated approach to develop wildlife corridors for:

- i. Martlesham Common Local Nature Reserve
 - ii. Recreation Ground
 - iii. Areas around the Community Centre and Picnic Area
- b. Our Working Groups (Portland Avenue Conservation Group, Community Orchard Group, Wildflower Project Group) will follow these principles and encourage others responsible for land management, to join us in adopting these principles
 - c. Our Grants Policy will recognise the need to support other groups working to support these principles
 - d. Where we provide land management services to other organisations in the parish, we will work with them to implement a programme which follows these principles.

2. Transport

We recognise our powers are limited in this area, as much is the responsibility of private individuals, principal authorities and businesses. We note the parish hosts the A12, a major unplanned out of town shopping centre and is under threat from new roads.

We will work to encourage sustainable forms of transport and reduce the harmful effects of any continued use of non-sustainable forms of transport.

In our responses to pre-planning enquiries, to planning applications and planning consultations, we will:

- a. Work with others to develop a long term attractive public transport offering
- b. Prioritise provision of sustainable transport e.g. seek to re-establish Felixstowe Road as a sensible safe cycle commuter route.
- c. Work towards traffic reduction, calming and lower speed limits
- d. Monitor vehicle emissions and noise levels to identify areas which require immediate remedial action and to build a data base of existing levels

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3. The Built Environment

In responses to pre-planning enquiries, planning applications and consultations we will only support developments which:

- a. Reduce energy, water and carbon use
- b. Mitigate the climate emergency
- c. Achieve a minimum footprint to reduce impermeable areas
- d. Provide natural corridors and use hedging as boundary markers
- e. Where scale of developments allows, a high proportion of energy needs should be generated on site from a renewable source

4. Parish Council Activities

- a. Where available, we will chose products and services which mitigate the climate emergency
- b. We aim to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030
- c. Seek external funding to support this work