

OCTOBER 2019

BRIDGEWATER TOWN COUNCIL, SOMERSET

The latest Community Forum set up by Bridgwater Town Council focussed on Climate Change. The Forum met at Bridgwater Town Hall and was attended by members of the public and set out to develop a Climate Change Strategy for Bridgwater. Key speaker at this inaugural meeting was ecologist and wildlife release co-ordinator Jamie Kingscott from Secret World Wildlife Rescue.

The aims of these meetings would include raising awareness in order to reduce the effects of climate crisis, global heating, economic instability and natural catastrophe. To take steps to reduce carbon emissions and to seek direct measures that Bridgwater could introduce. Kingscott stated he was seeing a difference to wildlife as a result of loss of habitat due to interaction with humans. The key issue is land-use and an increasing population causing a conflict between the natural environment and where people live.

The key areas that the forum addressed is:

- **Biodiversity**-*protecting wildlife habitats-Pesticides-encourage grassroots community projects such as gardens and orchards-plant based diets-tree cover/sponsor a tree-natural enhancement of green spaces and parks-natural food production*
- **Energy**-*encourage green energy providers-oppose fracking-reduce reliance on fossil fuels-encouraging the use and production of sustainable energy*
- **Plastics Waste** -*increased recycling-looking at alternatives to plastics-production and disposal*
- **Transport**-*electric cars-public transport -reduction of traffic and the reliance on cars*
- **Built Environment**-*deregulation-new homes-sustainable energy on new buildings-insulation-brownfield development*
- **Commerce and Industry**-*buy local/shop local-encouraging sustainable, more ethical businesses-reducing consumerism*

Has your council done something similar? If so, please contact NALC through the email address: Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk