

OCTOBER 2020

MATLOCK TOWN COUCIL, DERBYSHIRE

On 17 June 2019, Matlock Town Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and committed the council to become carbon neutral by 2030. The council have also committed to supporting Matlock town in reaching the same goal.

At the council meeting on 16 February 2020, councillors agreed to implement the [Climate and Ecological Action plan](#). This plan details the councils approach to tackling Climate Change. Councillor David Hughes is the Lead Councillor for Environment and Climate Change. They are looking for local businesses and organisations that are engaged with reducing their carbon footprint to share practical ideas with residents.

At the Town Council meeting on the 17th June, Matlock Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency. There was unanimous support for the motion proposed by Councillor Matt Buckler. The motion is seeking to put in place local actions that can make a difference – the important role of local government in tackling climate change was highlighted by students from Highfields School who attended and urged the council to take urgent action.

Residents in attendance gave inspirational examples of actions they had taken to reduce their carbon footprint. The Town Council has recently signed up to the Refill scheme, which aims to make it easier to reuse and refill your bottle with free tap water in the town. The average person in the UK will use 150 plastic water bottles every year – or around three a week. The objective of Refill is to stop millions of plastic bottles at source each year and therefore reduce plastic pollution. The Imperial Rooms will be also implementing a recycling scheme for their waste with immediate effect. The council will be taking a range of further actions to improve sustainability and will provide support and encouragement to residents within the town. A working group has been established and the first meeting took place on the 24 of June.

Cllr Buckler said, “We’ve heard some fantastic examples of things that people have done, but we need everyone to be doing it. To help this we need all of our tiers of government to take action where they can and help those within our communities to do the same. We will work with the District and County Councils, and learn from other good examples from around the country to ensure Matlock is an environmental beacon, as we work towards being a zero-carbon town by 2030.”

Cllr Cruise, co-sponsor of the motion, added “The climate crisis needs to be tackled at every level of society. I am confident we can make Matlock an example

of how communities can do more to tackle climate change. It was great to have students from Highfields School and residents at the Council meeting. Importantly, as a Town Council, we need to continue to involve the community as we develop and implement our plans.”

Has your council done something similar? Then get in touch by emailing Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk

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