

Public Questions

Full Council 18 April 2019

Question

Declaring a climate emergency:

Over the past 20 years, Teignbridge District Council has earned a good reputation for acknowledging and addressing climate change; many Teignbridge communities have groups that have been fighting climate. A lot of us feel that central Government has not provided the leadership and structures required to help, so we are particularly keen that our own local council should help us to become carbon neutral by 2030, which is vital if we want Teignbridge's children to have a future. Will you help us to achieve this by writing a timed Action Plan and providing the staff and financial resources needed to make it work?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Economy Skills & Tourism

I am sure all members agree about the importance of protecting our planet by reducing our impact for future generations.

Teignbridge has always taken a proactive approach to reducing our energy consumption, using renewable sources and tackling other environmental issues.

Completed projects include;

- Solar Panel system at Newton Abbot's Market Walk Shopping Centre
- Solar Panel system Teignbridge Business Centre, Heathfield
- Installing video conferencing facilities in Forde House to reduce travel to meetings
- Workplace travel survey involving staff and councillors

There are also planned projects for the current financial year to replace the heating system for the Forde House complex, install electric car charging points and consult on our Electric Vehicles, Infrastructure and ultra-low emission vehicles policy.

Given that this is not a unique situation to Teignbridge officers are already in conversation with colleagues from both Devon County Council and other neighbouring authorities to understand the merits of joint working on such a project and the staffing and financial implications.

The longer term plan is to encourage all partners across Devon to come together to produce a Carbon Action Plan.