

Talking Points/key asks for Chichester District Councillors on the Climate Emergency Action Plan

Background

Chichester District Council (CDC) declared a Climate Emergency on 9 July 2019. In January 2020, the CDC approved Chichester District's Climate Emergency Initial Action Plan 2020-25. The plan sets out the broad scope of its ambitions for carbon reduction and action areas. A Climate Emergency Officer is being recruited by the Council and it will be his/her job to develop the Initial Action Plan into a Full Action Plan. The deadline for adoption of the full plan is September 2020.¹

In response to a question to a full CDC meeting on 3 March about whether key stakeholders (business, hospitals, university, community groups etc.) and the public will be consulted in the development of the plan. the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Penny Plant) said, *"In developing these further we fully intend to engage with stakeholders and the wider public. She also said that "We are already engaged with other councils across Sussex to ensure sharing of best practice and joint working where appropriate through an officer level Climate Emergency Network group."*

This is good news, but we need to make sure that there is wide, meaningful, informed stakeholder and public engagement in the development of the plan i.e. what is the plan for public/stakeholder engagement.

Please talk to your CDC councillor to:

- Let them know how important you think the Climate Emergency Action Plan is.
- Stress that the process for developing the full plan should be as inclusive as possible. It should involve meaningful consultation with and engagement of key stakeholders (businesses, schools, colleges, health sector, community groups etc.) and the general public. A process where as many voices are engaged from the outset will help generate ideas, build support for required actions and also help create awareness of the crisis that is facing us.
- Let them know that many councils are doing this through different mechanisms such as, climate commissions, citizens assemblies, public juries and public meetings i.e. there is lots of good practice to draw on. Just next door, Adur and Worthing District Council are working with local groups to develop its plans and have just co-hosted a climate conference, "Zero2030", with local climate/environmental groups. The crowd-funded event, which was attended by around 300 people, included talks by experts and workshops designed to generate shared solutions to the climate crisis. Organisers of the event have offered to come to Chichester to share their experience.
- Ask them for their support in ensuring that the development of the Full Plan will be an open and inclusive process, and ask them if they would be interested in attending a meeting to hear how Adur and Worthing Council are working with stakeholders and the public.

If you do meet with your councillor, it would be great if you could e-mail XR Chichester's Political Engagement Group (PEG) to let us know how it went: xrchipeg@gmail.com

¹ For a summary of the Initial Action Plan see, <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/33385/Council-invests-in-action-against-climate-change>. For the full plan see, <https://www.climateemergency.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Winchester-Action-Plan.pdf>