

## Talking Points for meetings with or Chichester District Councillors on the Climate Emergency Action Plan

CDC declared a Climate Emergency on 9 July 2019 and produced an [initial Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) 2020-2025 earlier this year. It is now working on a Climate Emergency Action Plan which a newly appointed Climate Change Officer will lead on. The CDC plan is “area wide” which means that it is looking not only to reduce carbon emissions from its own operations but also across the whole district.

This is good news, but to achieve the level of change needed everyone needs to be on board. That includes us, local residents, communities, businesses, hospitals, schools and other services etc. Post Covid-19 the council is facing huge pressures, including on funding, but also huge opportunities to rethink priorities and ways of working. Let's make sure that addressing the climate emergency is its top priority and that the council works with us and the broader community to address it!

*Can you contact your district councillor to get them to support the most ambitious and socially just climate emergency action plan possible for our district, and to ask for their support in ensuring making sure that we, the public and other key stakeholders are actively engaged in the process of designing and implementing the plan. If you are meeting with them, you could make the following points:*

- Let 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. It may also help to identify funding!
- 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 closely with local grassroots organisation to develop its plans. Earlier this year the council and local groups (Worthing CAN and Transition Town Worthing) co-hosted a climate conference, “Zero2030”. 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. The outcomes of that event will feed into the council's plans going forward. They are now planning a Citizens Assembly for later in the year to build on this further. Organisers of the event have offered to share their experience with the Council.
- Ask them for their support in ensuring that the development of the Action Plan will be an open and inclusive process. Ask them if they would be interested in supporting/participating in an event/events (by zoom or other!) to hear how Adur and Worthing District Council and other councils are working with stakeholders and the public.
- Ask them how they think XR can help support the achievement of a gold standard Action Plan and help ensure its implementation.

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](mailto:xrchipeg@gmail.com)