

Full Council Meeting – 30th March 2023

Agenda Item Number CC2394/23

Climate change resilience for Croxley Green

Background

In September 2021, I brought a paper to the council and it was agreed;

- To agree to set up a working party with terms of reference attached to meet and take this “Climate Change resilience for Croxley Green” forward. To report back to full council in March 2022 at the latest.

I did report back verbally in March 2022, and want to give a further update now.

Update

- We (working group, Cllrs Mitchell, Gallagher and Hughes) met and produced a note on what the existing situation was at that time with TRDC and Herts CC.
- We put out articles in local newsletters etc to ask where the issues are now and received responses
- We solved one particular problem by facilitating meetings between a number of bodies and ensure every organisation would do what they should to be on top of the problem.
- Main issue with flooding has been the lack of maintenance on gully's and drainage. With pressure a lot has now been done in the main problem areas by HCC and TRDC.
- Had 2 meetings with the fire service on fire risk for open land including woodland. The 2nd being on site in Croxley Green. Their view is the fire risk in woodland is low, but there have been fires on open ground. They seemed to be satisfied they would deal with any emergency in Croxley Green.
- Design issues identified going forward are being dealt with in the local plan process.
- Issue such as warm spaces is being dealt with due to energy crisis by a different initiative.

Going Forward

- On Flooding. I suggest we need to undertake a high-level flood study of where problems will occur in the future. However now I am on TRDC, I will be looking at whether TRDC can take this forward. The problem here is there is a very slow process, so one option is we look at doing our own.
- In future I suggest we stay in touch with the Fire Service.
- Warm spaces are through other initiatives, but maybe we will need cool spaces for hot periods.
- Tree planting has improved this year, and the Parish can keep pushing for this.
- House design is being dealt with at the local plan level, and this can be looked at when the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan is updated.

- There is now a “Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership” where Adaptation and Resilience is now being looked at a high level across Hertfordshire. Cllr Gallagher and I attended the annual meeting last year. (see Appendix 1)
- The IPCC have just issued their 6th Assessment synthesis report, which really states how serious things are.
- TRDC are now going to consult on their Climate Emergency and sustainability strategy in May. See draft resilience section enclosed. I have been involved with this.
- Once this is done there will be an update of the Climate Emergency and sustainability action plan, and I will monitor this.
- Finally, as I intend to step down from the PC, subject to enough people standing. Is there someone who wishes to be the PC champion.

Cllr Chris Mitchell
30 March 2023

Appendix 1

Adaptation and Resilience

Aim: Create communities, services, infrastructure and environments that are climate resilient.

Climate adaptation is critical to the future of our district and is a priority for the Council under the Corporate Framework 2023-26. Evidence is increasing of the ways in which the climate changes already being experienced exacerbates existing inequities with lower-income and other marginalized communities who are, for example, disproportionately affected by the extreme weather conditions, not least because they are often unable to meet the expense of the adaptation measures that now must go hand in hand with carbon mitigation.

Fostering increased local resilience will require extensive collaboration between the Council, residents, public, private, and voluntary sector organisations, and partners across a wide range of concerns including energy, food and water supply, public health, transport and emergency services.

Adaptation and increased resilience will be needed cross every level and department of the Council. To achieve this, the Council will continue to work in partnership with other key partners particularly Hertfordshire County Council, who hold responsibility for managing and maintaining the infrastructure for flood risk and are the Highways Authority responsible for to prevention and alleviation of flooding through road surface drainage as well as the Environment Agency which is responsible for flooding from rivers.

To achieve our aim we will:

- Ensure our emergency and public health plans account for more severe weather and its impacts on communities.
- Prioritize climate adaptation efforts that explicitly help our most vulnerable populations.
- Assess climate risks and subsequent adaptations required to ensure the resilience of the Council's buildings and services to the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure the Councils infrastructure, landscapes, services are built, maintained and managed to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Inspire and support stakeholders, partners, community groups, businesses and residents to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.