

## **Climate Change Working Party Report 2020 – 2021**

Due to Covid it has been challenging, due to members priorities being diverted to support their work, homeschooling, shielding and covid-19 support efforts.

Since the start of the year the Climate Change working party have met online to communicate ideas and future plans.

The working party works alongside the main council to help with investigating and supporting FTC's declaration of a climate emergency. In the near future we are looking to support a number of interesting projects such as a local tree planting campaign and solar streets.

We are looking for new members, if anybody would like to join us on the Climate Change working party please get in touch with Sally Thurston or Councillor Liz Swallow.

## **Update from FTC regarding actions associated with its declaration of a Climate Emergency in the last year**

### **The Wilderness project**

Despite covid this is underway in Wiles Triangle (previously the Sensory Garden project). The town council officers are working with an ecologist to preserve the wildlife in the space without making any significant changes. Footpaths have been created and litter picking is underway to make the site safe for volunteers to enter the site. The council will soon publicise on the council website an outline plan for the next few years for the Wilderness project.

Two billboards will be put up by the site to inform the public of a site map and species that can be found at the Wilderness.

To volunteer at the wilderness (for clearing, wildlife surveys, fundraising, litter picking) please contact [marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

### **Implementing a 20mph zone in Faringdon Town Centre**

A survey is currently being supported with funding from the County Council in the town centre to determine the feasibility of implementing a 20mph zone. As this needs to be self policing if the survey finds speeds generally are around 20mph in the town centre with the current street calming measures already in place, then the town centre can be made into a 20mph zone.

### **Better ways to school**

With the help of Farcycles after many years the town council has finally managed to complete the creation of a cycle path from Volunteer Way to Southampton St, with the implementation of signage. This was not an easy project, as it had to jump through several hoops with planning permission.

### **Footpath Wardens Scheme**

Faringdon Town Council are looking to keep all countryside paths accessible and enjoyable for the community. It has published some circular walks on its website and is encouraging local residents to

volunteer to walk the paths to ensure they are maintained in good condition for all walkers. If you would like to volunteer for this role please contact [marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk).

### **Town Centre Rejuvenation**

The town council is looking to encourage a café culture in Faringdon Town centre by applying for outdoor seating licences for town centre businesses. It has also been considered for some time installing an art sculpture (galvanised steel pigeon) that would collect bottles for recycling. There is also a lot more being considered through the Town Regeneration Working Party.

### **Living roof bus stops**

It has been discussed for some time and is now becoming a reality that bus stops in town will be installed with the option to install a living roof to combat air pollution and encourage biodiversity.

### **Electric car charging points**

There is an ongoing discussion with the District council about the possibility of installing electric car charging points in Southampton St car park.

### **Solar Streets scheme**

This is a scheme the council is considering, as it finds out more information about the benefits of this scheme from other councils who have used it (such as Henley on Thames).

The Solar Streets scheme promotes a bulk purchase deal for household solar panels to residents in a concentrated geographical area. Prices are reduced compared to individual quotations due to economies of scale in surveying, installation and cost of panels.

### **Supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

At the Town Council meeting on Wednesday 10th March 2021 councillors resolved to support the Climate and Ecology Emergency (CEE) Bill (having declared a state of Climate Emergency on 11th September 2019). The residents of Faringdon place great value on the environment and are concerned about the impact of climate change. The council has written to David Johnston MP requesting support in Parliament for the CEE Bill, to empower councils to react more in line with their declarations of a climate emergency that current planning laws do not allow for example.