

Climate Emergency Declaration

MOTION: This parish council declares a climate emergency and will become carbon neutral in its own activities by 2020, within the current term of this council. We have set up a working group to report back to council with an action plan to achieve this and we will work in cooperation with the community and relevant organisations both in Lymm and the wider community to look at ways to make the Village of Lymm carbon neutral as soon as possible.

WHY? “We know that climate change is happening. We also know that it’s the result of increased carbon emissions from human activities like land degradation and the burning of fossil fuels. And we know that it’s urgent.

A recent UN report from international climate experts tells us that we are likely to reach 1.5C of average global warming in as little as 11 years. At that point (not a straight line that then drops off, these impacts are already happening and will only get worse) we can expect “increased risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth”. These experts also found that temperature rise has already altered human and natural systems in profound ways, resulting in more extreme weather, the melting polar ice caps, sea level rise, droughts, floods and biodiversity loss.

But that information hasn’t yet been enough to change our behaviours on a scale great enough to stop climate change.” Change must be enacted at every level, by everybody: Globally, Nationally, Locally and Personally. This requires vision, leadership and action, but this has not been forthcoming from government nationally. However this does not abdicate our responsibility to take action locally, as this will be required in any event.

The faster we make changes to reduce our CO₂ emissions now, the easier it will be to hit the more challenging targets later on and the less the adverse consequences of climate change will be. Equally, the slower we act, the harder it will be to meet the required emissions reductions later on and the bigger the risk that tipping points will be reached leading to uncontrollable global heating.

There are also many benefits to be had from the necessary changes, in terms of quality of life, our environment, air quality and health.

WHAT CAN LYMM PARISH COUNCIL DO?

NOW:

- 1) **Decide whether the future for our children and grand-children is something LPC really does needs to consider, if it is, then it must take immediate and appropriate action.**
- 2) **Approve Short term actions (and budget).**

SHORT TERM (This current Council term):

- 3) **Parish Council officials and associates take part in training.**
 - a. ~2 hr training session from Zoe Cohn.
- 4) **Become carbon neutral in own activities.**
 - a. Environmental/ energy audit of Village Hall to define current consumption and identify and prioritise required improvements.
 - b. Initiate work to reduce energy consumption (e.g. insulation). **Budget £5k**
 - c. Renewable Energy fund. **Budget £3K**
- 5) **Communicate the changes.**
 - a. Press release.
 - b. Website, other usual information channels.
- 6) **Require the same commitment from local groups in return for funding from LPC.**
 - a. 1-2 leaders of each local group to attend Climate change/carbon training (**2 x sessions for £xxx**)
 - b. Perform environmental/energy audit for the group's activities.
 - c. Formulate plan with short term target and begin implementation to become carbon neutral by latest 2025
- 7) **Plant Trees**
 - a. Target 400 trees / annum. Cost £1-3 per tree planted by volunteers. **Budget £1500.**

MEDIUM TERM:

- 8) **For all future LPC actions/decisions consider the environmental and climate change impact and amend accordingly.**

LONG TERM

- 9) **Work to help households, organisations (ie including schools etc) and businesses in the wider Lymm community become carbon neutral as soon as possible.**

Notes on specific actions and budget request to meet objectives

SHORT TERM

- 4) Become carbon neutral in own activities.

The Environmental audit should quantify LPC's CO2 footprint and identify actions to reduce it to net zero. In the first year, tree planting should be able to offset the CO2 from use of gas boilers for heating, enabling LPC to achieve the target by mid 2020. Electricity can be obtained from a renewable supplier if not already. However in the short-medium term, the use of gas boilers needs to be stopped and energy/heating provided by alternative methods in conjunction with reduced demand due to e.g. a higher degree of insulation of the building. A renewable energy fund should be set up to pay for larger changes, e.g. solar panels on south facing roof and/or heat pump to room heating.

- 5) Communicate the changes

As well as a press release and communication via other routes, the LPC website could contain a page on LPC environmental and climate action, incl. the result of the audit and the implementation plan. This could be updated annually to show what progress was being made. All communications from LPC (e-mail, letters, posters etc) should have a statement that **"LPC has declared a climate emergency and has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2020"**. After 2020 this could change to say that LPC is carbon neutral and is committed to remain so.

- 6) Require a similar commitment from local groups in return for funding from LPC.

The funding from LPC should be used towards meeting this target for: Training, Audit, Plan, Action. The audit should account for additional energy used by holding the activities. E.g. Transport day, CO2 emissions from the exhibitors and public attending the event.

- 7) Plant Trees

Trees can be obtained from the woodland trust as well as other sources for ~ £1-3 per tree in the 100+ quantities. Local volunteers/ schools could be used to plant the trees. A survey to identify suitable locations and types of tree would be required.

MEDIUM TO LONG TERM

LPC Activities: Ensure LPC and every subcommittee consider climate change and ecological/biodiversity impact at the heart of every discussion and decision, including using science and research findings to inform decisions commensurate with the emergency we face

Community Support: Consider ways to work with and encourage the local community to become carbon neutral and improve the Lymm environment.

Low Carbon Initiatives: e.g. install Fast EV charge points in local car parks and contact supermarkets to ask them to do the same.

Interaction with WBC: Propose/support changes to develop a low carbon future.

Planning: Planning to be based on low carbon future (not old thinking) – ensure the Neighbourhood plan meets these criteria. Request only Carbon neutral building developments. Include requirement to plant trees/ shrubs in planning. Infrastructure to support new reality of a low carbon future

Transport: Support increased and better distributed public transport. Request low carbon public transport vehicles. Request review of practicalities of pedestrian and cycle routes between Manchester, Altrincham, Lymm and Warrington (inconvenient routes/ implementation does not encourage use)

Waste: Review recycling and waste system.