

Notes for presentation of C&NEWG to the CVAF on 12th July

I'm Phil Collins. Both Jackie Head and Nick Baker are away so they've asked if I'd give this update.

Since the last Chew Valley Area Forum the Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group has continued to run with the three sub-groups:

- Home Energy
- Sustainable Transport
- Nature Protection

Working Groups such as ours are only meant to be temporary organisations. As we have been running for 3 years the Chew Valley Area Forum has asked us to close down by October.

Nature Protection has taken this opportunity to become a separate group which will give them more focus for future work and the chance to tie into groups such as Chew Valley Reconnected led by Victoria Prescott. They also hope to tie back into the Chew Valley Area Forum.

We have discussed re-forming an overarching group but have decided there is not enough capacity to do this and that, as recognised by Nature Protection, individual focus groups are likely to have a greater chance of making a difference. *Guy will follow with me on this.*

In terms of the future, the Home Energy group will close and the Sustainable Transport group will take time over the summer to consider how best to move forward. We would welcome input and support to help us reach the best decision.

As you can imagine, with all the activity going on at the moment regarding WESTlink and the 672 the small group is very stretched. There are effectively four of us, strongly led by Jackie Head, who are manning the website, meeting weekly with B&NES, WECA and the operators, and managing the "Early Adopters" group who are trying to use the services as much as possible. We are also reporting issues back to WESTlink on an almost daily basis. It is clear this is a vitally important issue for the valley, and we want to be able to re-form in a way that allows us to continue to fight in the best interests of all residents across the valley. This is both from a climate perspective in reducing carbon through greater public transport use but also, more importantly I feel in the short-term to try to minimise the risks of social isolation and exclusion, for young and old, through not having public transport.

We didn't expect that we would still need to be so active by this time, but clearly there is a lot of work to do yet. So, we would be pleased to hear from any of you that might be interested in getting involved.

Back to the overall Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group. So, in summary, the group will end in September after three years of making great progress. We will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 26th September, most likely in East Harptree Village Hall to celebrate the work completed, to launch the new Nature Protection group and to agree the future of the Sustainable Transport work. Anyone that's had anything to do with the group over the last three years, or even just a general interest, would be very welcome to come along.

Thank you