

CVAF C&NEWG Update to CVAF June 2022

CVAF C&NEWG has now been meeting for 19 months, with monthly meetings on Zoom where the whole group meets and then sub-divides into working groups before coming back together to share progress. Between these meetings sub-groups have met and carried out a range of tasks leading to a variety of outputs.

Most recently, having gone through an iterative process we have produced our 'Points to consider when assessing Renewable Energy Schemes in the Chew Valley' which has been circulated to Parishes to help them consider applications for Renewable Energy Projects. It has also been circulated to relevant officers and councillors in B&NES, and we have had lots of positive feedback.

At the present time we have divided into 2 sub-groups for a 6 month period:

The Sustainable Transport sub-group now has regular meetings every 6 weeks with transport officers in B&NES and WECA, and other members of the new Sustainable Communities Department, under the direction of Sophie Broadfield. Additionally we have had useful meetings with Pam Turton (Head of Transport Strategy : a new post in B&NES) and Jackie Clayton (Head of Green Transformation) . We have recently attended two transport users groups: First Bus Customer Panel and the inaugural B&NES 'Journey to Net Zero' forum. We have taken part in B&NES, WECA and government select committee consultations and, in every context, continue to make the case for significant improvements in rural transport, and in the Chew Valley in particular. By liaising with Bikeability we have managed to arrange for a pilot course for families wishing to learn how to cycle together safely in the Chew Valley which is planned for August 2022. This will be available (for a fee) and will be advertised by us in due course.

The Home Energy Group has been exploring the options for assisting parishioners and parish councils to retrofit their properties and get heat surveys and advice in the upcoming Autumn/Winter period, connecting with The CHEESE project in Bristol and Transition Bath. They are currently exploring what options might be available for group buying solar panels for local Parishes.

We write a monthly column 'Earth Matters' for the Chew Valley Gazette, describing the work of the group but also passing on useful tips and links on a range of decarbonisation options.

We are now looking to increase the number of members in the group so that we can maintain momentum and move into new areas of exploration. We welcome anyone living in the Chew Valley to join the group (whether Parish Councillors or not) and are particularly keen to hear from people from Dundry, Nempnett Thrubwell, Norton Marlewood, Stanton Drew and Temple Cloud who are not yet represented in the group and from other areas where there is only one rep (such as Clutton, East Harptree & Stanton Drew.) Anyone who would like to know more can contact Nick Baker nickbakergb@gmail.com or Jackie Head jch.221@gmail.com Steering Group members.