

Agenda item 7

For decision - Environmental Resilience steering group

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Summary

Given the proposal to declare an Ecological Emergency alongside the Climate Emergency, the recommendation is that Frome Town Council sets up a Climate and Ecological Emergency steering group that meets quarterly to review progress.

Background

Frome Town Council published a draft Climate Emergency Strategy in March 2020. The strategy stated “It is anticipated that the action plan and report will be updated annually. A working group will review progress quarterly”. Resource challenges due to COVID and Anna Francis going on sabbatical meant this group was not put in place. An overview of progress against the actions set out in the draft strategy can be [viewed at Appendix 2](#).

Addressing the climate and ecological emergencies together

There are many overlaps between the climate and ecological crises which mean it makes sense to address them together. For example, tree planting and managing spaces for nature can sequester carbon and increase biodiversity; reducing consumption of goods that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation abroad; increasing local food production to make us resilient to the effects of climate change and reduce reliance on food produced in a way that degrades soil and ecosystems.

Given the motion to declare an Ecological Emergency alongside a Climate Emergency, the proposal is for an Environmental Resilience working group to be set up to review progress against our 2030 target for carbon neutrality and the actions needed to achieve this, alongside developing our ecological emergency work.

Membership

The proposal is that membership of the Steering Group will initially include representatives from the Resilience, Environment and Communications teams alongside Councillors, with the aim of widening membership to others in the community with relevant expertise.

Recommendation

Delegate to the Resilience Officer and the Environment Manager to establish an Environmental Resilience steering group that meets quarterly, comprising relevant staff and Cllrs who will subsequently recruit others in the community. The steering group will report back to Town Matters Committee twice yearly.