

**Wildlife, Biodiversity & The Environment Open Meeting
15th November 2022, 7:30pm Coffee@Carey**

In attendance: Parish Councillors Roy Hawkesford, Pam Heap, Carol Lloyd & Guy Ward, 21 residents/stakeholders and the Parish Clerk

Introductions were made and background information provided as to why the meeting had been called. Details of the Parish Council’s Wildlife & Biodiversity Policy which can be found at <https://www.hackletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/wildlife-and-biodiversity-policy.pdf> were shared. The Parish Council wants the whole community to be involved to ensure that the policy is relevant and effective and to support and enhance wider climate change initiatives which are already running within the parish.

Hackleton Parish Carbon Footprint Report

A carbon footprint report developed using a tool from Impact – an online region-level emissions estimator, based at Exeter University was discussed and it can be viewed at <https://impact-tool.org.uk/> To summarise Hackleton Parish has a higher carbon footprint than the whole of South Northamptonshire and the whole of Great Britain.

| | Hackleton | South Northants | GB |
|---|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Consumption of goods and services | 7.6 | 6.5 | 5.4 |
| Travel/Transport | 5.3 | 4.6 | 3.1 |
| Housing | 5.2 | 4.8 | 3.5 |
| Food and diet | 4.8 | 4.1 | 3.6 |
| Waste | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Total emissions per household (t CO2e) | 23.0 | 20.1 | 15.7 |

What is the purpose of this group? What do we want to achieve?

- To raise awareness of / promote the WB&E Policy
- To bring together various groups and individuals with an interest in the environment
- To gather and disseminate examples of good practice and to develop links with other agencies in our area, such as WNC, CPRE, ACRE, etc. * see appendix for contact details
- To encourage good practice in the community as a whole
- To encourage action as well as debate
- Agree and co-ordinate a series of Parish-wide initiatives over time.
- Publicise our activity and results to encourage more/future activity.
- Think big!

Presentations by Community Stakeholders

Giles Benson - Farm Manager Turney Partners

- In 2004 the farm started to work with the Nene Development Trust and planted 2.5km of hedges from Salcey Forest to Rookery Woods to establish wildlife corridors
- Grass margins have been established around fields for wildlife but not for public access
- Under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme 20 hectares of wild bird seed mix has been established and 8 hectares of wild flower mix
- Working with the Freshwater Habitats Trust leaky dams have been built, to hold back water upstream to prevent flooding in Wootton and beyond, ponds dug to filter water run-off and scraps dug to encourage wading birds.
- Since 2009 an independent butterfly survey has been commissioned by the farm to ensure that numbers are not deteriorating
- Insecticides are no longer used on the farm
- Pesticides and fertilisers are only used on targeted areas of the field using satellite technology and soil testing
- The next big step for the agricultural sector will be the production of green ammonia which is produced carbon free by using green hydrogen produced based upon renewable energy

Pauline Hawkesford - Hackleton WI

- Only locally sourced flowers are used to replenish the flower displays in Coffee@Carey on a weekly basis
- Everybody is encouraged to only buy sustainable flowers, local suppliers include:
Pink Welly Posies @pinkwellyposies. Waite's Farm, The Close, Eastcote, NN12 8NQ
Little worth Flower Farm, Littleworth, Towcester, NN12 8AL
Flower and Farm, Coton Lodge, West Haddon Road, Guisborough. NN6 8QE

Anton Dil - Piddington Churchyard Wildlife Group

- A survey was undertaken in 2020 by the Wildlife Trust BCN and they were quite pleased with the diversity of species which they found
- Pollinator-friendly plants have been planted in older enclosed grave plots
- Bird and bat boxes have been installed
- The group wishes to increase what it does to promote the wildlife, biodiversity and habitat of the churchyard

Wendy Dunkley – Longland Meadow Volunteer Group

- A Management Plan for The Meadow was drawn up in 2002 to provide a place of natural recreation, encourage wildlife and involve local groups
- A butterfly patch, summer meadow and spring meadow (memorial strip) have been created

- bird & insect boxes installed
- Native woodland spinneys maintained and enhanced
- The pond has been improved
- New varied hedges planted

Jo Roberts – Teacher Hackleton School

- The School building is an issue as it is old and energy inefficient
- The children are taught about climate change and love learning about wildlife
- Recycling is encouraged
- The children have boundless energy and enthusiasm for the future

Group Activity – What can I do?

- Grow your own fruit, vegetables and flowers
- Plant pollinator friendly, establish wildlife areas in your garden, consider vertical growing
- Compost all that you can
- Re-use, recycle, upcycle, repair, swap
- Don't use chemicals
- Reduce mowing
- Wear more layers – reduce heating
- No fast fashion
- Limit car use, car share
- Walk, bike, e-bike
- Do a meal planner, only buy what you need, buy wonky fruit/vegetables, care with use-by dates but not with best before dates, buy loose items
- Turn lights off, turn electricals on stand-by off
- Use shampoo bars not plastic bottles and soap not shower gel
- Switch to green energy
- Conserve water, reuse water

What are the obstacles?

- Cost/finances
- Time
- Lack of knowledge
- Health & Safety
- No empowerment
- No buy-in
- Apathy
- People need to travel but we have limited transport options
- Neatness
- Politics, The bigger picture
- Supermarket packaging
- Gluts, seasonality



What Should the Parish Council Do?

- Influence landowners
- Plant more
- Communicate, publish information
- Organise experts to talk
- Let the community do things
- Visit other schemes
- Follow own policies
- Education, community links
- Work SMART
- Hold regular meetings, reach out
- Understand the children's voice
- Open disused railways as footpaths
- Liaise with Sustrans
- Raise funds to purchase land
- Draw up a skills list
- Influence planning schemes

The Working Group will now look at how to move forward and plan to arrange a further meeting in the new year. In the meantime please feed any suggestions/information to clerk@hackletonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Appendix

West Northants Council newsletter, on their website: CA-WN Exchange (Climate Action - West Northamptonshire. <https://ca-wn.org/> and social media @WeAreCAWN. This comes out monthly and contains many articles on all aspects of the environment and climate.

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) based at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, Harksome Hill, Northampton, NN4 9QX. acre@northantsacre.org.uk On Twitter, they are @NorthantsACRE. They organise conferences and meetings on many relevant topics, such as the Grow Green Together Conference. Their events are online.

We Are Save Our Street Trees. They promote, protect and plan urban trees in Northampton. saveourstreettrees.org and Twitter @savestreettrees

CPRE, now calling themselves The Countryside Charity. They organise conferences and events on many aspects of the environment. The Wheatsheaf Spring Hill Farm, Harborough Road, Northampton NN6 9AA. info@cprenorthants.org.uk

The Wildlife Trust BCN <https://www.wildlifebcn.org>

The Freshwater Habitats <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk>