



**Wildlife, Biodiversity & The Environment Meeting
21st February 2023, 7:30pm Coffee@Carey**

In attendance: Parish Councillors Roy Hawkesford & Carol Lloyd, 14 residents/stakeholders, Unitary Councillor Fiona Cole, Martin Wilson Sustainability Manage WNC, Maria Clark Sustainability Reporting Manager Booker Group Ltd and the Parish Clerk

Introductions were made and the Parish Clerk confirmed that Hackleton Parish Council had declared a Climate Emergency as had 37% of parish council's in the country. By making this declaration the Council has acknowledged that it needs to act on the causes and impacts of climate change. It has made a budget of £10,000.00 available in the 2023/24 budget.

Hackleton Parish Carbon Footprint Report

At the November 2022 meeting we were presented with statistics which appeared to be alarming. Councillor Roy Hawkesford shared an update based on a presentation from **Megan Blyth** who is a Project Officer for the Centre for Sustainable Energy, the organisation that produced the Hackleton Parish Carbon Footprint Report.

“The **Centre for Sustainable Energy's** Knowledge Helps Tackle Climate Change & Fuel Poverty. **Energy** Advice And Support To Make **Sustainable** Changes And Reduce Carbon Emissions.”

See: <http://impact-tool.org.uk>. Essentially, the tool has two approaches: Territorial, which deals with things largely outside our local control (like major roads, industry, etc), and Consumption, which is more useful to us individually and as a parish. The data can be interpreted in different ways – which is very useful when analysing the results for our parish. Wealthier areas use more carbon, greater wealth and higher home ownership meant that we can do more about it!

The presentation recommends that we compare our findings with neighbouring parishes, look at mutual concerns, share good practice and work together on common issues. The high use of road transport and agriculture in a parish like ours will be higher than in urban areas, which may make the results look worse than they are. We also have a large number of detached houses.

Presentations by Martin Wilson, sustainability Manager WNC

Presentation attached

Presentation by Maria Clark, Sustainability Reporting Manager, Booker Group Ltd

Presentation attached

Update from Community Stakeholders

Anton Dil - Piddington Churchyard Wildlife Group

- The group have met with HPC's WB&E working party and visited Hardingstone Churchyard and Piddington Churchyard
- A plan is being drawn up to present the HPC requesting permission for new schemes within the churchyard including a wildflower patch, reduced mowing and water provision

Think Big!

A brainstorming session took place about projects to take forward. These included:

- Protect land by buying it
- Set up a community enterprise to generate sustainable electricity to sell to residents on a not-for-profit basis
- Battery energy storage
- Plant verges don't mow them
- Return Longland Meadow to a meadow
- Beekeeping scheme
- Small steps for example recycling education or small areas of gardens turned into wildflower areas
- Community Recycling hub

It was agreed that these meetings should continue on a quarterly basis. The speakers were thanked as were coffee@carey

Presentation by Maria Clark, Sustainability Reporting Manager, Booker Group Ltd

Firstly, a little bit about me, I graduated Plymouth University with a degree in Environmental Science. I'm also an associate member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

My currently work for Booker, the UK's largest food wholesaler and part of the Tesco group, as their sustainability reporting manager. Day to day my role includes carbon emission reporting, decarbonisation projects, responsible sourcing (palm, soy, wood & marine), ethical sourcing of high-risk commodities (Tea, Coffee & Cocoa), sustainable diets and waste hierarchy management.

With only 10 minutes or so today there is no way I could cover it all so I thought today I could focus in on waste. What the industry is doing to reduce waste and how this directly links to the reduction of carbon emissions but also what we can do as individuals at home. The first step of the waste hierarchy is to prevent waste from ever occurring. Dedicated product development teams are always working on ways through careful design to reduce the amount unnecessary packaging. There is sweet spot when it comes to packaging, take

too much away and you face damages or produce doesn't stay fresh long enough to be consumed leading to preventable food waste occurring.

The 2022 Earthshot Prize winner Notpla have developed an all-natural packaging solution made from seaweed and plants that are naturally biodegradable and home-compostable. This has already been used instead of single use plastic cups and coated take away containers.

Retailers can partner with food redistribution charities such as FareShare and Olio to ensure that they donate short dated food to charities who then redistribute to local communities.

There is a plastic tax which means that plastic packaging without at least 30% recycled content are taxed. Even before this tax, The food industry where possible the has been using recycled materials in their products and packaging.

Food containers are no longer "carbon black" this is so that recycling facilities can process them where before this wasn't possible as the carbon black colour made them undetectable on the conveyor belt.

Responsible companies have stopped using non-recyclable and harmful plastics such as PVC. Tethering lids to bottles so that they make it through the recycling process eg Coca Cola. When not recycled screwed to the bottle then they are too small for the recycling facility to handle.

The introductions of soft plastic recycling points at stores – Soft plastics mostly require chemical recycling and in the UK, this is very limited, so these do usually have to be taken abroad (Europe) to be recycled into new materials.

There is lots of debate around compostable materials – most cannot be composed at home, they require very specific environments.

Disposable Vapes fall under WEEE regulations – just like a toaster, when purchasing a like for like replacement you can leave your old electrical appliance with the retailer to be safely recycled. Vapes do pose a unique challenge whereby they also contain a lithium battery and nicotine saturated plastic. Recycling these must be done with great care.

We are fortunate in this parish to be able to recycle household batteries as part of our recycling bin collections – all though these must not be placed within the blue wheelie bin but in a clear bag on top of bin.

I guess this leads us nicely onto food waste...

If food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd highest emitter of greenhouse gases, behind only the US and China. according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

One third of greenhouse emissions globally come from agriculture, and 30% of the food we produce is wasted – about 1.8bn tonnes a year globally. If, as a planet, we stopped wasting food altogether, we'd eliminate 8% of our total emissions.

UK households are responsible for throwing away 4.5million tonnes of edible food, worth an estimated £13.8bn. So maybe now, with food prices soaring, supply chains under strain and consumers more conscious of climate change than ever, the perfect time to make a case for reducing food waste?

Research by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) published in August, found that UK citizens are more concerned about food waste (63%) than any other issue relating to food. The

research also found that in the past 12 months the most common change to eating habits was minimising food waste (40%), while 31% said they were willing to try doing so in the coming year.

It's estimated that some 10% of EU food waste could be purely down to confusion over date labels

- Best before relates to product quality
- Use by relates to food safety – after this date food are by definition deemed 'unsafe'

Current laws don't require a 'best before' label on fresh uncut produce, by removing the consumer facing dates it could prevent around 7 million shopping baskets of perfectly edible food ending up in the bin.

The Capgemini survey of 10,000 people showed 60% feel guilty about wasting food but want food companies to take joint responsibility. Some 57% are disappointed in these companies for not caring enough about the issue.

Research published by Tesco and WWF suggests 3 million tonnes of edible food (£1.8bn, 6.9bn meals, 18mn meals a day) goes to waste on UK farms each year before it even reaches our tables. WWF's food waste expert Lilly Da Gama blames the inflexibility of current food waste system to deal with gluts as well as consumer expectations.

So, what can we do as individuals at home, small changes can make a difference. /

When it comes to recycling World recycling day 18th March
WISHycling isn't the right course of action

Always crush bottles and screw the caps back on before recycling.

Don't fully remove tear open seals (like microwave rice) by leaving them partially joined to the main packaging they will still get recycled.

Wash recycling if heavily soiled with food – it doesn't have to be sparkling clean.

Community recycling hubs

And food waste Food waste action week 6-12th March

Use up day

Meal plan

Community kitchen - Allotment surplus trades

Correct storage

Knowledge of when its still ok to consume food – BBD

Presentations by Martin Wilson, sustainability Manager WNC



WNC Sustainability

“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

United Nations Brundtland Commission 1987

Sustainability is not just about climate change, it covers environmental, social and economic factors which together form the three pillars of sustainability. Many of the issues we face personally, and within our communities, fall into these three categories.



UN Sustainable Development Goals

The current UN SDGs includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with 169 associated targets.

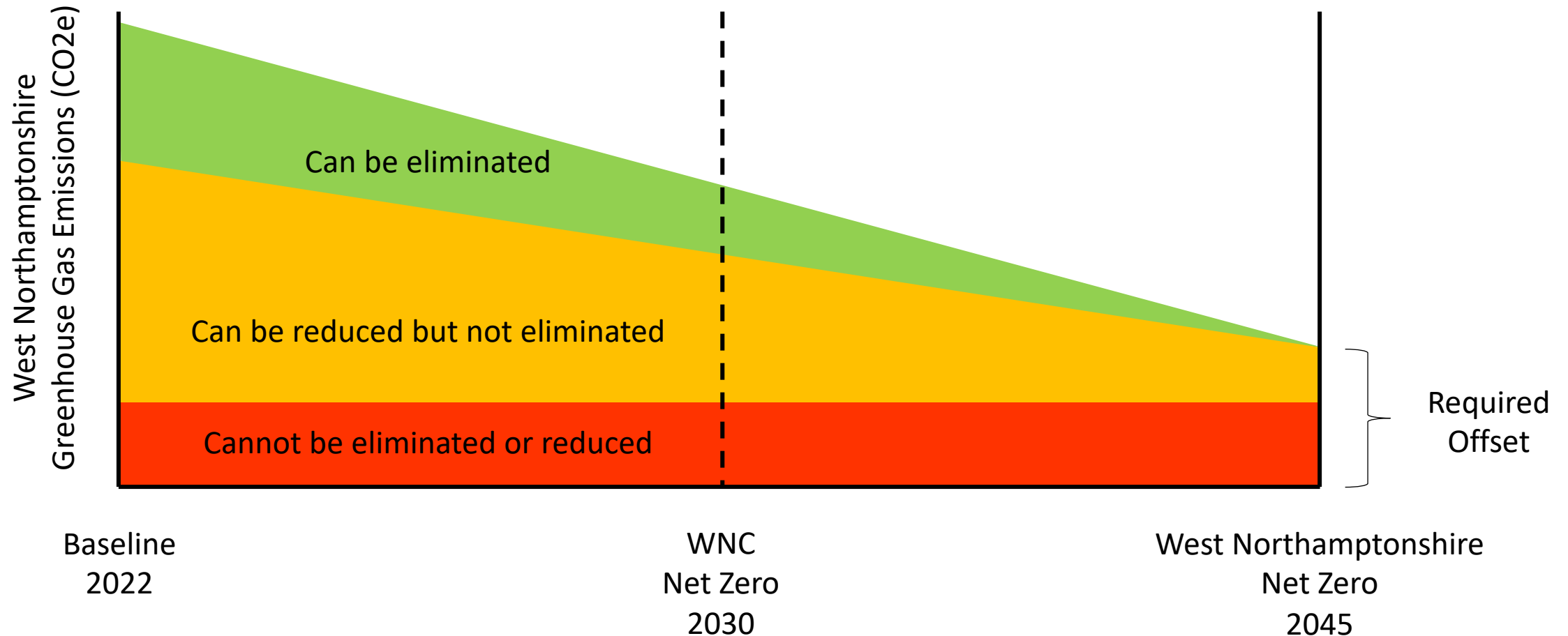
Work has been undertaken to map the SDGs against current WNC priorities and activities.



- The strategy was launched on the 28th March 2022 and is intended to deliver sustainability across West Northamptonshire
- Well received by stakeholders and external organisations
- Has generated ongoing engagement with local groups, parish councils and individuals
- In conjunction with the strategy the Council announced three Foundation Pledges;
 - **Net Zero own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045.**
 - **Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants.**
 - **Ensure all our Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the UN SDGs.**

- **Net Zero** means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible
- Greenhouse gases that cannot be eliminated are **offset by forestry or technologies** that remove these emissions from the atmosphere
- WNC will account and report on key greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PCFs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), expressed as **CO₂e**
- **The Local Government Association** estimate that local authorities are able to have a direct impact on 2% – 5 % of an area's emissions, but are able to influence change of approximately 30% of an area's emissions





- The Council has secured funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade the heating system at four leisure centres
- The four sites are Daventry, Brackley, Towcester and Moulton
- The project will replace current gas heating systems with electric heat pump systems
- These changes will be supported with increased solar energy generation where practical
- It is estimated the project will an annual saving of approximately 860 tCO₂e



- Inefficient housing
 - Excess carbon emissions
 - Fuel poverty
 - Exacerbate health conditions
- Government funding schemes
 - Sustainable Warmth
 - ECO4 flex
 - HUG2 due to start 1st April 2023
- Targeting
 - Low income
 - Vulnerable to cold
 - Least efficient housing



- Progressing accreditation to the iiE scheme following proposal to Sustainability Members Working Group in July 2022
- Underpins sustainability commitments so far – Net Zero target, emissions baseline, waste and energy management, UK100 etc.
- Working towards first level – Bronze
- Targets to be set for progressing through accreditation levels – Silver then Green
- Key document to meet accreditation criteria is introduction of an Environmental Policy



Thank you for your time.

Contact Details.

WNC sustainability website - [Sustainable West Northants | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

WNC energy efficiency pages - [ECO4 flex energy efficiency scheme | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)

[Energy efficiency grants | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)



Sustainable West Northants