

Councillor Louise Pepper,
Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Green Issues; Equalities
Full Council, 7 December 2021

Equalities update

Website has been updated for Black History Month

A timetable/listening event plan is being developed with a consultant to help us learn more about our community.

A survey link was shared with the staff members who have shown an interest in the 'internal EDI Group' that we would like to establish further.

A bid for an EDI budget is being put together which will help to facilitate the above and to allow us to carry on working with the consultant.

We are finalising a programme of events/dates that we will promote through the website/social media.

Listening Events scheduled for 2022/23

Proposed themes.

- Jan 18 - Disability
- Mar 15 – Women
- May 12 – Intergenerational
- July 12 – Pride
- Sept – Pregnancy
- Nov – Transgender
- Jan 2023 – Faith/Religion

A number of local organisations supporting residents with disabilities had been approached inviting them to take part in the Listening Event – 18th January.

Working alongside Hayley Bennett who facilitated the 1st listening event for us, we will be looking at different ways to present these events to encourage participation from as many residents as possible. We will share the findings and the feedback of the event through Cllr Pepper.

A pilot questionnaire/survey had been circulated to staff asking for feedback/suggestions on what they would like to see included as part of a staff Advocacy role and workstream internally going forward – deadline 19th November. Feedback and suggestions will be collated and advocates will be identified.

Work on the 2022 Equality Duty will commence in December once the HR data is received. The website will be updated accordingly.

Interfaith week took place 14th to 21st November 2021 which was had promoted via UDC social media platforms. The aims of the week are to:

Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels

Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society

Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Officers are strengthening their links with ECC and their faith covenant work.

Climate report November 2021

Climate change action plan progress

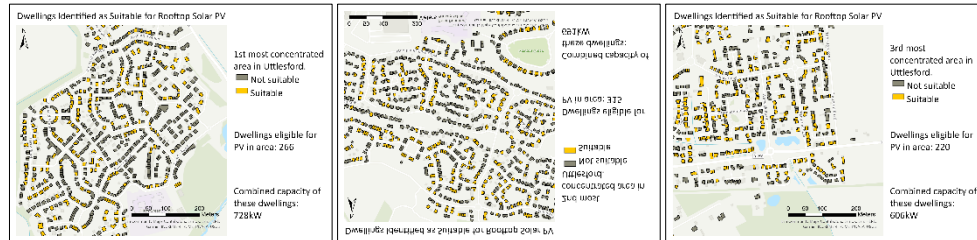
Progress on the projects in the Climate Change Action Plan continues at a pace and all projects are on track as far as expected for the end of November 2021.

Our key focus are our two largest CO2 emitters transport, domestic energy and biodiversity. We're reviewing various sustainable modes of travel, energy reducing solutions, biodiversity enhancement and protection and available funding pots. The extensive list of 34 actions outlined in plan, will all assist in addressing our climate and ecological crisis. The CCAP will go back to Scrutiny in December.

Some highlights on progress since the last report are:

- Quotes are being sought from active travel engineers to map out our Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Uttlesford, and we are engaging with neighbouring local authorities to ensure that connections are joined up across boundaries. Having an LCWIP in place will enable us to bid for infrastructure funding from the Department for Transport, and for Levelling Up funding. It will also strengthen our abilities to seek more significant developer contributions towards active travel measures. The eventual goal is to make walking and cycling the mode of transport for half of all journeys within towns, and this is in line with Government ambitions. Our further-reaching goal is even more ambitious and seeks to create safe cycling routes between our towns and villages.
- The active travel survey will be live in a couple of weeks.
- The Clean Air Day communication campaign is being planned.
- The LAD2 grant funding for home insulation measures for low-income households is being delivered across Uttlesford by Warmworks, and we await to hear if we were successful in our bid for the LAD3 round of funding.
- Large scale fact-finding projects are underway to map and define potential area-based decarbonisation projects across the district. The initial (grant-funded) report from

Energy Catapult has been received and this maps the potential for mass installations of rooftop-PV. The 3 most concentrated neighbourhoods with potential are in the south of the district and could provide over 2MWh of power. Discussions are under way with ECC and other partners to identify a funding and delivery model that might remove the financial barriers to homeowners wishing to take advantage of solar power.



- Other projects identified by the decarbonisation mapping project include maps of streets in Uttlesford which have mostly on-road parking, which helps us to forecast EV charge point demand and plan delivery of charge points.
- The biodiversity survey is now closed and received over 500 responses which are now being assessed for the most appropriate route of action for each.
- Visits to schools to deliver the waste / education plan will be scheduled when schools are once again accepting non-essential outside visitors.

Takely Parish Council has put forward some land for tree planting and the landscape officer is drawing up planting plans that are appropriate for the location.