



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | Essex | CM8 2FE

CLIMATE AUDIT PANEL

AGENDA

MONDAY 7th MARCH 2022 AT 6.30PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER

MEMBERS:

C. Jay (Chair)
S. Ager
P. Barlow
S. Hicks
R. Williams

OFFICERS:

H. Andrews

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interest.

3) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To receive and confirm the minutes of the Climate Audit Panel held 13th September 2021 and 6th December 2021 ([attached](#))

4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

To consider any matters arising from the previous minutes of the panel

5) PUBLIC TOILET AUDIT

To consider the current utility use of the public toilets managed by the Town Council ([attached](#))

6) GENERAL DEBATE

Open debate on all relevant matters to the panel, including any recent email correspondence.

7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other relevant topics for inclusion in future business.

ITEM 3

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AUDIT PANEL AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021, 10:00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT: - Councillors C. Jay, S. Ager, S. Hicks.

Staff: J Sheehy - Town Clerk
 H Andrews - Assistant Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for late arrival were received from Councillor S. Hicks.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO DATE

The panel reviewed recommendations made to date and discussed District Council priorities in respect of its draft climate change strategy and Horizon 120 construction project. The panel **AGREED** that a further policy and scrutiny exercise should take place at the next meeting to review principal authority commitments to climate change.

Members **AGREED** for Councillor S. Hicks to seek clarity on District Council policy via member-to-member interaction and report back to the next panel.

Members **AGREED** for Councillor S. Ager to review local Neighbourhood Plan documents for climate related sections and policy to report to the next panel.

Members **AGREED** for Councillor C. Jay to review request information from BDC and ECC on funding streams and grants available relating to climate initiatives.

Members discussed the scope for improving the Town Park public conveniences in ownership of the Town Council and considered that the impending business rates rebate could be used to improve the carbon footprint of the public toilets. Members **AGREED** to perform an audit of this asset for climate improvement potential, utilising Burnham-on-Crouch's "Indestructible Toilets" as an example.

5. SOLAR CAPABILITIES ON WITHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Members discussed the potential of solar capabilities for traffic lights, street furniture and CCTV and noted the difficulties in sourcing professional, technical advice for such items. It was subsequently considered that a priority list of items should be compiled by the panel for action.

6. PANEL BUSINESS

Members considered priority actions of the panel to take forward for delivery. It was suggested there could be scope for a community led event concerning climate change. Members discussed the Essex County Council initiative “Essex Library of Things” and considered the scope for aligning Town Council awareness campaigns with District & County Council events, taking note of a recent “0 emissions” bus tour that had taken place.

Members **AGREED** that up to date material for signposting local citizens to various recycling services should be included in the next edition of The Voice in the format of a removable ‘scissor cut’ page to create a poster that can be retained.

It was further **AGREED** that a comprehensive list of recommendations be compiled by the panel for receipt by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in order to enrol climate priority items into policy and content formulation at an early stage.

Members discussed the role of the Climate Audit Panel in respect of District & County functions and identified County Councillor Peter Schwier as the appointed ‘Climate Czar’. Members considered there may be scope to invite District & County Council members to future meetings to discuss policies.

It was further **AGREED** that the Council’s Youth Working Group should identify opportunities to work with schools on climate change subjects, with a proposal to create a mobile phone recycling, town-wide competition between all schools, with an award to be given to the most successful school. It was **AGREED** this proposal would be put to the Youth Working Group to deliver.

There being no further business, the panel concluded at 12:39pm.

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Councillor C Jay
Chairman

JS 01.07.2021

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AUDIT PANEL AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL
HELD 6TH DECEMBER 2021 AT 10.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors P Barlow, C Jay and R Williams

Due to an absence of the minimum number of Committee members, the meeting was deemed inquorate and did not proceed.

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Councillor C Jay
Chairman

ITEM 5

Date paid	Total amount paid	Unit Charge	kWh
19.11.2018	£22.85	6196	97
18.12.2018	£21.64	6293	96
16.01.2019	£21.79	6389	115
18.02.2019	£24.32	6504	94
18.02.2019	£20.65	6598	91
2018/2019	£111.25		493
16.04.2019	£21.53	6692	103
17.05.2019	£22.42	6795	106
18.06.2019	£23.12	6901	98
17.07.2019	£21.77	6999	104
16.08.2019	£22.85	7103	103
17.09.2019	£22.72	7206	106
16.10.2019	£22.82	7312	97
18.11.2019	£21.93	7409	101
17.12.2019	£22.16	7510	106
16.01.2020	£23.12	7616	102
18.02.2020	£22.59	7718	87
17.03.2020	£20.01	7805	97
2019/2020	£267.04		1210
20.04.2020	£22.33	7905	71
19.05.2020	£18.19	7976	68
16.06.2020	£18.08	8044	98
13.07.2020	£21.77	8142	109
13.08.2020	£23.52	8251	94
11.09.2020	£21.53	8345	93
13.10.2020	£21.11	8438	92
12.11.2020	£21.27	8530	83
11.12.2020	£23.78	8622	153
13.01.2021	£70.19	8755	176
11.02.2021	£77.73	8951	166
11.03.2021	£72.52	9177	167
2020/2021	£412.02		1370
15.04.2021	£76.74	9284	165
13.05.2021	£73.47	9455	160
11.06.2021	£72.48	9615	130
13.07.2021	£62	9745	99
12.08.2021	£52.47	9844	108
13.09.2021	£55.42	9952	100
13.10.2021	£52.16	10052	85
2021 to date	£444.74		847

Date paid	Cost Clean Water	Cubic M used	Sewerage Cost	Cubic M used
Feb-19			99.32	23.4
Jun-19	70.01	30	99.13	23.4
Sep-19	24.28	10	25.75	6.3
		40		29.7
Jun-20	96.37	47	128.35	42.3
Dec-20	50.94	19	82.6	17.1
		66		59.4
Jun-21	57.34	24	88.73	