



# Climate & Ecological Change Newsletter for Members



*White Clover, Thistle and Dock wildflowers improving biodiversity at Llindir Street, Henllan*

**Welcome to the first instalment of the Climate and Ecological Change Newsletter for Members which will be sent out every 6 months to update on the Council's actions to respond to the climate change and ecological emergency.**

Following the unanimous passing of the Motion for the Council to declare a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in July 2019, a cross party political working group was established

supported by officers. [The Working Group](#) is an advisory, non-decision making body but may make recommendations or requests to other Denbighshire County Council committees, panels, lead members or officers as appropriate. The Working Group will disband once the plan for the authority to become net carbon zero and enhance biodiversity by 2030 has been agreed or adopted by Council.



*Working Group Members pictured October 2019*

# Climate & Ecological Change Newsletter for Members

The Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration has been translated into two goals for the Council which were subject to public feedback and scrutiny during a [public engagement period](#) in January/February 2020.

The two goals are:

Net Carbon Zero Council by 2030 and Ecologically Positive Council by 2030.

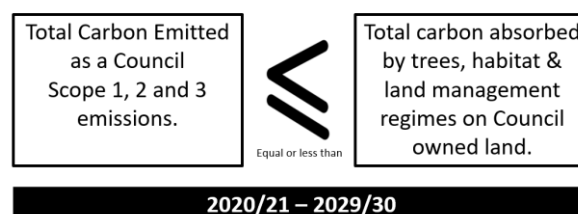
The allocation of £200,000 of one off funding for 2020/21 has enabled the work to continue in developing the Council's Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan as well as deliver a number of "kick start" projects and enabling actions.

The Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan will be the guiding document, sitting under the Corporate Plan Environment Priority until 2022, for the Council to work towards becoming net carbon zero and ecologically positive by 2030.

The Council's carbon emissions baseline has been calculated for 2019/20 complying with the Welsh Government new Greenhouse Gas Reporting Regime.

This includes the Council's carbon emissions from the goods and services we buy, the energy and water used in our buildings, the fuel used in our fleet vehicles, the miles travelled by our staff when commuting to work, the miles travelled by our staff whilst at work on business, the electricity used in our street lighting, traffic signs and signals and the carbon emitted from our waste.

## Net Carbon Zero Council by 2030



The Council's carbon absorption baseline has been calculated for 2019/20 complying with the Welsh Government new Greenhouse Gas Reporting Regime. This includes the carbon absorbed by the forestland, woodland and grassland that the Council own and operate.

By subtracting the Council's carbon absorption baseline away from the Council's carbon emissions baseline, we have calculated the Council Net Carbon Zero Baseline for 2019/20. This is 38,814 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>1</sup>. The aim is to get that

---

<sup>1</sup> Exact figure may change pending further data validation

# Climate & Ecological Change Newsletter for Members

figure as close to zero as we can by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2030.

An Ecologically Positive Council is one that does no harm to biodiversity but if/when it does that biodiversity is left in a better state than we found it. It is about protecting, restoring and creating green spaces that are diverse, connected, big in scale and extent, in a health condition and adaptable to create a Denbighshire of resilient ecosystems.

## Ecologically Positive Council by 2030



The Council's Ecologically Positive baseline for 2019/20 continues to be collated.

Ideas for process changes, policies and projects for the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy to support the Council in becoming net carbon zero and ecologically positive have been sought from Denbighshire's Staff Council and via virtually workshops undertaken with each Service area. Ideas from you, Denbighshire's Councillors, will be collated via discussion at each Member

Area Group during September and October.

The intention is to consult with the public on the Council's draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan in November and seek approval and adoption at Cabinet and Full Council in January.



*Public meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> February pictured; 60 people attended in person & 104 watched live online*

A number of "kick start" projects are being delivered in 2020/21 following the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration. This includes work to extend the electric vehicle charging infrastructure at Council assets to enable the electrification of the Council's fleet of cars and small vans and encourage staff and visitors to switch to electric; encouraging and supporting schools with applications to the Wind Farm Grant Funds to deliver renewable energy projects; and the delivery of a deliberate non-cut of green space at 20 locations across the Council to improve biodiversity and support pollinators.



# Climate & Ecological Change Newsletter for Members

The Council buildings prioritised for the extension of electric vehicle charging infrastructure are our offices and depots, our countryside and heritage sites and our tourism and leisure sites.



Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Community Investment Fund launches in September and schools are eligible to apply.

The photo from Llindir Street in Henllan on the first page is one of the 'deliberate non cut' pilot sites.

The proposed addition to the Council's Constitution within the Principals of Decision Making Section to have regard for tackling climate and ecological change is a key enabling action for the organisation and will be considered by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> September. This addition along with implementing changes to Council report and business case templates will provide decision making the information and support to consider the environmental implications of Council activities and thus make our contribution to prevent the Climate and Ecological Emergency getting any worse.