



Greening Wymondham

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Climate Action Special January 2020

Climate Action meeting report



Our Climate Action meeting was held to coincide with the national Climate Emergency strikes. About 75 people attended including Wymondham Town Councillors Mayor Kevin Hurn, Suzanne Nuri-Nixon, Penny Hubble, Pete Travis-Green, Julian Halls, Annette James, Robert Savage, Dave Roberts and members of the public.

- Ann Rostron, GW chair, explained that, as the Town Council had so far failed to declare a climate emergency, this meeting had been called to collect suggestions and ideas to pass to the council and to

encourage local Wymondham people to actively engage in climate action.

- Mary Howard, GW and co-organiser of the meeting, talked about the changes her family have adopted towards becoming carbon neutral but noting that there is so much more that needs to be done locally and globally.
- Caroline Brown, GW spoke about tree planting in Wymondham. She also commended the involvement of young people in School Climate strikes and Extinction Rebellion, which has helped bring discussions on the climate emergency to the fore.
- Philip Richardson, a retired Norfolk farmer and author of the book "An Appetite for Change", explained the complexity of Climate Change and the difficulty of decisions that need to be made at local, national and global levels. The book can be purchased from Kett's Books, Wymondham.
- Kay Trafford, GW and a scientist, explained that scientist now agree that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency and that this has been caused by human activity. What is now debated is whether it's possible to reverse the changes and if so, how best to do this.
- Penny Hubble, our local Councillor representative on GW spoke of the advances in electric vehicle technology, how electric vehicles will become the norm in 5-7 years and that this is one of the ways we can become carbon neutral.
- Nicola Maunders, GW member and co-organiser of the meeting, reminded everyone that the main objective of today's meeting was to ask people to consider what climate actions they could take in their lives and to give suggestions for community climate actions.

Three things we can each do to help reverse climate change

Mary Howard

My personal take-home messages from the GW Climate Action Meeting were that each of us could:

1. **Educate ourselves.** Why? Even those of us who aren't climate deniers may not know all the facts. They will scare us, but this will motivate us to act. Scientists have summarized the evidence here: <https://www.scientistswarning.org/> See the 2019 report.
2. **Think and act globally.** We can! Here's how:
 - a. Watch this fabulous 45-min talk by Naomi Klein, USA. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpFZmisvrQQ&t=2s>
 - b. Read about the Ecocide law at <https://ecocidelaw.com/>
 - c. Send these GW action points to friends and family around the world.
 - d. Join or support Climate Action campaigning groups.

- e. Ask our local, regional and national governments to factor in environmental cost to every decision made.
3. **Act locally.** Reduce personal carbon emissions. If we think personal actions are token and impotent, we are wrong. Anything and everything that we can do to reduce carbon emissions is not only valuable but necessary. We are putting information on the Greening Wymondham website.

What a scientist says about Climate Change.

Kay Trafford



Scientists agree that the present climate crisis has been caused by humans. This is why: the Industrial Revolution led to a vast improvement the quality of human life: more food, less infant mortality, longer healthier lives. These things are good. However, they have had two side effects that are not good: Firstly, there has been an increase in population size (more people are being born than are dying). Secondly, there has been an increased rate of consumption of the world's resources. This is particularly so in the industrialized nations, where people each use more fuel, food, water and goods and create more waste than people in pre-industrialized nations. This leads to an unequal

distribution of resources across the globe. The result of these two side effects together means that humans are consuming more than the planet can supply. It has been estimated that to allow everyone in the world to live like a person in the UK lives now would need the resources of 5 planets (and we in the UK are not the greatest consumers on Earth).

Climate change is getting worse. It will kill us if we let it continue. We are already seeing the beginnings of a planetary mass extinction event similar to the one that wiped out the dinosaurs at the end of the Jurassic period. Instead of a world teeming with life in every corner, large areas of the world will be uninhabitable not just for humans but for all lifeforms, and it will take Earth millions of years to recover.

In summary, we humans have become the victims of our own success. Climate change has been caused by population increase coupled with increased consumption. Our world is out of balance. What can we do about it? Scientists agree that, in order to live sustainably on the planet, we need to do two things simultaneously: reduce our birth rate until a much smaller global population size is reached and massively reduce the rate of consumption per person in the industrial nations. This will be painful and slow. Waiting for the population to decrease by the humane means of controlling birth rates (having fewer children and having them later in life) will take time. It is important for everyone to understand the need for these solutions and to agree to them.

We are very short of time in which to act. The current estimate is that by 2030 it may be too late to reverse climate change. We urgently need to ask ourselves: do I really need another child, to buy more stuff or to burn fossil fuel so much that I will destroy the planet to get it?

Forthcoming activities/events

- Date of the next Town Council meeting: 2.30 pm Tuesday 5th February. The public can attend to support re-consideration of our Climate Action motion.
- Greening Wymondham is convening a meeting for those who want to be actively involved in Climate Action in Wymondham - 7 pm at the Queen's Head on Wednesday 22nd January.

Want to get more involved? We are always looking for more volunteers - contact us by email, Facebook or through our website www.greeningwymondham.org. Please let us know if you would like to be kept informed of our programme, or have any suggestions for work that we might undertake. We would love to hear from you!