

**Draft Proposal** : for discussion

## **A Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan for Falmouth**

Herewith are some initial thoughts on progressing a **Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan** for Falmouth (and the wider area?) inspired by work on climate action in Helston and Bude, A significant aspect of their plans is that they have been produced as a result of partnership working. Falmouth Town Council could be well placed to coordinate a similar plan, supported possibly by a Partnership Steering Group.

[http://www.helston-tc.gov.uk/Helston\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Group\\_27178.aspx](http://www.helston-tc.gov.uk/Helston_Climate_Action_Group_27178.aspx) and <http://budeandbeyond.co.uk/bude-wins-200k-lottery-funding-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>

It is clear that action has now become a priority given the current extreme weather across the globe, and the recent ominous predictions from the **IPCC** (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) see <https://www.ipcc.ch/> 6th assessment working group 1 and this article in the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/aug/09/humans-have-caused-unprecedented-and-irreversible-change-to-climate-scientists-warn>.

The work by Climate Central

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/19183967.areas-cornwall-underwater-2030/> provides a local perspective

Other key drivers include the declaration of a **Climate Emergency** by Cornwall Council on 22nd January 2019 with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. And similar decisions made by Falmouth Town Council on 8th February 2019, and Falmouth University on 20th June of that year. Falmouth TC was the first town council in Cornwall to declare a climate emergency.

On 6th October 2020 the NHS in Cornwall declared a climate emergency

<https://cioshealthandcare.nhs.uk/health-and-care-system-declares-climate-change-emergency/>

The suggestion here is to produce a meaningful Plan by developing a partnership working approach. This could involve drawing on the expertise and experience of the main players, by inviting their representatives and other groups to help the Town Council develop a draft Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan for Falmouth.

These organisations could include Cornwall Council (Carbon Neutral team); the Health Service; Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Churches Together; BID/Chambers of Commerce; Education Sector; Transport Companies; the NFU and the CSAN (Community-supported Agriculture Network); Helston Town Council, and the maritime and voluntary sectors with the Town Council co-ordinating.

Our guess is that some of the bigger players (Cornwall Council/NHS) would only be too pleased to share its work and ideas on carbon reduction for the benefit of the community of Falmouth, either as part of a Steering Group, or by participating in individual working groups, or both - see below...

The Partnership Steering Group could pull together the work of **individual groups** established to focus on and develop the following **key areas of activity**, with **the principal aims of reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases across Falmouth** and, where appropriate, the wider area, and **protecting/increasing local biodiversity**... suggested headings listed below:

n.b. the subtext includes some suggested topics to pursue as a starting point, to be added to and developed by each group, and it is recognised there would be some overlap between groups: representation to be determined

- **Energy:** Reducing demand; supporting local renewable energy; energy conservation/insulation, storage, retrofit programme, e v charging, fuel poverty
- **Transport:** Changing the way people move around: public transport, implementing the Falmouth/Penryn Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan
- **Waste & Resources:** Supporting the circular economy, and conserving valuable materials/resources through re-purposing, repair, reuse, and recycling - see TCC proposal (on file)
- **Construction:** Low carbon design in new build; use/reuse of materials; building with Nature in mind (also see draft CC Climate Emergency DPD)
- **Biodiversity:** Protecting Nature and enhancing our green spaces (to include tree-planting/hedgerow protection); Making Space for Nature projects
- **Local Food Production and Supply:** Supporting and promoting current good practice; local provenance, food security; food waste reduction/redistribution
- **Land Use, Soil and Water:** Keeping soil healthy, reducing risk of flooding, supporting regenerative agriculture and sustainable farming incentives; water conservation
- **Health & Wellbeing:** Reducing pollution (land and sea) and improving air quality; access to local health services (inc. complementary therapies); social prescribing
- **Local Economics:** Exploring the consequences of climate change for economic activity and social cohesion, and identifying practical solutions
- **Community Engagement:** Making the local community more resilient: effective communications; facilitating personal action (the 10 pledges? carbon diaries?)
- **Local Business:** Keeping local business supported and engaged with climate and biodiversity issues; role of BID and other business-related groups

The draft plan could be based on the above headings, which would be fleshed out by the individual groups to include:

- a) national and local context
- b) actions required by the Town Council and other local organisations on how best to mitigate climate change and protect and enhance local biodiversity
- c) with a strong focus on personal action

An example of practical action under one particular key heading (Waste & Resources) is on file formulated as a proposal for Truro City Council - to be delivered through partnership working. This, along with other examples, could also easily be reworked as **personal action plans** or **carbon diaries** for individuals and families.

An alternative, less structured, approach to the above would be for informal groups to produce action plans based on the above headings, which are then collated into a draft climate action plan for the Falmouth area, to be considered for adoption by the Town Council

*Phil Pearce*  
*pp Transition Falmouth*

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