

Chichester District Council

Full Council

19 January 2021

Public Questions and Answers Sheet

Question from Debbie Carter:

According to your records only 222 people in West Sussex district Council area replied to your climate action plan, survey.

My question is:

To promote & inform local citizens, Chichester needs a sustainability centre to include a repair work area to mend all manner of items that normally would be discarded. These experts could link to train apprentices through the local colleges & apprenticeships schemes.

Some of the projects the centre would include:

- 1) to repair all manner of things, to repair clothes, electrical goods , & mend broken China. The list is endless.*
- 2) A swop rail for preloved clothes, including children's school uniforms. & toys.*
- 3) tool library place to borrow tools that are seldom needed*

A climate Café / hub where our local citizens can be properly informed in how to reduce waste & make life style choices to decrease carbon dioxide emissions. Leading experts to give regular talks on renewable technologies on the market.

Local people can find an area that they would like to volunteer in, for example, tree planting, wildflower planting, beach cleaning, and many more projects. As a lot of local housing is in poor conditions, the council can promote & train people on ways retrofit housing, that's really affordable & use this through apprenticeship schemes, to retrain people made redundant through the pandemic.

This vital resource centre should found easily on the High Street this is Centre for sustainability and climate education can help inspire, support people to understand the concerns often felt and to promote all good, positive work happening in the present day. Thank you.

Answer from Cllr Plant:

Thank you for your question. The proposal has some merit to it. A town centre presence could help to engage people in environmental action, particularly those that do not use the internet much. It would also be a visible reminder of the district's commitment to playing its part in reducing carbon emissions and the loss of biodiversity.

We need to be mindful of similar services though, for example, Transition Chichester has run a repair café, and we need to ensure links are made with other people with

similar ideas so that efforts can be combined rather than duplicated. The Council's role here is primarily one of facilitation, and many worthwhile ideas and projects have been suggested through the recent consultation. We cannot commit to progressing all of them. The Working Groups identified in the Climate Emergency Action Plan, have a key role to play here and together such ideas and projects will evolve and we will ensure that the Action Plan is reviewed and kept up to date.

One of our councillors has suggested a similar idea drawing inspiration from Edventure in Frome. District Council officers have already put the councillor in contact with a training provider in the district.

CDC does not have the ability to train apprentices on how to retrofit homes as we do not do this work ourselves. We contract in specialists to carry out decarbonisation work on our buildings. However, we could help a project team through providing information on grants that are available and further useful contacts. The Council also has a grants scheme to support community activities and WSCC have a comprehensive volunteering hub on their website to support people who would like to volunteer to be matched with local groups and projects.